

CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN HISPANIOLA

Situation Report # 11

5 January 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- In Haiti, as of 2 of January 2023, the Department of Epidemiology, Laboratories, and Research (DELR) reports **22,563 suspected cholera cases in all 10 departments** of the country. Of these, **1,561 cases have been confirmed in nine departments**: 1,097 (69%) in Ouest, followed by 242 in Centre, 63 in Sud Est, and 58 in Artibonite.
- In Haiti, high levels of insecurity and limited access to fuel and 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 cholera vaccination campaign that took place from 19 to 31st December in the Ouest and Centre Departments.
 - Technical and logistical support to field investigations in all departments, strengthening data completeness and quality and transportation of samples.
 - Implementing a cholera community engagement strategy in the Sud-Est Department, which includes training and deployment of Community Health Workers (ASCP) to disseminate PAHO-developed risk communication materials for the prevention of cholera at individual and household level.
- In the Dominican Republic, on 28 December the Ministry of Public Health confirmed 2 new cholera cases (both female, 33 and 44 years old). These have no travel history, and both are residents in La Zurza sector in Santo Domingo, bringing the **total number of confirmed cases to 10**, two of them imported from Haiti. PAHO/WHO is providing technical and logistical support to the Ministry of Health in monitoring, investigating, and responding to cholera alerts, and in prevention activities through risk communication and community engagement.

IN NUMBERS*

As of 2 January 2023

Haiti

22,563 Suspected Cases

1,561 Confirmed Cases

18,867 Hospitalized Suspected Cases

457 Deaths

2% Case Fatality Rate (suspected cases)

Dominican Republic

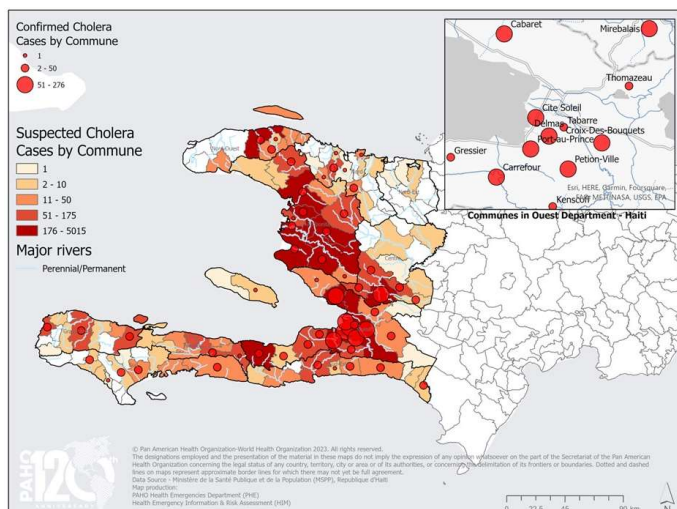
10 Confirmed Cases

**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 #94.

Source Dominican Republic: PAHO/WHO country office.

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



Reported Cholera Suspected and Confirmed Cases in Haiti by Department as of 2 January 2023

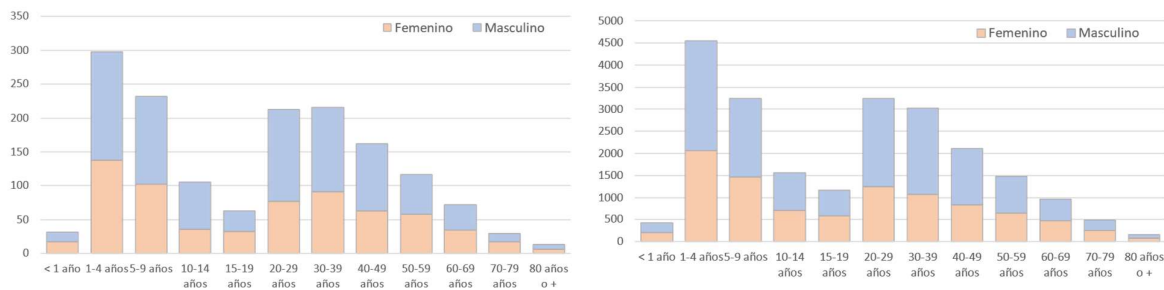
Source: Haïti Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP). Data generated by PAHO/WHO.

- In Haiti, as of 2 of January, a total of **22,563 suspected cholera cases** were reported in all ten departments in the country, including cases reported in the Civil Prison in Port-au-Prince. Of these, **1,561 were confirmed** by the national laboratory, including **457 deaths**. To date, **nine out of the ten departments that reported suspected cases have confirmed cases**, with the majority being reported in Ouest (1,097), followed by Centre (242), Sud-Est (63) and Artibonite (58). Since 29 December, there has been an increase of 12.09% in overall suspected cases and a 9.39% increase in confirmed cases (Figure 1).
- The case fatality rate among suspected cases is **2%**. The 457 deaths reported as of 2 January represent a 22% increase compared to 29 December 2022.
- The Ouest Department reported a 9.73% increase in suspected cases and a 3.78% rise in confirmed cases since 29 December 2022. However, the **other 9 departments reported an average increase of 18.1% in suspected cases and a 25.4% rise in confirmed cases** during the same period (Figure 1).
- The most affected municipalities 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 MSPP information from 2 January, 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 29 December 2022

Summary				
Department	Suspected Cases 2.1.23	% Difference 29.12.22	Confirmed Cases 2.1.23	% Difference 29.12.22
Ouest	15867	9.73%	1097	3.78%
Artibonite	3636	20.60%	58	5.45%
Centre	1313	8.42%	242	54.14%
Nord	152	7.80%	52	0.00%
Sud	97	12.79%	14	0.00%
Nord-Est	8	0.00%	0	0.00%
Nord-Ouest	455	73.00%	11	0.00%
Grand Anse	342	31.03%	21	5.00%
Sud-Est	219	3.30%	63	5.00%
Nippes	474	0.42%	3	200.00%
Total	22563	12.09%	1561	9.39%

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

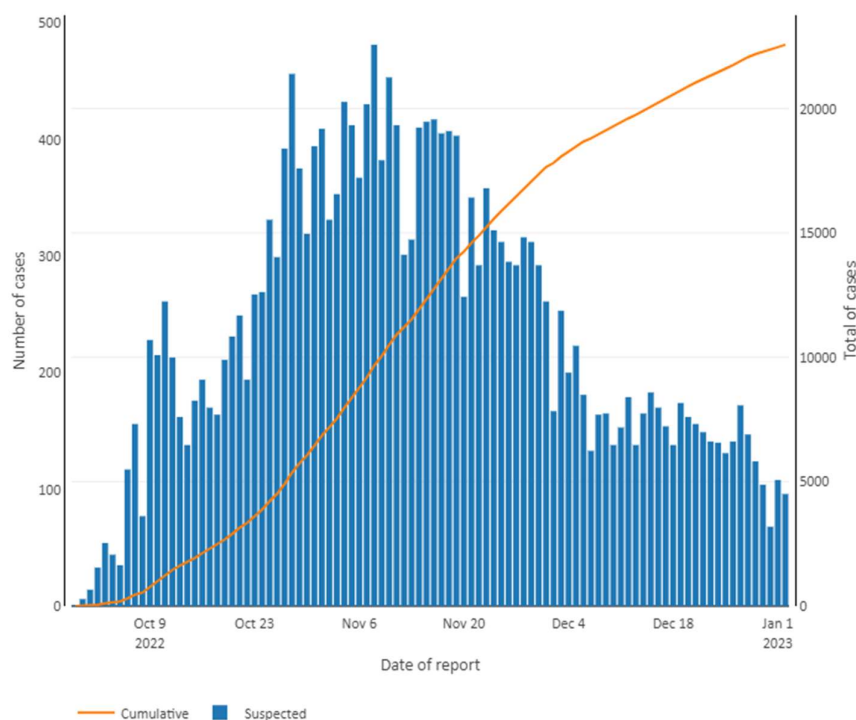


Distribution of Confirmed Cases

Distribution of Suspected Cases

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

Figure 3. Daily distribution of suspected cases of cholera in Haiti as of 2 January 2023



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:
 - Although fuel distribution has restarted in the Ouest Department, availability continues to be limited in other departments, hindering basic water and sanitation services (e.g., garbage collection), and the response and 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 2 new confirmed cholera cases are residents of the La Zurza neighborhood in Santo Domingo – an area with limited access to safe water and poor hygiene and sanitation conditions. A large proportion of the population in that neighborhood use water from the river for cooking and bathing, which is a factor that increases the risk of cholera transmission among most vulnerable populations living in this location and the surrounding neighborhoods.
- The global cholera crisis generates a high demand for medical and non-medical supplies, including for 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 personnel have been deployed to the Nord, Nord-Est, Artibonite, Sud and Nippes Departments to support cholera coordination activities in Departmental Health Directorates.
- 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 as well as the investigation of alerts in the border provinces.

Epidemiological and laboratory surveillance

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO is providing technical and logistical support to the investigation of cholera alerts and response missions in all departments in collaboration with the DELR, which include:
 - Deployment of teams for local community response during the investigation, in effort to break the chain of transmission.
 - Training of staff to support data management at functioning CTCs to improve data collection, analysis and timely reporting.
 - Logistical support to health department authorities for 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).
 - Distribution of Rapid Diagnostic Test for the investigation of cholera alerts in all 10 departments.
- In the Artibonite and Southern Departments in Haiti, an improvement in data quality and completeness has been noted following the joint effort from the DELR and the PAHO/WHO technical mission in December 2022.

Case management

- In Haiti, there are 103 health structures providing care to cholera patients, which include CTCs, hospitals and clinics. PAHO/WHO has trained medical staff to carry out evaluations to monitor and ensure the quality of CTCs, including the implementation of corrective measures as required.
- PAHO/WHO in Haiti continues to monitor the bed occupancy rate in the Departments of Artibonite, Centre, Grande Anse, Nord, Nord-Est, Ouest, Sud, and Sud-Est
- PAHO/WHO supported the evaluation of the CTC in Hôpital Saint Antoine de Jémérie, Grand-Anse Department, on 30 December 2022, and the implementation of corrective measures following the assessment is in progress.

Water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH)

- A WASH needs assessment of the Hinche civil prison in the Centre Department was conducted in December 2022 and corrective measures are being implemented.

Risk communications and community engagement

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO is supporting the Directorate of Health Promotion and Environment Protection (DPSPE) in implementing a cholera community engagement strategy in the Sud-Est Department. This includes training and deployment of Community Health Workers (ASCP), who disseminate risk communication materials developed by PAHO that include prevention messages, WaSH, breastfeeding and cholera information.

Vaccination

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO provided strategic, technical and operational guidance for the implementation of the Oral Cholera Vaccination campaign that took place from 19 to 31 December in the Ouest and Centre Departments.
 - PAHO/WHO is supporting vaccination efforts in the prisons of Port-au-Prince and Carrefour which started on January 4 that will continue for a period of 10 days to vaccinate 3,800 prisoners.
 - The MSPP, with the support of PAHO/WHO, is finalizing the data collection and analysis for the final report of the vaccination campaign.
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