

CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN HISPANIOLA

Situation Report # 12

20 January 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- In Haiti, as of 16 of January 2023, the Department of Epidemiology, Laboratories, and Research (DELR) reports **24,451 suspected cholera cases in all 10 departments** of the country. Of these, **1,870 cases have been confirmed in ten departments**: 1,144 (61%) in Ouest, followed by 287 in Centre, 83 in Sud Est, and 85 in Artibonite.
- In Haiti, high levels of insecurity and limited access to fuel and populations continue to be major challenges in the response to the cholera outbreak.
- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO continues to support the Ministry of Health (Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population – MSPP) and partners, including:
 - Technical and logistical support to epidemiological surveillance, field investigations and early multisectoral response in all departments, strengthening data completeness and quality and transportation of samples, in collaboration with the DELR and departmental health directorates.
 - PAHO continues to strengthen the Cholera Response Structure agreed with departmental health directorates and UNICEF, through support for the recruitment of emergency response staff.
 - Strategic and technical support for the development of the final cholera vaccination campaign report, which took place from 19 to 31 December in the Ouest and Centre Departments and targeted 1,170,800 people.
- In the Dominican Republic, on 18 January the Ministry of Public Health confirmed 6 new cholera cases, bringing the **total number of confirmed cases to 25**, five of which imported from Haiti and 17 in two sectors in Santo Domingo. PAHO/WHO is providing technical and logistical support to the Ministry of Health in investigating and responding to cholera alerts, prevention activities through risk communication and community engagement as well as in the upcoming vaccination campaign.

IN NUMBERS*

As of 16 January 2023

Haiti

24,451 Suspected Cases

1,870 Confirmed Cases

20,823 Hospitalized Suspected Cases

496 Deaths

2% Case Fatality Rate (suspected cases)

Dominican Republic

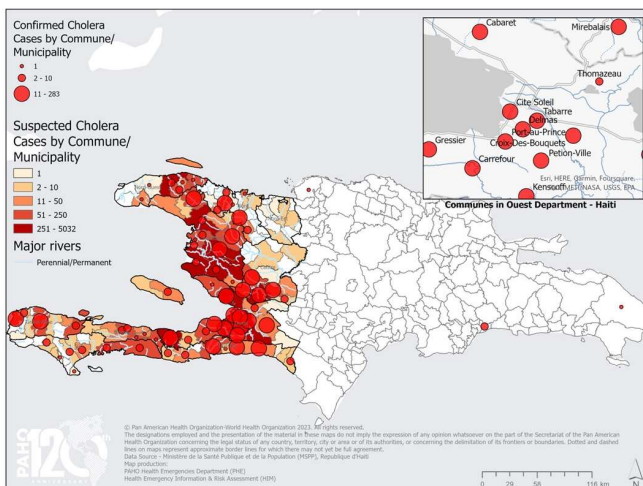
25 Confirmed Cases

**Total numbers for Haiti include institutional and community cases as well as cases reported in the Civil Prison of PaP. These figures exclude cases from the Dominican Republic.*

Source Haiti: Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population sitrep #108.

Source Dominican Republic: PAHO/WHO country office.

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



Reported Suspected and Confirmed Cholera Cases in Haiti by Department as of 16 January 2023

Source: Haïti Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP). Data generated by PAHO/WHO.

- In Haiti, as of 16 of January, a total of **24,451 suspected cholera cases** were reported in all ten departments in the country, including cases reported in the Civil Prison in Port-au-Prince. Of these, **1,870 were confirmed** by the national laboratory, including **496 deaths**. To date, **ten departments have reported confirmed cases**, with the majority being reported in Ouest (1,144), followed by Centre (287), Sud-Est (83) and Artibonite (85). Since 12 January, there has been an increase of 6.21% in overall suspected cases and an 18.65% increase in confirmed cases across all the country (Figure 1).
- The case fatality rate among suspected cases is 2%. The 496 deaths reported as of 16 January represent a 7% increase compared to 10 January 2023.
- The Ouest Department reported a 1.45% increase in suspected cases and a 4.38% rise in confirmed cases since 10 January 2023. The **other 9 departments reported an average increase of 17.2% in suspected cases and a 51.3% rise in confirmed cases** during the same period (Figure 1).
- The most affected municipalities in the Ouest Department continue to be Port-au-Prince, Delmas, Cité Soleil, Carrefour, and Pétiön-Ville, where the majority of suspected and confirmed cases are reported.
- Based on MSPP information from 16 January, 56.65% of reported suspected cases are male, and 43.35% female (Figure 2).
- Among the 1,870 confirmed cases, age groups 1-4 (19.4%) and 5-9 (15.56%) are the most affected.

Figure 1. Summary of percent difference compared to 10 January 2023

Summary				
Department	Suspected Cases 16.1.23	% Difference 10.1.22	Confirmed Cases 16.1.23	% Difference 10.1.22
Ouest	16299	1.45%	1144	4.38%
Artibonite	4076	9.31%	85	46.55%
Centre	1536	16.89%	287	11.24%
Nord	198	17.86%	81	55.77%
Sud	190	71.17%	37	146.67%
Nord-Est	19	137.50%	7	700.00%
Nord-Ouest	917	60.03%	20	81.82%
Grand Anse	401	17.25%	76	261.90%
Sud-Est	219	0.00%	83	31.75%
Nippes	596	21.14%	50	2400.00%
Total	24451	6.21%	1870	18.65%

Figure 2. Distribution of suspected and confirmed cases of cholera by age group and gender in Haiti as of 16 January 2023

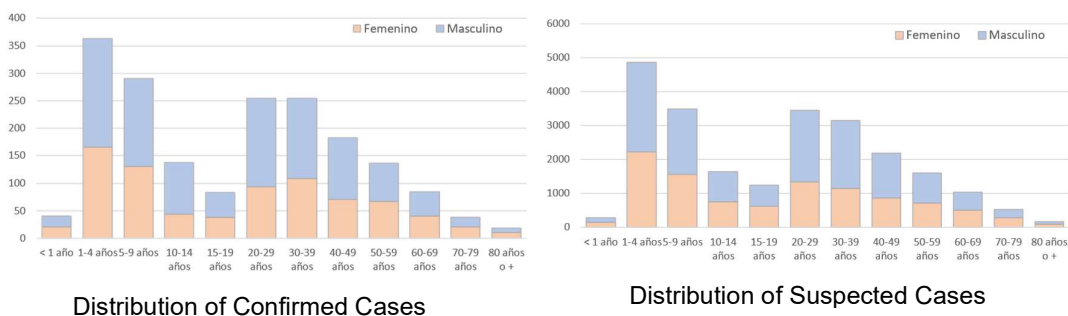
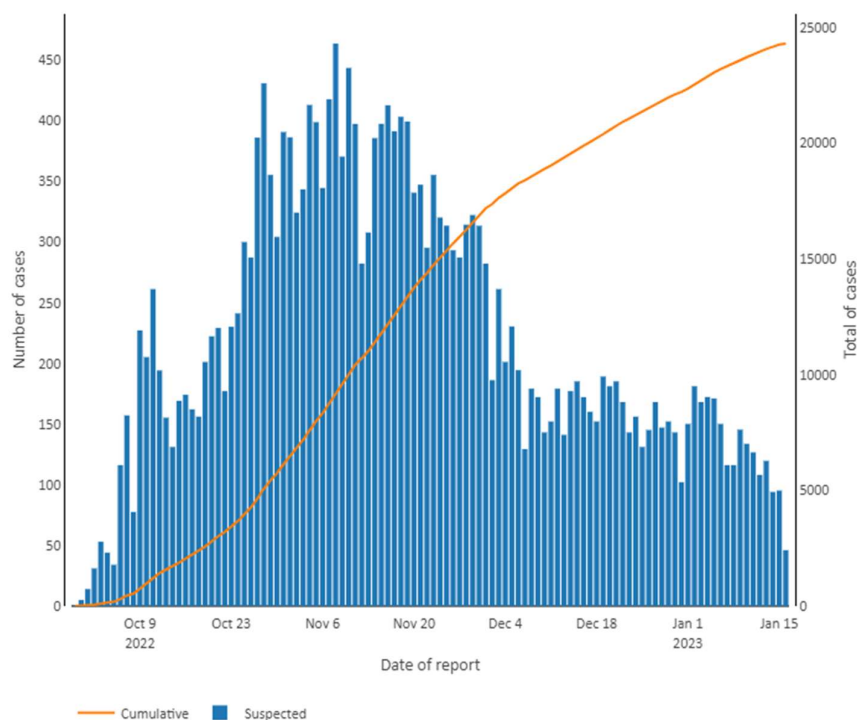


Figure 3. Daily distribution of suspected cases of cholera in Haiti as of 16 January 2023



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



RISK ASSESSMENT AND CHALLENGES

- In Haiti, the complex humanitarian and socio-political crisis, with high levels of insecurity, fuel shortages and economic instability, continue to impact response capacity. These are some of the main drivers of the cholera epidemic as they limit access to health and basic water and sanitation services, and food and water supplies:
 - Although fuel distribution has restarted in the Ouest Department, availability continues to be limited in other departments, hindering basic water and sanitation services (e.g., garbage collection) and the response and distribution of life-saving medicines and supplies.
 - Lack of access to affected areas due to insecurity continue to hamper 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.
- In the Dominican Republic, the 6 new confirmed cholera cases are from the same family household and all residents of Villas Liberacion neighborhood in Santo Domingo, making this the second location in the capital city with confirmed cholera cases in addition to the 11 cases were reported in la Zurza neighborhood.
- The global cholera crisis generates a high demand for medical and non-medical supplies, including for the oral vaccine, resulting in limited cholera commodities for immediate distribution in all affected countries.



HEALTH NEEDS

In coordination with health authorities and operational partners, the following **priority needs** have been identified in Haiti to reduce morbidity and mortality. These are being addressed by PAHO/WHO as described in the next section:

- Medical and non-medical supplies for case management, including Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS), Ringer Lactate solution, cholera beds and WASH supplies.
- Human resources, whose availability is limited in the country due to the security situation.
- Laboratory reagents and Rapid Diagnostic Tests for the investigation and confirmation of cholera cases.
- Access to safe drinking water and improved hygiene and sanitation.



PAHO/WHO RESPONSE

PAHO/WHO continues to support national health authorities and operational partners in the cholera response as follows:

Coordination

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO continues to strengthen the Cholera Response Structure agreed with departmental health directorates and UNICEF, through support for the recruitment of emergency response staff.
- At national level, PAHO/WHO supports the MSPP in the coordination of the cholera response as well as with UN agencies and other international partners, including the National Health Sector Group that involves donors and international cooperation agencies.
- In the Dominican Republic, PAHO/WHO is working with the Ministry of Health, Red Cross, UNICEF and other partners on the ground to coordinate and provide technical support to the cholera outbreak response in Santo Domingo as well as the investigation of alerts in the border provinces.

Epidemiological and laboratory surveillance

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO is providing technical and logistical support to strengthen surveillance at departmental level, including the investigation of cholera alerts and response missions in collaboration with the DELR, which include:
 - Improve the completeness and quality of cholera surveillance data.
 - Deployment of local community response teams during investigations, in effort to break the chain of transmission.
 - Training of staff to support data management at functioning CTCs to improve data collection, analysis and timely reporting.
 - Logistical support to health department authorities for the transportation of samples to confirm suspected cases from the departments at the National Laboratory of Public Health (LNSP), in cooperation with the World Food Program Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS).
- In the Centre, Nord Ouest, and Nord Est Departments in Haiti, investigation and response missions are ongoing to discover infection sources and organize response actions following case confirmation to break the chain of transmission.



Case management

- In Haiti, as of 18 January there are 106 health structures with 1,524 beds providing care to cholera patients, which include CTCs, hospitals, and clinics. PAHO/WHO has trained medical staff to carry out evaluations to monitor and ensure the quality of CTCs. Up to date, 16 CTCs have been evaluated in Artibonite, Grand Anse, Centre and Sud, and corrective measures are being implemented.
- PAHO/WHO continues to support departmental health authorities in monitoring the number of active CTCs and bed occupancy rates in all departments.

Water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH)

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO is supporting the ongoing WASH evaluations of five health facilities and three prisons as follows (period October 2022 to January 2023):
 - **WASH evaluation of 9 prisons in 6 departments**
 - **28 CTCs WASH evaluations in 8 departments** between November and January 2023. The evaluations include an assessment of the **availability and quality of water, as well as hygiene and sanitation conditions**, and are accompanied by the distribution of WASH materials as well as disinfection and decontamination activities.
- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO continues to support WASH activities in 9 departments. Since October, PAHO has distributed a total of 814,900 Aquatabs, 3,500 Jerry cans, 162 sprayers, 340 cholera beds (adults and children) and 6 (42 m²) tents that are being used to set up and scale up CTCs.

Risk communications and community engagement

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO supports awareness campaigns carried out by MSPP, using an audio message distributed to 500,000 mobile phone users, targeting 31 of the most cholera affected municipalities in Grand Anse, Centre, Nord, l'Artibonite with key preventive messages.
- To date, PAHO/WHO trained of 900 ASCPS (community health workers) in Haiti who are already deployed in the Ouest and Centre Departments, carrying out door to door activities to disseminate cholera prevention messages, distribute cholera kits (ORS, aqua tabs), and assist in the identification and referral of suspected cases to CTCs.
- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO provided technical support for the development of an awareness campaign aimed at promoting mental health and psychosocial well-being of the population during the cholera epidemic. The campaign, targeting the departments of Sud and Grand' Anse, was conducted for 60 days and involved the dissemination of psychoeducational messages via brochures, radio spots, videos, social networks (WhatsApp, Face Book and IG.), and community meetings, with the involvement of 750 ASCPs and 250 community leaders. As a result, 280,000 people received messages and copings techniques to address mental health during the cholera outbreak.

Vaccination

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO provided strategic, technical and operational guidance for the implementation of the oral cholera vaccination campaign that took place from 19 to 31 December in the Ouest and Centre Departments. In the Centre department, a cumulative total of 69 126 people has been vaccinated, including 470 inmates from the civil prison. The vaccination coverage of this first phase is estimated at 92% (target population 75,215). Women (54%) and people aged 15 and over (59%) are the most vaccinated.
 - In Haiti, with the technical support of PAHO/WHO, the MSPP is reviewing and validating vaccination data in Ouest Department and the final campaign report is being developed.
 - In the Dominican Republic, PAHO/WHO supported the Ministry of Health request for 85,000 doses of oral cholera vaccines, which have been approved by the International Crisis Group. The vaccination campaign is being developed with the technical support of PAHO/WHO, targeting 85,000 people in 4 neighborhoods in Santo Domingo.
-