

# CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN HISPANIOLA

Situation Report # 8

8 December 2022

## HIGHLIGHTS

- In Haiti, confirmed cholera cases are reported in new areas of the capital and in additional departments. As of 6 December 2022, the Department of Epidemiology, Laboratories, and Research (DELR) **confirmed 1,193 cases of cholera in eight departments**. 943 (79%) of confirmed cases were reported in the Ouest Department. 13,672 suspected cases have been reported in all 10 departments in the country since the first 2 cholera cases were reported on 2 October.
- In the Dominican Republic, **two new cholera cases were confirmed** on 7 December by the Ministry of Health in the city of Santo Domingo, bringing the total number of confirmed cases to 4 in the country since October 2022.
- In Haiti, high levels of insecurity and limited access to fuel continue to be the 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 field investigations in all departments to identify suspected cases and collect samples for laboratory analysis.
  - Distribution of 49 tons of essential medicines and medical supplies to Cholera Treatment Centers (CTCs) and Health Directorates in all departments.
  - Training of additional Community Health Workers (ASCP) in the Ouest and Centre Departments, including in preparation for the upcoming vaccination campaign.
  - Technical and financial support for the training and development of the communication strategy for the upcoming cholera vaccination campaign.
- In the Dominican Republic, PAHO/WHO continues to support the Ministry of Health in monitoring and investigating alerts, including through the donation of Rapid Diagnostic Tests, and in implementing prevention activities through risk communication and community engagement.

## IN NUMBERS\*

As of 6 December 2022

**13,672**

**Suspected Cases**

**1,193 Confirmed Cases**

**11,751 Hospitalized Suspected Cases**

**278 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 #50.

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

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

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Reported cholera cases in Haiti by department. As of 6 December 2022.

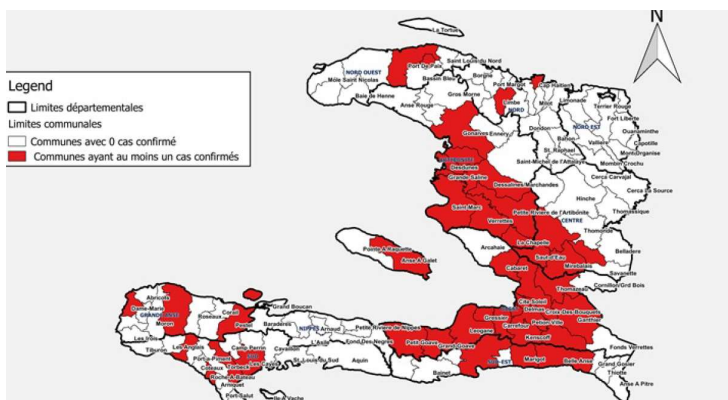


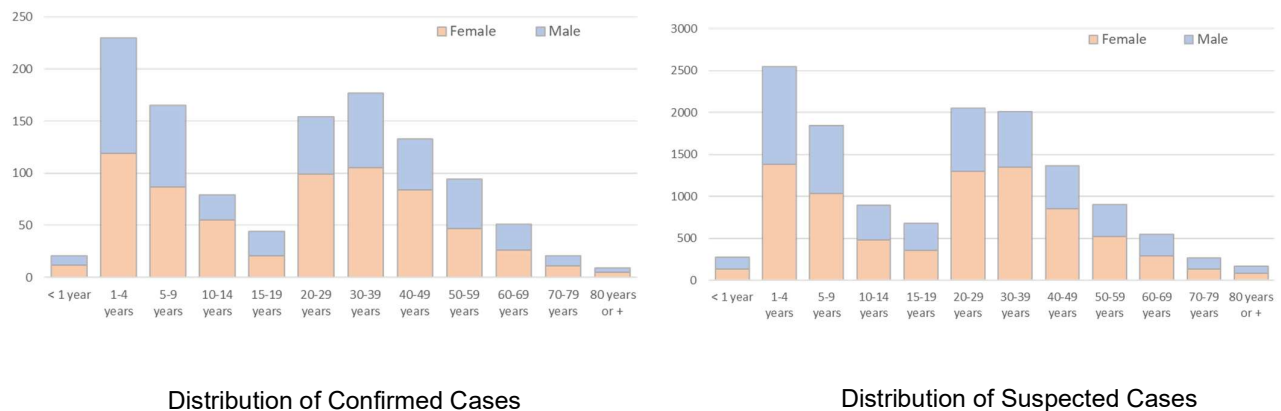
Figure 1. Source DELR/MSPP 8 Dec2022

- As of 6 December, a total of **13,672 suspected cholera cases were reported in eight of the ten departments** in Haiti, including cases reported in the Civil Prison in Port-au-Prince. Out of these, **1,193 were confirmed** by the national laboratory, including **278 deaths**. To date, **eight out of the ten departments that reported suspected cases have confirmed cases** (28 in Artibonite, 156 in Centre, 10 in Grand’Anse, and 943 in Ouest). We note an increase of 9.15% in overall suspected cases and a 10.26% increase in confirmed cases since 1 December (Figure 1).
- As of 6 December, the case fatality rate among suspected cases is 2%
- The most affected communes in the Ouest Department continue to be Port-au-Prince, Delmas, Cité Soleil, Carrefour, and Pétion-Ville which are the communes reporting the majority of suspected and confirmed cases in the department.
- Based on the MSPP report from 6 December, 58.53% of reported suspected cases are male, 41.47% female and (Figure 2).
- Among the 1,193 confirmed cases, age groups 1-4 (18.6%) and 30-39 (15.1%) are the most affected.

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

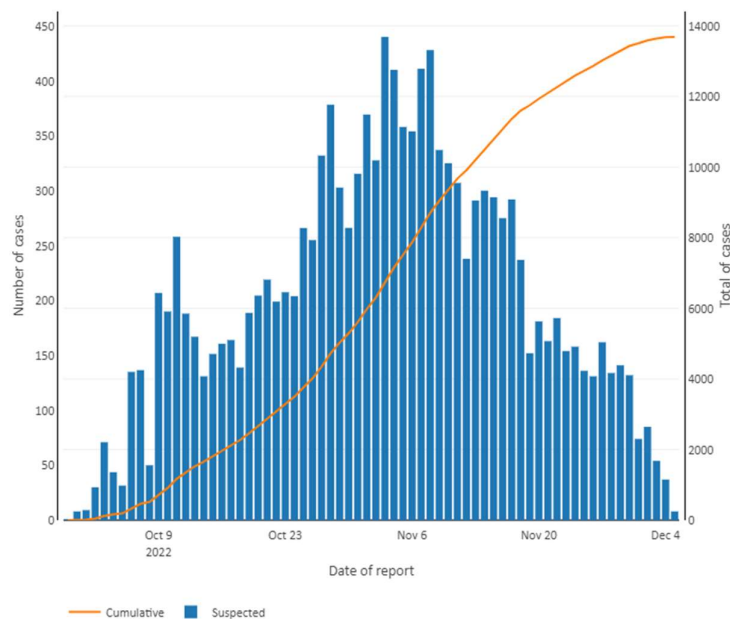
Summary				
Department	Suspected Cases 6.12.22	% Difference 1.12.22	Confirmed Cases 8.12.22	% Difference 1.12.22
Ouest	12128	5.65%	943	6.80%
Artibonite	329	12.29%	28	12.00%
Centre	762	59.08%	156	32.20%
Nord	62	14.81%	26	0.00%
Sud	34	30.77%	5	0.00%
Nord-Est	8	0.00%		0.00%
Nord-Ouest	6	100.00%	7	0.00%
Grand’Anse	30	0.00%	10	0.00%
Sud-Est	62	29.17%	18	0.00%
Nippes	251	143.69%	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13672</b>	<b>9.15%</b>	<b>1193</b>	<b>10.26%</b>

**Figure 2.** Distribution of suspected and confirmed cases of cholera by age group and gender in Haiti as of 6 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 6 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, are some of the main drivers of the cholera epidemic as they limit access of affected populations 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, the following **priority needs** have been identified to reduce morbidity and mortality:

- 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 Haiti MSPP for the cholera outbreak response, PAHO/WHO continues to support national authorities as follows:

### Coordination

- PAHO/WHO personnel will be deployed to the Nord, Nord-Est, Nippes, Artibonite, and Sud Departments to support field coordination efforts by the Departmental Health Directorates.

### Epidemiological and laboratory Surveillance

- PAHO/WHO is supporting the Departments of Artibonite, Grand'Anse, Nord-Est, and Ouest to conduct field investigation of suspected cases, deaths, including the collection of samples for laboratory analysis.
- PAHO/WHO continues to support the DELR and the National Laboratory of Public Health (Laboratoire de Santé Publique - LNSP) in strengthening laboratory surveillance by deploying six additional labo-moto nurses for the transportation of cholera samples in the departments, as well dedicated staff to improve data collection at CTCs.
- PAHO/WHO supported DELR evaluation efforts in Grand Sud and La Gonâve Islands to assess and strengthen epidemiological surveillance activities.
- PAHO/WHO continues to provide support for the transportation of samples from the departments to the LNSP in cooperation with the World Food Programme Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS).

### Case management

- PAHO/WHO continues to provide essential medicines and medical supplies to the Health Directorates in all 10 departments by land and air, with 49 tons of supplies, such as ringer lactate, oral rehydration salts and infusion sets delivered in the last 15 days.
- In addition, PAHO/WHO continues to support the MSPP in the coordination and quality assessment for CTCs. Currently, there are 70 active CTCs throughout the country: 11 in Artibonite, 2 in Centre, 6 in Grand' Anse, 1 in Nippes, 6 in Nord, 4 in Nord-Est, 4 in Nord-Ouest, 22 in Ouest (including the CTC of the Civil Prison), 8 in Sud and 6 in Sud-Est.
- PAHO/WHO supported the Directorate of Organization of Health Services (DOSS) in conducting a joint workshop to review the cholera response since October 2022. The workshop covered the distribution of active CTCs and isolation rooms, the number of human resources trained in cholera case management, and an inventory of tools to support the response.



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### Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH)

- PAHO/WHO supported the Directorate of Health Promotion and Protection of the Environment (DPSPE) in training WASH officers on cholera response in the Center, Nord-Est, and Nord Ouest Departments.

### Risk communications and community engagement

- PAHO/WHO, trained and deployed an additional 300 Community Health Workers (ASCP) in the Ouest Department, as community surveillance remains essential to report and investigate cholera alerts at the community level. The capacity building included sessions on awareness raising, prevention, active case finding and referral of patients, and covered communication aspects in preparation for the upcoming vaccination campaign.

### Vaccination

- PAHO/WHO provided technical and financial support for the development, printing, and distribution of data management tools (registers, vaccination cards) for the upcoming cholera vaccination campaign.
  - PAHO/WHO provided technical and financial support for development of the training materials for vaccination supervisors in the Ouest and Centre Departments.
  - PAHO/WHO, in coordination with the MSPP and implementing partners, finalized the communication plan for the upcoming cholera vaccination campaign, which includes awareness raising and prevention messages to be broadcast in targeted communities.
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