

# CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN HISPANIOLA

Situation Report # 5

10 November 2022

## HIGHLIGHTS

- In Haiti, cholera cases continue to spread to new areas of the capital as well as to additional departments in the country. As of 8 November 2022, the Direction d'Épidémiologie, des Laboratoires et de la Recherche (DELR) reported 7,569 suspected cases and 712 confirmed cases of cholera across the country. Of these, 655 (92%) have been reported in the Ouest Department. Other departments that reported confirmed cases are Centre (37), Artibonite (18), and Grand'Anse (2).
- In Haiti, as cases continue to be reported across the country, critical cholera supplies such as medicines, oral rehydration solution (ORS), rapid tests, ringer lactate, cholera beds as well as human resources are critically needed to scale up response activities.
- In Haiti, lack of fuel and the deteriorating security situation continue to pose a challenge to emergency response operations in all departments.
- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO continues to support the Ministry of Health (Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population – MSPP) and partners, including:
  - ✓ Support to the activation of coordination cells to respond to suspected and confirmed cases in all departments through surge operations for both human resources and materials.
  - ✓ Support to the Ouest Department in prevention activities through deployment of 300 community health workers in five communes.
  - ✓ Facilitating access to fuel to health facilities and the transportation of samples to the national reference laboratory.
- In the Dominican Republic, there have been no new reports of confirmed or suspected cholera cases. The Ministry of Health, with the support from PAHO/WHO, continues to monitor entry points in the provinces bordering Haiti as well as to implement prevention activities through risk communication and community engagement.

Map of Departments with at least one case of cholera in Haiti as of 8 November 2022

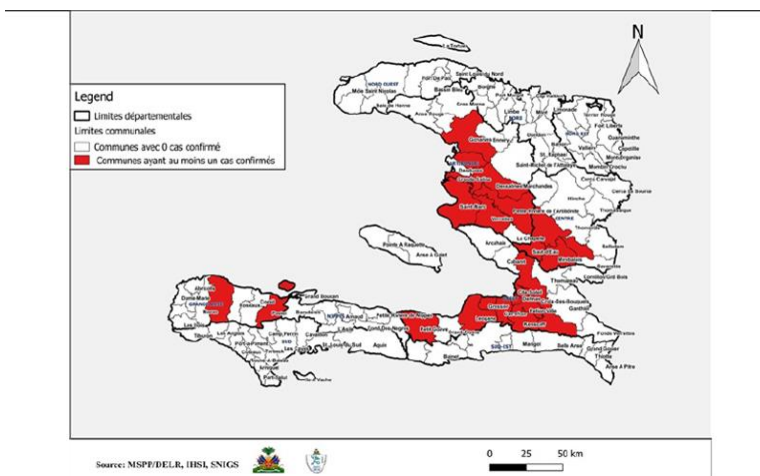


Figure 1. Source DELR/MSPP 8 Nov 2022

## IN NUMBERS\*

As of 8 November 2022

**7,569**  
**Suspected Cases**

**712** Confirmed Cases

**6,304**  
**Hospitalized Suspected Cases**

**144** 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 #36.

**Source Dominican Republic:** PAHO/WHO country office.

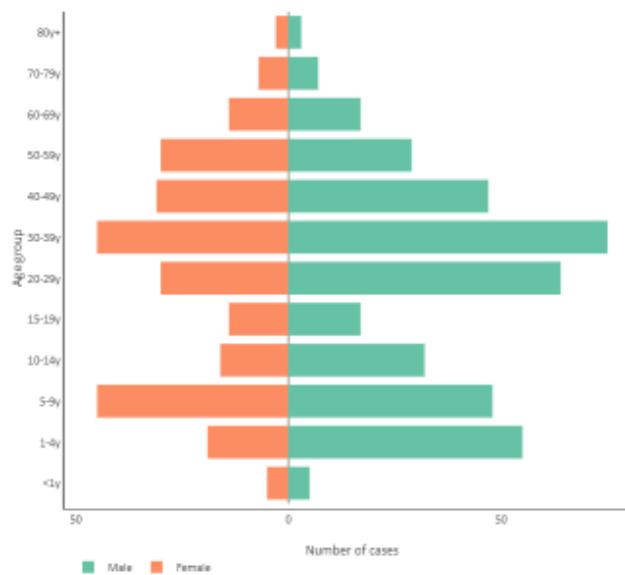
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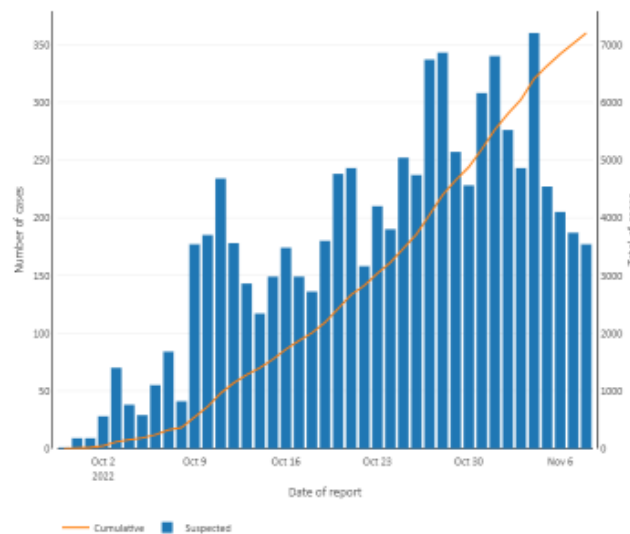
- In Haiti, a total of 7,569 suspected cholera cases, of which 712 were confirmed, including 144 deaths, have been reported in 8 departments. This represents an increase of 57.2% in confirmed cases and 35.8% in deaths compared to the Situation Report 4, published on 2 November. To date, 4 out of the 8 departments that reported suspected cases have reported confirmed cholera cases (18 confirmed cases in Artibonite, 37 in Centre, 2 in Grand-Anse, and 655 in Ouest, including 14 confirmed cases reported in the Port-au-Prince Civil Prison). Out of a total of 1,702 samples analyzed by the LNSP, 698 were confirmed cases, resulting in a 41.01% positivity rate (this excludes the 368 suspected cases reported in the Port-au-Prince Civil Prison).
- Based on the MSPP report from 8 November, 59.9% of reported suspected cases are male, 40.1% female and 61% are aged 29 years of younger (figure 1).
- Among confirmed cases, age groups 1-4 and 30-39 are the most affected.
- At the Civil Prison of Port-au-Prince, MSPP still reports 368 suspected and 14 confirmed cases and 14 deaths.

Figure 1. Distribution of suspected cases of cholera by age group in Haiti as of 8 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 8 November 2022



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



## RISK ASSESSMENT AND CHALLENGES

- Cholera outbreaks globally generate a high demand for medical and non-medical essential supplies, including the oral vaccine, resulting in limited supply for immediate distribution among all cholera affected countries.
- In Haiti, lack of access to affected areas due to insecurity, on-going demonstrations, and civil unrest, continue to hinder 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 continue to be the main challenge to emergency response operations in all departments, 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 access to other critical and lifesaving supplies.



## HEALTH NEEDS

In coordination with 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 MSPP units.
- Medical and non-medical supplies for case management, including Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS), Ringer Lactate, 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

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 response coordination at national and departmental levels, and provides technical support to MSPP and partners. PAHO is using a two-pronged approach to build capacity and provide effective technical assistance to the 10 Health Department authorities:
  - Strengthen human resources at the department level for coordination, monitoring of CTCs, WaSH, risk communication and community engagement.
  - Pre-positioning of essential lifesaving supplies for case management and WaSH at the sub-national and departmental level.

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### Epidemiological and laboratory Surveillance

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO is supporting public health authorities at the department level to develop a strategic cholera response plan and to reactivate cholera response mechanisms.
- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO is supporting field investigations of cholera alerts in all departments in order to identify suspected cases and collect samples for laboratory analysis.
- In Haiti, alongside the DELR, PAHO/WHO is supporting the deployment of specialists to the Centre and Artibonite departments to strengthen surveillance response operations.
- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO is facilitating sample transportation from the departments to the national reference laboratory through UNHAS flights, as well as expanding the Labo-moto system for sample collection and transportation in Port-au-Prince.

### Case management

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO is supporting the development, validation, and dissemination of strategic materials for cholera case management in all CTCs, which include the cholera case management protocol and algorithms, an operational plan for cholera case management in prisons and the protocol for the treatment of pregnant women and children with cholera.

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

- In Haiti, 4 technicians have been hired by PAHO/WHO to support the implementation of WaSH activities in the health departments as well as the development of training materials on infection, prevention and control, WaSH and biomedical waste management.

### Risk communications and community engagement

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO, supported the Health Directorate of Ouest Department in the collection, the organization and the forwarding of the data on community surveillance and cholera community response, through the elaboration and adoption of a formal circuit followed by community level actors deployed on the field.
- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO is supporting the Health Directorate of the Ouest Department to monitor the cholera prevention activities carried out by 300 community health workers deployed in 5 communes.

### Logistics

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO continues to facilitate access to fuel for the national reference laboratory, the Health Directorate of the Ouest Department as well as to other MSPP health facilities and partners.
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