

CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN HISPANIOLA

Situation Report # 4

3 November 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

- In Haiti, confirmed cholera cases continue to spread to new areas in the capital and around the greater Port-au-Prince area. In addition, cases have now been confirmed in two other departments: Artibonite, with nine confirmed cases, and Centre, with 34 cases. Suspected cases continue to be investigated in other departments, especially Nippes, with 40 suspected cases according to the Health Directorate as of 1 November.
- In Haiti, as suspected and confirmed cases continue to be reported across the country, critical cholera supplies such as beds, medicines, oral rehydration solution (ORS), rapid tests, as well as human resources are needed to scale up response activities.
- On 16 October, the risk of cholera at the global level was assessed to be very high by PAHO/WHO, and the disease remains a global threat to public health, with limited resources to respond to outbreaks in 29 countries.
- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO continues to support the Ministry of Health (Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population – MSPP) and partners, including:
 - ✓ Donation of supplies to partners that are running Cholera Treatment Centers (CTCs), including support in the transportation of samples for diagnosis and in the distribution of WaSH materials and fuel to hospitals and laboratories.
 - ✓ Community health workers (ASCP) trained by PAHO/WHO and the Health Directorate of the Ouest Department (DSO) are carrying out syndromic surveillance, community engagement and prevention activities.
 - ✓ Enhance the completeness, quality, and timeliness of epidemiological data.
- In the Dominican Republic, there have been no reports of new or suspected cases. The national laboratory *Dr. Fernando Defilló* reports that the genetic sequencing of the imported case identified on 20 October is of the same lineage that caused the 2010 epidemic in Haiti.
- In the Dominican Republic, PAHO/WHO is supporting the Ministry of Health in coordination, epidemiological surveillance, laboratory activities, risk communication and community engagement and case management.

IN NUMBERS*

As of 2 November 2022

3,763

Suspected Cases

477 Confirmed Cases

3,229 Hospitalized Suspected Cases

106 Deaths

*Total numbers for Haiti include institutional and community cases as well as cases reported in the Civil Prison of PaP. **This data excludes the case from the Dominican Republic.**

Source: Haiti Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population sitrep #29.

Source Dominican Republic: Laboratorio Nacional de Referencia en Salud Publica Dr. Defilló

[Cholera - PAHO/WHO | Pan American Health Organization](#)

For more information contact: eoc@paho.org

Map of Departments with at least one case of cholera in Haiti as of 2 November 2022

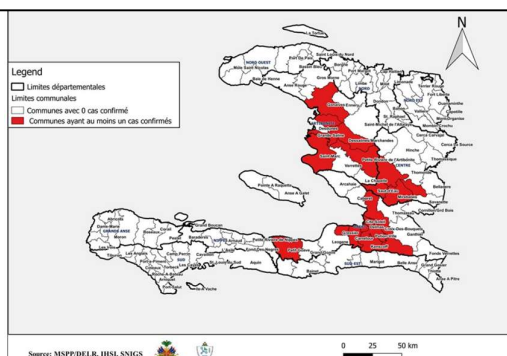
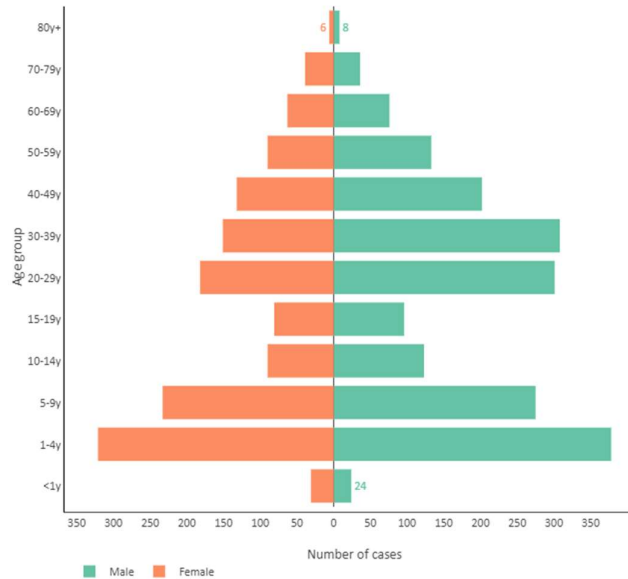


Figure 1. Source DELR/MSPP 2 November 2022

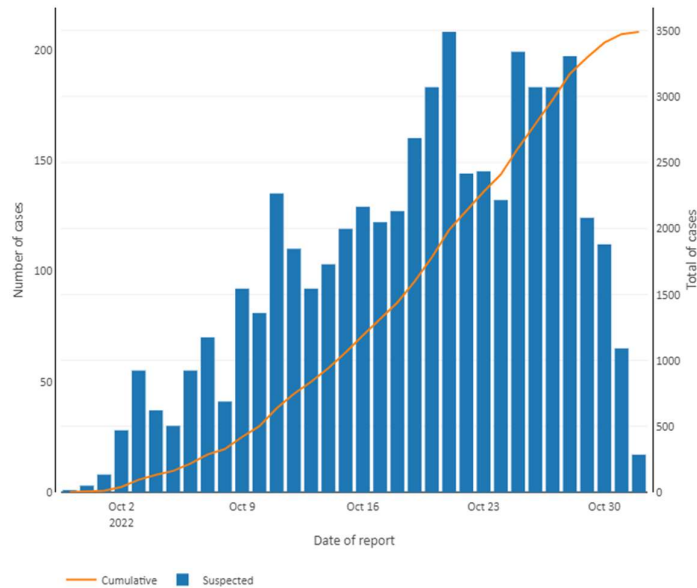
- Suspected and confirmed cholera cases are increasing across the country and were reported in 10 communes within the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area on 1 November.
- Based on the MSPP report from 2 November, 57.9% of reported suspected cases are male and 42.1% female. Among confirmed cases in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, age groups 1-4 and 5-9 are the most affected.
- At the Civil Prison of Port-au-Prince, MSPP still reports 271 suspected and 12 confirmed cases and 14 deaths.

Figure 1. Distribution of suspected cases of cholera by age group in Haiti as of 2 November 2022



Source: Haiti Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population

Figure 2. Daily distribution of suspected cases of cholera in Haiti as of 2 November 2022



Source: Haiti Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population



RISK ASSESSMENT AND CHALLENGES

- Simultaneous cholera outbreaks globally generate a high demand for the oral vaccine, resulting in limited supply for immediate vaccine distribution among the cholera affected countries.
- A Global Risk Assessment was carried out by PAHO/WHO, rating the risk of cholera at global level as very high. Cholera remains a global threat to public health, with limited resources available to tackle the disease due to increased demand in related medical supplies and vaccines.
- In Haiti, lack of access to affected areas due to insecurity, on-going demonstrations and civil unrest, are hindering epidemiological surveillance, the installation of Oral Rehydration Points (ORP) and Cholera Treatment Centers (CTCs), the transport of patients to CTCs and health promotion as well as water, hygiene and sanitation activities at the community level.
- Lack of access to fuel is also disrupting the running and scaling up of CTCs, the operation of the National Laboratory of Public Health and the mobility of health staff, as well as the transportation of samples from the departments to the National Laboratory, and of other critical and lifesaving supplies.
- In addition, the closure of ports in Haiti is a significant challenge for importing medical and non-medical supplies to Haiti.



HEALTH NEEDS

In coordination with the health authorities, the following **priority needs** have been identified to reduce morbidity and mortality:

- Access to fuel for the operation of CTCs, laboratories, and other essential Ministry of Health units.
- Human resources, whose availability are limited in the country due to the security situation.
- Laboratory reagents and rapid diagnostic tests for the investigation and confirmation of cholera cases.
- Medicines and medical supplies for case management, including Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS), Ringer Lactate and cholera beds.
- Access to safe drinking water and improved hygiene and sanitation.



PAHO/WHO RESPONSE

In line with the 5 pillars defined by the MSPP for the cholera outbreak response, PAHO/WHO continues to support the scale up of the MSPP response in Port-au-Prince and in the departments as follows:

Coordination

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO supports the coordination at national and departmental levels, as well as provides technical support to the MSPP and partners.
- In the Dominican Republic, PAHO/WHO accompanied Ministry of Public Health authorities on a monitoring tour of the four border provinces with the Republic of Haiti.

Epidemiological and laboratory Surveillance

- In Haiti, DSO and PAHO began field visits to CTCs on 31 October to conduct supportive visits to improve data quality and completeness.

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO is facilitating the deployment of a multidisciplinary team for the epidemiological and laboratory support to the cholera outbreak in the Centre and Artibonite Departments.
- In Haiti, the data management capacity of DSO is being strengthened by PAHO/WHO.
- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO is supporting the local Health Directorate to collect information on cholera alerts, cases, case management, WaSH activities as well as in mapping urgent needs for the response.

Case management

- In Haiti, 100 new cholera beds arrived from the Dominican Republic by helicopter with the support of UNHAS to set up CTCs in PaP and in the departments already affected by cholera.

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WaSH) / Infection prevention and Control (IPC)

- In Haiti, WaSH supplies are being distributed at the community level in Port-au-Prince as well in the departments.
- In the Dominican Republic, on 2 November PAHO/WHO accompanied the Ministry of Health in monitoring quality of water at the household level in 4 border entry points (Pernales, Jimani, Elias Piñas and Dajabon).

Communications and community engagement

- Through its offices in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, PAHO/WHO is coordinating the production of communication materials with aligned messages on prevention.
- In the Dominican Republic, the provincial health directorates are distributing printed prevention materials at main points of circulation of people: markets, parks, schools, community centers and churches, among others.
- In the Dominican Republic, Civil Defense and Red Cross volunteers are supporting mass media campaigns in border provinces to disseminate key cholera prevention messages.

Logistics

- PAHO/WHO procured 20,000 lactate ringer solutions and other items for the cholera response to Haiti that are now at the regional strategic reserve.