

CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN HAITI

Situation Report # 2

19 October 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

- Confirmed cholera cases continue to spread to new areas in the capital and around the greater Port-au-Prince area. In addition, 4 cholera cases have now also been confirmed in the Center Department. New cholera-related alerts are under investigation in the Artibonite, Center, Nord’Est, Ouest, Sud’Est, Grand’Anse and Nippes Departments.
- As cases continue to spread across other regions of the country, cholera beds, medicines, and other essential cholera supplies such as oral rehydration solution (ORS) and cholera rapid tests are essential to continue response activities.
- The security situation and lack of fuel remain important challenges to the cholera response in all departments, particularly for the transport of suspected cholera samples and essential lifesaving supplies.
- PAHO/WHO continues to support efforts by the Ministry of Health (Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population – MSPP) and partners to scale up the Cholera response, including:
 - ✓ Donations of essential lifesaving supplies to partners that are running Cholera Treatment Centers (CTCs), including transportation of samples for diagnosis.
 - ✓ Activation of multidisciplinary teams for preparedness activities for the rapid detection of cases and timely case management, including in the departments that have not yet reported cases.
 - ✓ Training to improve and streamline data collection and analysis with the national health information management system, including the strengthening of community-based surveillance.

IN NUMBERS*

As October 18, 2022

996 Suspected Cases

123 Confirmed Cases

188 Hospitalized Suspected Cases

37 Institutional Deaths

Map of cumulative suspected cases of cholera in Haiti as of 18 October 2022

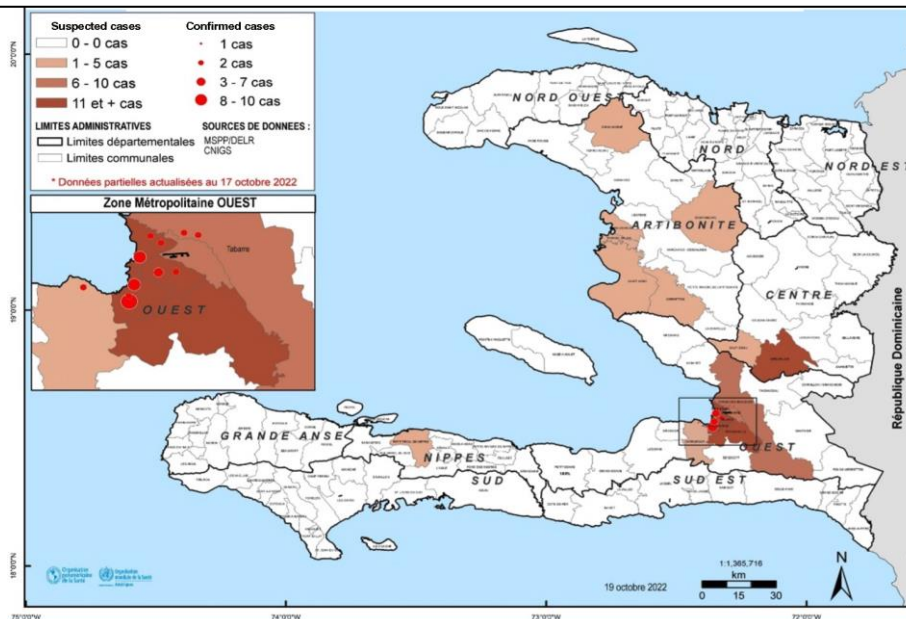


Figure 1. Source DELR/MSPP 18 Oct 2022

**Total numbers include community cases as well as cases reported in the Civil Prison of PaP*

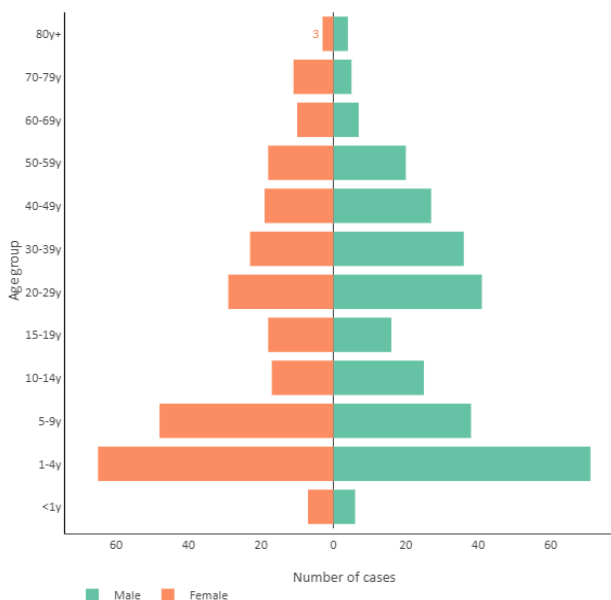
Source: Haiti Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population sitrep #14 and PAHO/WHO Country Office Situation Report #4

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

For more information contact: eoc@paho.org

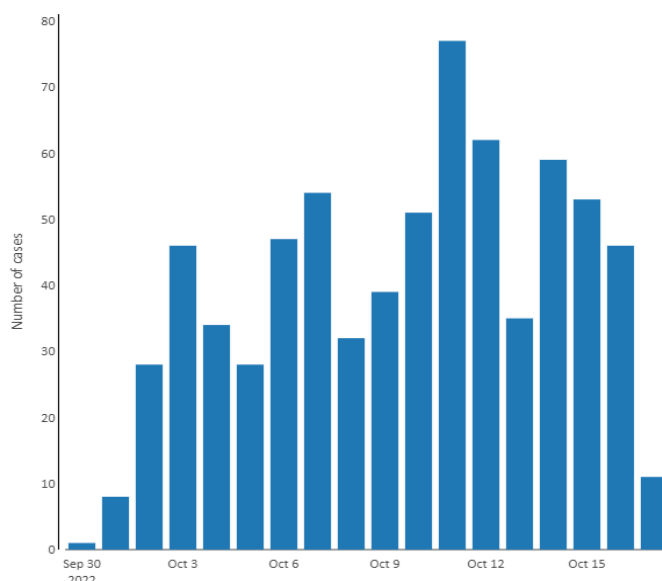
- Cholera cases are increasing and now reported in 8 communes within the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area. Cité Soleil and Port-au-Prince communes are the most affected areas, with 49% and 37% of all total suspected cases respectively reported to date.
- From the Ministry of Health report on 18 October, 55% of total reported cases are male and 45% female, and 41% of total cases reported are under 10 years old.
- According to Health Directorate of the Ouest (DSO), there are 411 cholera beds installed and 315 hospitalized patients (bed occupancy rate of 75%).
- At the Civil Prison of Port-au-Prince, there has been 271 suspected cases, 12 confirmed and 14 deaths reported.

Figure 1. Distribution of suspected cases of cholera by age group in Haiti in 2022, as of 18 October



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

Figure 2. Daily distribution of suspected cases of cholera in Haiti in 2022, as of 18 October 2022



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



RISK ASSESSMENT AND CHALLENGES

- Lack of access to the affected areas due to insecurity, on-going demonstrations, and civil unrest, is hindering the epidemiological surveillance, the installation of Oral Rehydration Points (ORP) and Cholera Treatment Centers (CTCs), the transport of patients to CTCs and health promotion and awareness raising activities at the community level.
- Lack of access to fuel is hampering the functioning and scale up of CTCs, the operation of the National Laboratory of Public Health, and mobility of health staff, samples, and the transportation of samples, and other critical and lifesaving supplies.
- There are multiple challenges in the procurement of cholera supplies due to a high demand stemming from several ongoing Cholera outbreaks at the global level, impeding access to essential medical supplies for scaling up the response. In addition, the closure of ports is a significant challenge for importing medical supplies to Haiti.



HEALTH NEEDS

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

- Cholera beds, tents, and medical and non-medical supplies for opening new CTCs in the departments' where news suspected cases are being reported
- Laboratory reagents and rapid diagnostic tests
- Medicines and medical supplies for case management, including Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) and Ringer Lactate
- Access to fuel for the operations of CTCs, laboratories, and other essential Ministry of Health units
- 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 is supporting with the following:

Coordination

- PAHO/WHO continues to support coordination efforts by the health authorities in several departments (Ouest, Center, Nord Ouest, Grand'Anse and Nippes). In the Ouest department, daily coordination with authorities and partners takes place to share information, detect gaps, obstacles and needs for the response to the cholera outbreak.
- PAHO/WHO is supporting response efforts by the MSPP in other departments with multidisciplinary teams for preparedness activities related to the rapid detection of cases and timely case management, including in the departments that have not yet reported cases.

Epidemiological and laboratory Surveillance

- On 13 October, PAHO supported the DSO in training 8 sentinels (data collectors for cholera treatment centers or CTCs), 5 data managers deployed in CTCs, and the DSO office. This training will improve and streamline data collection and analysis with the national health information management system.
- 150 community health workers (ASCP) were trained to support the community response including community-based surveillance (SEBAC).
- PAHO/WHO is supporting surveillance in the Hugo Chavez Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp in Port-au-Prince and in the Shalom Camp in Cité Soleil. Over 50 stool samples from these two sites were collected and delivered to the National Laboratory of Public Health (LNSP) for testing.
- At the national level, PAHO/WHO supported the LSNP in completing an evaluation of subregional labs that will support the confirmation of cholera cases in all departments to increase diagnostic capacity.

Case management

- PAHO/WHO and partners such as Médecins Sans Frontiers (MSF) continue to support the setting-up of CTCs with the provision of lifesaving medicines and essential supplies. However, stocks of medical supplies and equipment are being depleted rapidly.
- Three of the 24 planned ORP (2 ORP and 24 ORP+, which have the added capacity to provide IV rehydration) are functional as of today.
- Support was given to the DSO for the delivery of supplies, medicines, and equipment to the Civil Prison of Port-au-Prince. PAHO/WHO and the National Directorate of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DINEPA) visited the civil prison and trained prison guards on cholera prevention measures.
- A provisional Cholera case management protocol, including management of cholera during pregnancy, has been validated by the Directorate for the Organization of Health Services (DOSS) and is being distributed to actors involved in case management.
- Quality assessment officers are being recruited to support the DOS to supervise the quality of services provided in CTCs, monitor the availability of adequate resources for case management and the identification of possible sites for the installation of additional CTCs.
- The national protocol for the management of children with cholera and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) was reviewed and the updates were shared with the MSPP- Nutrition Unit.

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

- A rapid assessment of WaSH needs was conducted at the Civil Prison of Port-au-Prince. Recommendations were made for immediate and long-term actions. WaSH supplies were provided and 15 people were trained in the production of water chlorination solutions. PAHO/WHO and DINEPA will continue to support actions taken to control the disease.
- Training for 150 ASCPs included the WaSH component of the cholera response at community level. Now that the WaSH Task Force led by the MSPP has validated the items in hygiene kits for ASCPs to distribute in communities, actions are underway to initiate procurement of related supplies.
- PAHO/WHO is supporting the La Paix University Hospital to connect their CTC to the hospital's water distribution system.
- PAHO/WHO assisted the MSPP in finalizing the list of WaSH supplies required to ensure the implementation of appropriate IPC and WaSH protocols in treatment centers and health facilities providing care for cholera patients.

Communications and community engagement

- From October 14-16, 150 ASCPs were trained jointly with the DSO on the community response to the cholera epidemic. During the sessions, emphasis was put on communication and community engagement, alert, and response (SEBAC), breastfeeding during the epidemic, psychological first aid (PFA), gender-based violence, WaSH, and the use of cholera kits. An additional 150 ASCP have been trained from the 18th to the 20th of October. These trained ASCP will be then deployed in affected communes of the metropolitan area.

Logistics

- In coordination with UNICEF, fuel was provided to the LNSP to ensure continuation of epidemiological surveillance and testing.
- PAHO/WHO is collaborating with the Humanitarian Air Service provided by the World Food Program (UNHAS) to bring cholera supplies from the Dominican Republic. A dedicated logistician was hired to support the purchases and transport of supplies from the Dominican Republic to Haiti.
- PAHO/WHO, United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), and Program on Essential Medicine and Supplies - PROMESS coordinated the donation of 2.5 tons of medical supplies from the NGO Haiti Health and the MSPP to St. Boniface Hospital in Fonds des Blancs in the Sud department.