

CHOLERA EPIDEMIC IN HISPANIOLA

Situation Report # 14

17 February 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- In Haiti, as 16 February 2023, the Department of Epidemiology, Laboratories, and Research (DELR) have reported **31,485 suspected cholera cases in all 10 departments of the country**. Of these, **2,318 cases have been confirmed in ten departments**: 1,250 (53%) in Ouest, followed by 424 in Centre, 148 in Nord, and 104 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 to:
 - Strengthen coordination of the cholera response by supporting surge capacity in epidemiological surveillance, case management, water, hygiene, sanitation, community intervention and risk communication under the leadership of Department Health Directorates.
 - Enhance epidemiological surveillance at department level for the improvement, completeness, and quality of data through the deployment of cholera data managers and sentinels, including all the necessary equipment.
 - Improve the quality of case management in Cholera Treatment Centers by supporting Health Directorates in evaluating and improving clinical care, water, hygiene, sanitation and infection prevention and control.
 - Distribute medical and non-medical supplies by air and land to aid the cholera response in all departments across the country, including cholera beds, Rapid Diagnostic Tests, Ringer Lactate fluids, laboratory reagents and aqua tabs.
- In the Dominican Republic, the Ministry of Public Health confirmed 12 new cholera cases, bringing the **total number of confirmed cases to 71**, of which 56 are local transmission reported in Santo Domingo. PAHO/WHO is providing support to the Ministry of Health in investigating and responding to cholera alerts, in prevention activities through risk communication, as well as in the implementation of the ongoing vaccination campaign which by 15 February had reached 21,086 people.

IN NUMBERS

As of 16 February 2023

Haiti

31,485 Suspected Cases *

2,318 Confirmed Cases

27,934

Hospitalized Suspected Cases

594 Deaths

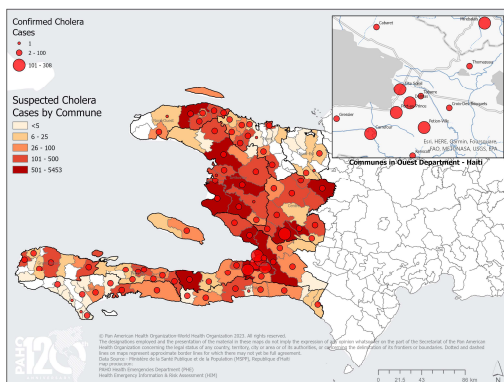
1.91% Case Fatality Rate
(suspected cases)

Dominican Republic

71 Confirmed Cases

**Total suspected cases for Haiti include institutional and community cases as well as cases reported in the Civil Prison of PaP based on Department Epi cumulative data.*

Source Haiti: Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population sitrep #138.
Source Dominican Republic: Ministerio de Salud Pública.
[Cholera - PAHO/WHO | Pan American Health Organization](#)



Reported Suspected and Confirmed Cholera Cases in Haiti by Department as of 13 February 2023

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

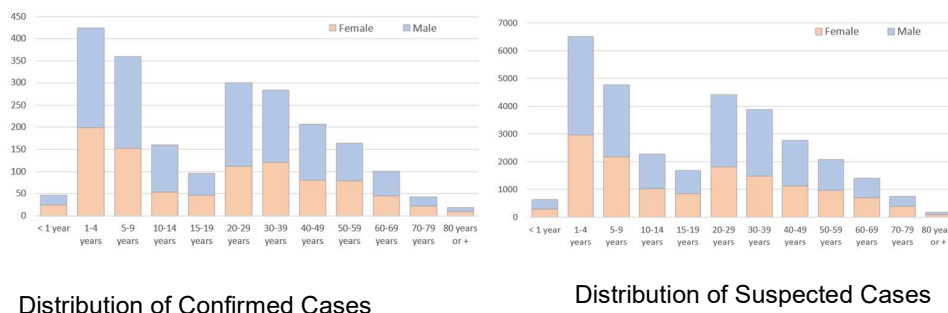
PAHO/WHO.

- In Haiti, as of 16 February, a total of **31,485 suspected cholera cases** were reported in all ten departments in the country, including cases reported in the Civil Prison in Port-au-Prince as seen in the epicurve (Figure 3). Of these, **2,318 were confirmed** by the national laboratory, including **594 deaths**. To date, **ten departments have reported confirmed cases**, with the majority being reported in Ouest (1,250), followed by Centre (424), Nord (148) and Artibonite (104). The most affected municipalities in the Ouest Department continue to be Port-au-Prince, Delmas, Cité Soleil, Carrefour, and Pétion-Ville.
- **Since 10 February, there has been an overall increase of 5.51% in suspected cases and a 5.94% increase in confirmed cases** across the country (Figure 1).
- The case fatality rate among suspected and institutional cases is 1.91% and 1.24% respectively.
- Since 10 February 2023, except for the Ouest Department, the **other nine departments reported an average increase of 10.41% in suspected cases and a 10.44% rise in confirmed cases** during the same period (Figure 1).
- Based on MSPP information from 16 February, 55.74% of reported suspected cases are male, and 44.26% female (Figure 2).
- Age groups 1-4 (19.97%) and 5-9 (16.56%) are the most affected among the 2,318 confirmed cases.

Figure 1. Summary of percent difference compared to 2 February 2023

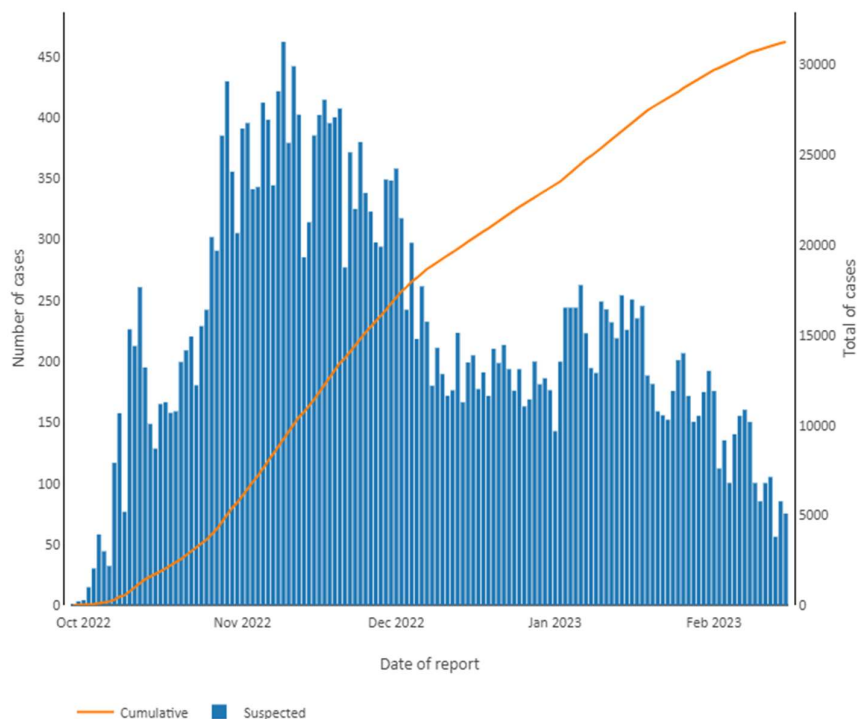
Summary				
Department	Suspected Cases 2.16.23	% Difference 10.2.23	Suspected Cases 2.16.23	% Difference 10.2.23
Ouest	17457	1.87%	1250	2.38%
Artibonite	5147	3.79%	104	0.00%
Centre	3909	14.23%	424	10.70%
Nord	984	12.97%	148	8.82%
Sud	344	26.94%	59	22.92%
Nord-Est	69	6.15%	12	0.00%
Nord-Ouest	1805	5.68%	40	5.26%
Grand Anse	566	10.98%	123	26.80%
Sud-Est	498	96.06%	106	7.07%
Nippes	706	9.63%	52	4.00%
Total	31485	5.51%	2318	5.94%

Figure 2. Distribution of suspected and confirmed cases of cholera by age group and gender in Haiti as of 16 February 2023



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

Figure 3. Daily distribution of suspected cases of cholera in Haiti as of 16 February 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. Limiting an effecting response and access to health and basic water and sanitation services, as well as food and water supplies:
 - Lack of access to affected areas 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.
 - 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 cholera medicines and supplies.
- In the Dominican Republic, the 12 new confirmed cholera cases reported in the last 15 days are all residents of the National District and Santo Domingo Este sectors in the capital city of Santo Domingo, areas with active local cholera transmission in the country.
- 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 at CTCs and at Department Level.
- Laboratory reagents and Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs) for the investigation and confirmation of cholera cases.
- Access to safe drinking water and improved hygiene and sanitation.
- Access to enough fuel and transportation services (air and land) for the timely and effective distribution of essential supplies.



PAHO/WHO RESPONSE

PAHO/WHO continues to support national health authorities and operational partners in the cholera response as follows:

Coordination and leadership

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO continues to strengthen coordination of the cholera response by supporting surge capacity in epidemiological surveillance, case management, water, hygiene, sanitation, community intervention and risk communication under the leadership of Department Health Directorates.
- In Haiti, the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the country in addition to the ongoing cholera epidemic prompted the United Nations Emergency Directors Group to activate the scale-up of certain humanitarian sectors. The aim is to improve the coordination of the overall humanitarian response, particularly in the protection, nutrition, WASH and health sectors. PAHO/WHO, as the health lead on behalf of the international community, will ensure coordination and MSPP leadership in the health sector response.
- On 9 February PAHO/WHO presented an update on the cholera epidemic and emergency response in Haiti and the Dominican Republic to 15 donors and international agencies.
- 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 cholera outbreak response in Santo Domingo as well as to investigate alerts across the country.

Epidemiological and laboratory surveillance

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO supports the strengthening of epidemiological surveillance at department level through the deployment of cholera data managers and sentinels, including necessary equipment to effectively perform their surveillance duties.
- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO provided logistic support to field missions to strengthen surveillance in 4 departments, in collaboration with technical staff from the MSPP, the DELR and the National Laboratory of Public Health (LNSP).

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- In addition, PAHO/WHO continues to support the investigation of cholera alerts and response activities in prisons (see more details under WASH section below), in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and its partner Health Through Walls.

Case management

- In Haiti, there are 99 health structures and a total of 1,561 beds providing care to cholera patients in all 10 departments of the country. PAHO/WHO continues to support the Departmental Health Directorates to monitor and ensure the quality of case management in CTCs. To date, 35 CTCs have been evaluated in Artibonite, Grand Anse, Sud-Est, Sud, and Nord Ouest Departments, with the major gaps identified in terms of training needs, lack of adequate water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) conditions, which are being address with the support of PAHO/WHO technical teams.
- PAHO/WHO continues to support departmental health authorities in monitoring the number of active CTCs and bed occupancy rates in all departments, to ensure an effective distribution of cases among all available health facilities.

Water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) and infection, prevention and control (IPC)

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO continues to support the Departmental Health Directorates with ongoing WASH evaluations of health facilities and CTCs providing care to cholera patients, such as the assessments completed in the Sud and Nippes Departments in the last 15 days. To date, 42 CTCs WASH-IPC evaluations have been completed in 9 departments, identifying gaps in available WASH materials, such as aqua tabs and chlorine, and lack of adequate hygiene and sanitation services.
- PAHO/WHO is currently implementing a training for CTC staff on infection prevention and control as well as in biomedical waste management in the Nord-Est Department.
- PAHO/WHO supported WASH activities includes the investigation and response to cholera alerts in several municipalities in the Ouest, Sud and Nippes Departments, as well as the identification of WASH needs at community level and solutions to address them.

Risk communications and community engagement

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO continues to support cholera prevention activities through risk communication and community engagement interventions, such as the recent training and deployment of 36 Community Health Workers (ASCP - Agent de Santé Communautaire Polyvalent) in the municipality of Gros-Morne, Artibonite Department, for awareness raising, prevention, case identification and referral, and risk communication as part of an integrated community response to cholera.
 - In Haiti, PAHO/WHO supported the Health Directorate of the Ouest Department in the assessment of the cholera community response in La Gonâve island, which allowed for the identification of the main challenges to the current response and provided recommendations for the implementation of an integrated community response in the island.
 - In addition, PAHO/WHO is supporting data collection from the interventions of Community Health Workers (ASCP), by facilitating the deployment of central level data managers from the MSPP to the Health Directorates of the Center, Nord and Sud Departments. Data management officers will ensure regular collection, monitoring and entry of data from the activities carried out in the field and provide an analysis to inform the community health intervention.
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Vaccination

- In the Dominican Republic, the cholera vaccination campaign that began on 25 January has already reached 21,086 people in the 8 provinces, of which 5 are in the border with Haiti (Elias Piña, Pedernales, Monte Cristi, Dajabón, and Independencia), as well as 2 sectors of the capital city: National District and Santo Domingo Este. PAHO/WHO is supporting the Ministry of Health in the vaccination communication campaign, updating of vaccination guidelines, development of monitoring tools, distribution of a cold chain kit in target areas and distribution of safe water kits along with the vaccines.

Logistics

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO received two international air shipments with 200,000 units of Ringer Lactate fluids for the management of severe cholera cases with the support of USAID-BHA Humanitarian Air Link operation for the country.
 - In addition, PAHO/WHO distributed essential cholera supplies to Nippes and Sud Departments in the last 15 days, including 3,060 Ringer Lactate fluids for the case management of approximately 306 severe cholera cases, 53,000 ORS for the management of mild cases and 80,000 aqua tabs for the purification of water at household and CTC level, among other medical and hygiene items.
 - In Haiti, PAHO/WHO continues to support the distribution of critical fuel to ensure the functioning of essential health services, such as the recent donation to the National Ambulance Center and La Paix University Hospital in Part Au Prince, the latter with the support from the World Food Programme.
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