

CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN HISPANIOLA

Situation Report # 9

16 December 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

- In Haiti, confirmed cholera cases are reported in new areas of the capital and in additional departments. As of 14 December 2022, the Department of Epidemiology, Laboratories, and Research (DELR) **confirmed 1,291 cases of cholera in nine departments**. 962 (74.5%) of confirmed cases were reported in the Ouest Department, followed by 156 in Centre and 54 in Sud Est. **15,400 suspected cases have been reported in all 10 departments** of the country since the first cases were reported on 2 October.
- In Haiti, high levels of insecurity and limited access to 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:
 - Distribution of cholera kits and other essential supplies by air and land to ensure quality case management of cases at Cholera Treatment Centers (CTCs) and Oral Rehydration Points (ORPs) in 9 departments.
 - Technical and logistical support to field investigations in all departments, including donation of Rapid Diagnostic Test to identify suspected cases and collect samples for laboratory analysis.
 - Technical and financial support for the planning, training and implementation of the upcoming cholera vaccination campaign set to start on 18 December in the Ouest and Centre Departments.
- In the Dominican Republic, PAHO/WHO continues to support the Ministry of Health in monitoring, investigating and responding to cholera alerts, including in prevention activities through risk communication and community engagement.

IN NUMBERS*

As of 14 December 2022

15,400
Suspected Cases

1,291 Confirmed Cases

13,009
Hospitalized Suspected Cases

305 Deaths

2% CFR (suspected 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.*

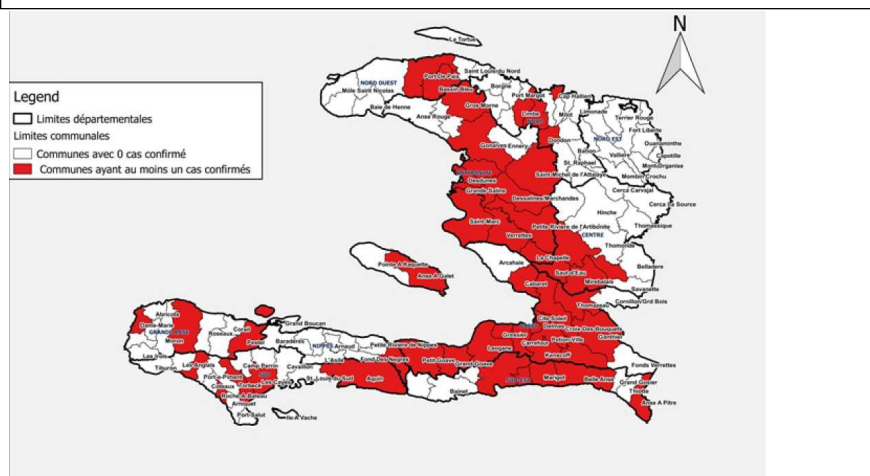
Source Haiti: Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population sitrep #73.

Source Dominican Republic: PAHO/WHO country office.

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

For more information contact:
eoc@paho.org

Reported Cholera Cases in Haiti by department as of 14 December 2022



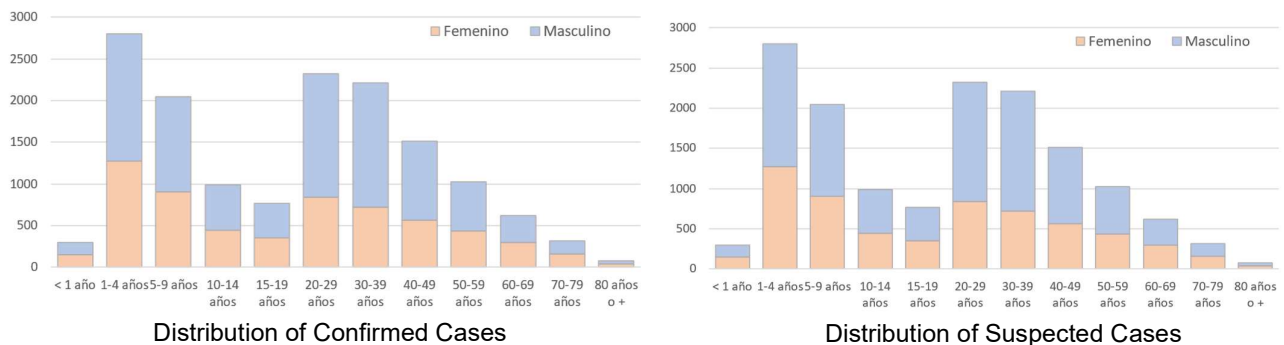
Source: MSPP/DEL.R, IHSL, CNIGS. Figure 1. Source DELR/MSPP 14 Dec2022

- As of 14 December, a total of **15,400 suspected cholera cases** were reported in nine of the ten departments in Haiti, including cases reported in the Civil Prison in Port-au-Prince. Out of these, **1,291 were confirmed** by the national laboratory, including **305 deaths**. To date, **nine out of the ten departments that reported suspected cases have confirmed cases** (47 in Artibonite, 156 in Centre, 54 in Sud-Est and 962 in Ouest). We note an increase of 12.64% in overall suspected cases and an 8.21% increase in confirmed cases since 6 December (Figure 1).
- The case fatality rate among suspected cases is **2%**. Regarding the 305 deaths reported as of 14 December, there is a 7.77% increase compared to the update on 6 December 2022.
- The Ouest Department reported a 5.65% increase in suspected cases and a 2.01% increase in confirmed cases. Yet, the **other 9 departments reported an average increase of 44% in suspected cases and 64% in confirmed cases**, compared to 6 December 2022 (Figure 1).
- The most affected communes in the Ouest Department continue to be Port-au-Prince, Delmas, Cité Soleil, Carrefour, and Pétion-Ville, where the majority of suspected and confirmed cases are reported.
- Based on the MSPP information from 14 December, 58.77% of reported suspected cases are male, 41.23% female and (Figure 2).
- Among the 1,291 confirmed cases, age groups 1-4 (18.8%) and 30-39 (14.15%) are the most affected.

Figure 1. Summary of percent difference compared to 6 December 2022

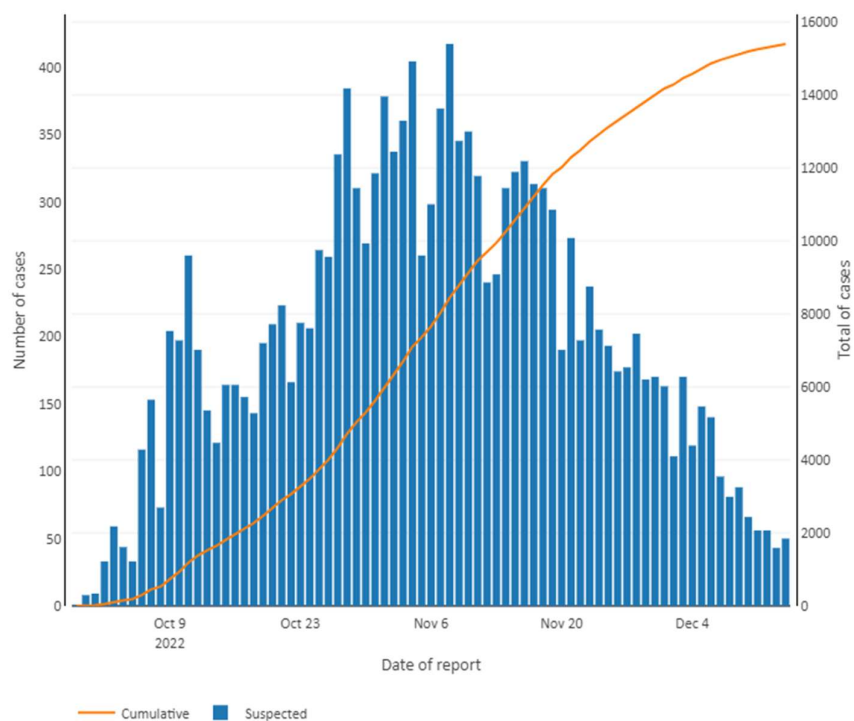
Summary				
Department	Suspected Cases 14.12.22	% Difference 6.12.22	Confirmed Cases 14.12.22	% Difference 6.12.22
Ouest	13153	5.65%	962	2.01%
Artibonite	664	12.29%	47	67.86%
Centre	883	59.08%	156	0.00%
Nord	117	14.81%	32	23.08%
Sud	37	30.77%	9	80.00%
Nord-Est	7	0.00%	0	0.00%
Nord-Ouest	19	100.00%	11	57.14%
Grand Anse	30	0.00%	19	90.00%
Sud-Est	132	29.17%	54	200.00%
Nippes	358	143.69%	1	0.00%
Total	15400	12.64%	1291	8.21%

Figure 2. Distribution of suspected and confirmed cases of cholera by age group and gender in Haiti as of 14 December 2022



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

Figure 3. Daily distribution of suspected cases of cholera in Haiti as of 14 December 2022



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. These are some of the main drivers of the cholera epidemic as they limit access to health and basic water and sanitation services and disrupt food and water supplies:
 - Although fuel distribution has restarted in the Ouest Department, availability continues to be limited and the situation is even more difficult in other departments, hindering the response and the distribution of life saving medicines and supplies for case management.
 - Lack of access to affected areas due to insecurity, on-going demonstrations and civil unrest 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.
- The global cholera crisis generates a high demand for medical and essential non-medical supplies, including the oral vaccine, resulting in limited cholera supplies for immediate distribution among all affected countries.



HEALTH NEEDS

In coordination with health authorities and operational partners, the following **priority needs** have been identified to reduce morbidity and mortality which are being address 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

In line with the 5 pillars defined by the Haiti MSPP for the cholera outbreak response, PAHO/WHO continues to support national authorities and operational partners on the ground as follows:

Coordination

- PAHO/WHO personnel have been deployed to the Nord, Nord-Est, Artibonite, and Sud Departments to support field coordination efforts by Departmental Health Directorates.
- At national level, PAHO/WHO continues to support coordination with the MSPP, DELR, health partners such as Médecins Sans Frontières and UN agencies.

Epidemiological and laboratory Surveillance

- PAHO/WHO is supporting the most affected departments (Ouest, Centre, Artibonite, Grand'Anse and Nord) in conducting field investigations of suspected cases and deaths, including the collection of samples for laboratory analysis.
- In the Artibonite Department, PAHO/WHO trained staff to support data management at functioning CTCs to improve data collection, analysis and timely reporting.
- PAHO/WHO delivered Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDT) and supplies for sample collection to the National Laboratory of Public Health (LNSP in French) for the investigation of cholera alerts.
- PAHO/WHO continues to provide support for the transportation of samples to confirm suspected cases from the departments to the LNSP in cooperation with the World Food Program Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS).

Case management

- PAHO/WHO hired a case management expert to support the MSPP in the coordination of case management activities in the 77 CTC's that are currently functioning throughout the country, including CTC quality assurance.
- In the Ouest Department, PAHO/WHO supported to assess needs and improve the quality of 19 Oral Rehydration Points (ORP's) for the management of mild cholera cases at community level.
- Since the beginning of the epidemic on 2 October, PAHO/WHO has distributed 7 cholera kits (700 hundred patients), 126,000 ORS and more than 50,000 Ringer Lactate solution and other medical supplies to all departments in the country to run and scale of up CTCs and ORPs.



Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH)

- PAHO/WHO supported the distribution of WASH materials, such as the donation of more than 426,000 aqua tabs to support the response capacity in 8 Departments since the beginning of the cholera epidemic.
- In the Sud-Est Department, PAHO/WHO donated WASH materials for the prison of Jacmel to support authorities in preventing the spread of cholera inside the prison.

Risk communications and community engagement

- PAHO/WHO, supported the training and deployment of an additional 300 Community Health Workers (ASCP) in the Ouest Department (600 in total), as community surveillance remains essential to report, investigate and respond to cholera alerts at the community level.

Vaccination

- With the support of the International Crisis Group (ICG) as well as other partners such as the Vaccine Alliance (GAVI), PAHO/WHO provided technical and financial support to health facilities and partners for planning and microplanning processes to conduct the vaccination campaign set to start on 18 December 2022.
- PAHO/WHO supported the deployment of national and departmental supervision teams to the field to brief vaccination operators and supervise plan implementation in each targeted location.

Logistics

- PAHO/WHO continues to facilitate access to fuel for health facilities, laboratories and clinics in the metropolitan area of Port au Prince to ensure the running of their operations.
 - PAHO/WHO continues to procure essential cholera supplies (kits, RDTs, ORS, cholera beds, aqua tabs, infusion sets, etc.) at the international level and ensuring transportation into Haiti with the support of USAID “Haiti Cholera Humanitarian Air bridge”.
-