

CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN HISPANIOLA

Situation Report # 10

22 December 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

- In Haiti, as of 20 December 2022, the Department of Epidemiology, Laboratories, and Research (DELR) reports **18,469 suspected cholera cases in all 10 departments** of the country since the first cases were reported on 2 October. Of these, **1,380 cases have been confirmed in nine departments**, of which 1,024 (74.2%) of were reported in the Ouest Department, followed by 157 in Centre, 60 in Sud Est, and 54 in Artibonite.
- 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:
 - Strategic and technical support for the implementation of the first phase of the cholera vaccination campaign with more than 1,170,000 doses, which began on 18 December in Ouest and Centre Departments.
 - Technical and logistical support to field investigations in all departments, strengthening completeness and quality of data and transportation of samples.
 - Distribution of cholera kits and other essential supplies by air and land to ensure quality management of cases at Cholera Treatment Centers (CTCs) and Oral Rehydration Points (ORPs) in 9 departments.
- In the Dominican Republic, 6 new cholera cases (all male between 4-49 years old) have been confirmed in Santo Domingo in addition to the 2 imported cases from Haiti reported in October and November, bringing the **total number of confirmed cases to 8**. PAHO/WHO is providing technical and logistic support to the Ministry of Health in monitoring, investigating, and responding to cholera alerts, including prevention activities through risk communication and community engagement.

IN NUMBERS*

As of 20 December 2022

Haiti

18,469 Suspected Cases

1,380 Confirmed Cases

15,714 Hospitalized Suspected Cases

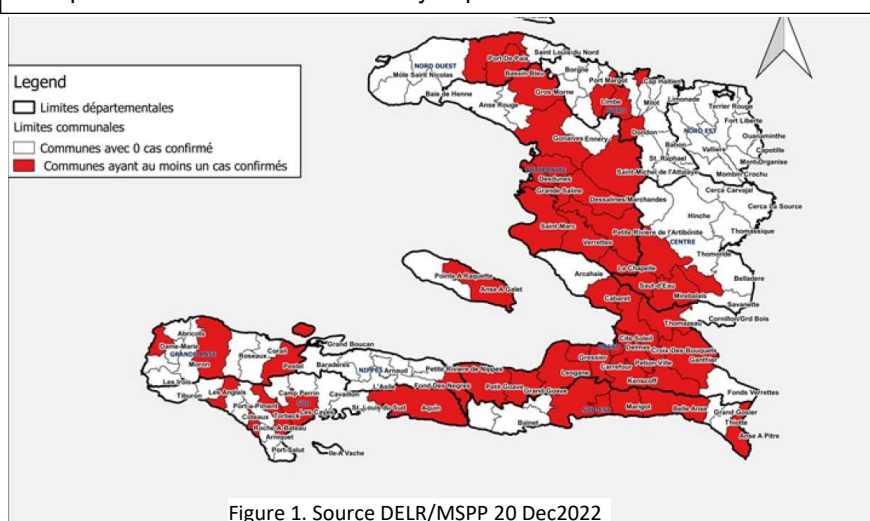
324 Deaths

2% Case Fatality Rate (suspected cases)

Dominican Republic

8 Confirmed Cases

Reported Cholera Cases in Haiti by department as of 20 December 2022



*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 #81.

Source Dominican Republic: PAHO/WHO country office.

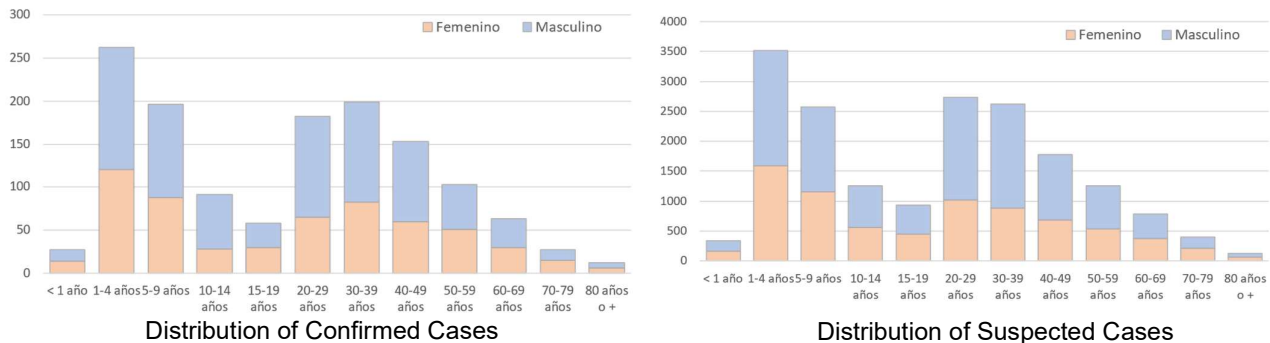
[Cholera - PAHO/WHO | Pan American Health Organization](#)

- In Haiti, as of 20 December, a total of **18,469 suspected cholera cases** were reported in nine of the ten departments in Haiti, including cases reported in the Civil Prison in Port-au-Prince. Of these, **1,380 were confirmed** by the national laboratory, including **324 deaths**. To date, **nine out of the ten departments that reported suspected cases have confirmed cases** (54 in Artibonite, 157 in Centre, 60 in Sud-Est and 1,024 in Ouest). There has been an increase of 22.06% in overall suspected cases and a 6.98% increase in confirmed cases since 15 December (Figure 1).
- The case fatality rate among suspected cases is **2%**. Regarding the 324 deaths reported as of 20 December, there is a 6.58% increase compared to 15 December 2022.
- The Ouest Department reported a 6.37% increase in suspected cases and a 6.44% increase in confirmed cases since 15 December 2022. However, the **other 9 departments reported an average increase of 117.4% in suspected cases and 8.5% in confirmed cases** in the same period (Figure 1).
- The most affected communes 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 20 December, 57.97% of reported suspected cases are male, 42.03% female and (Figure 2).
- Among the 1,380 confirmed cases, age groups 1-4 (19.4%) and 30-39 (14.42%) are the most affected.

Figure 1. Summary of percent difference compared to 15 December 2022

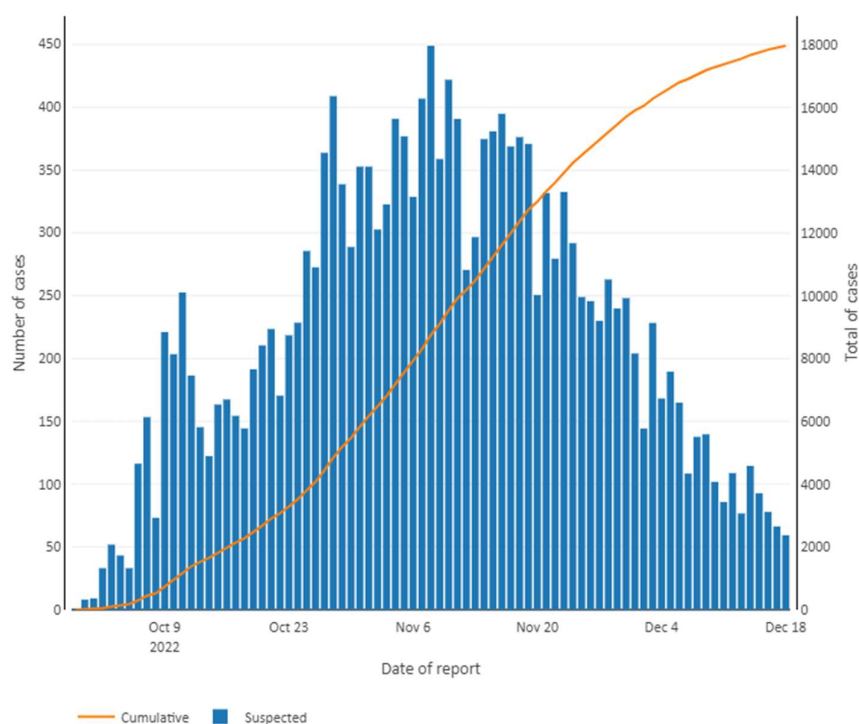
Summary				
Department	Suspected Cases 20.12.22	% Difference 15.12.22	Confirmed Cases 20.12.22	% Difference 15.12.22
Ouest	13817	6.37%	1024	6.44%
Artibonite	2554	319.38%	54	14.89%
Centre	982	10.09%	157	0.64%
Nord	130	17.12%	39	21.88%
Sud	53	43.24%	14	55.56%
Nord-Est	8	0.00%	0	0.00%
Nord-Ouest	68	257.89%	11	0.00%
Grand Anse	219	630.00%	20	5.26%
Sud-Est	183	134.62%	60	13.21%
Nippes	452	26.97%	1	0.00%
Total	18469	22.06%	1380	6.98%

Figure 2. Distribution of suspected and confirmed cases of cholera by age group and gender in Haiti as of 20 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 20 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 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 as well:
 - Although fuel distribution has restarted in the Ouest Department, availability continues to be limited in other departments, hindering basic water and sanitation services (garbage collection), hindering the response and the 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 all reported from the la Zurza neighborhood in Santo Domingo, which is an area with limited access to safe water in addition to poor hygiene and sanitation conditions. A large proportion of the population in that sector uses water from the river for cooking and bathing, which is one of the factors that increases the risk of cholera transmission among the most vulnerable populations living in these locations.
- Global cholera crisis generates a high demand for medical and non-medical supplies, including 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 is strengthening strategic, technical and operational coordination with the MSPP, DELR, health partners and UN agencies, including donors such as USAID and the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).
- 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 response to the cholera outbreak in Santo Domingo.

Epidemiological and laboratory Surveillance

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO continues to provide support to health department authorities for the improvement of epidemiological data management as well as the transportation of samples to confirm suspected cases from the departments to the National Laboratory of Public Health (LNSP) in cooperation with the World Food Program Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS).
- In Haiti, the LNSP started the distribution of Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs) to all the departments with the support of PAHO/WHO.
- In the Dominican Republic, PAHO/WHO supported the Ministry of Health to strengthen its capacity for the timely investigation of cholera alerts through the donation of 1,000 RDTs.

Case management

- In the Dominican Republic, PAHO/WHO provided technical guidance to the Ministry of Health for the adequate and timely management of cholera cases identified in Santo Domingo, including the distribution of 5000 doxycycline tablets for the treatment of severe cholera cases (approximately 1,600 adult patients).



Water, hygiene and sanitation (WaSH)

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO supported the Health Authorities in the Nord Department for conducting a rapid assessment of WaSH needs in active CTCs, followed by training on the preparation of chlorinated solutions as part of the strengthening of infection, prevention and control protocols.
- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO supports water quality monitoring and training in several CTCs of the Ouest department, in coordination with local and international partners.

Risk communications and community engagement

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO is supporting the activities of 900 Community Health Workers (ASCP) in the Ouest and Centre Department, who are carrying out community surveillance to investigate and report cholera alerts at the community level, as well as to implement prevention activities, distribution of ORS and referral of suspected cases to CTCs.
- In Haiti and as part of the communication plan for the cholera vaccination campaign, PAHO/WHO provided technical support for the implementation of communication activities aimed at schools and churches and supported the broadcast of 800,000 SMS to targeted communities in the Ouest and Centre Department to inform and mobilize the population.
- In the Dominican Republic, PAHO/WHO, in collaboration with UNICEF and other partners, is supporting the risk communication campaign of the Ministry of Health for the prevention of cholera in Santo Domingo, through technical and financial support for the development of communication materials, including the creation of creole communication materials for Haitians areas.

Vaccination

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO provided strategic, technical and operational guidance for the implementation of the first phase of the Oral Cholera Vaccination campaign, from 18 to 22 December in Ouest and Center Departments. Preliminary reports of the vaccination campaign show that over 128,000 people have been vaccinated. Of the vaccinated persons, 52 % are female and 48% are male. The age group distribution among the vaccinated people is 15 and above (48%), 5-14 (30%), and 1-4 (22%).

Logistics

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO, in coordination with the MSPP and Health Departmental authorities, will provide logistical support for the effective distribution of the following supplies to support the cholera response based on identified needs and priorities: 300,000 ORS donated by USAID, 1 cholera kit (approximately 700 patients) and 4,500 Ringer Lactate solution (approximately 200 severe patients) donated by Direct Relief.
 - In Haiti, PAHO/WHO delivered 3,000 gallons of diesel to the Hospital of the State University of Haiti (HUEH) to support the continuation of cholera response activities.
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