

CHOLERA EPIDEMIC IN HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

21 March 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- In Haiti, as 17 March 2023, the Department of Epidemiology, Laboratories, and Research (DELR) have reported 36,544 suspected cases and 2,519 confirmed cases in all 10 departments of the country, which represent a **2.41 % increase in confirmed cases and a 0.96% increase in suspected cases in the last 7 days.**
- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO continues to support the Ministry of Health (Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population – MSPP) and partners, including in:
 - Strengthening surveillance by supporting epidemiological surveillance missions in Nord, Nord-Est, and Nord-Ouest departments.
 - Enhancing epidemiological and laboratory surveillance at the department level to improve the quality of data and reporting, as well as to strengthen the capacity of the regional laboratories for the rapid detection and diagnosis of cholera, including procuring equipment, laboratory materials and reagents.
 - Improving case management in Cholera Treatment Centers (CTC) by supporting Health Directorates in clinical care, water, hygiene, sanitation and infection prevention and control, including the CTCs established in prisons.
 - Distribute medical and non-medical supplies to aid the cholera response in all departments across the country, including Ringer Lactate fluids, infusion sets and Oral Rehydration Salts for case management as well as aqua tabs for the purification of water.
- In the Dominican Republic, the Ministry of Public Health confirmed **9 new cholera cases** since the last report on 3 February, bringing the **total number of confirmed cases is 96**, of which 72 are reported in the capital city of Santo Domingo.

IN NUMBERS

As of 17 March 2023

Haiti

36,544 Suspected Cases *

2,519 Confirmed Cases

32,360 Hospitalized Cases

632 Deaths

1.73% Case Fatality Rate
(suspected cases)

1.29% Case Fatality Rate
(Hospitalized cases)

Dominican Republic

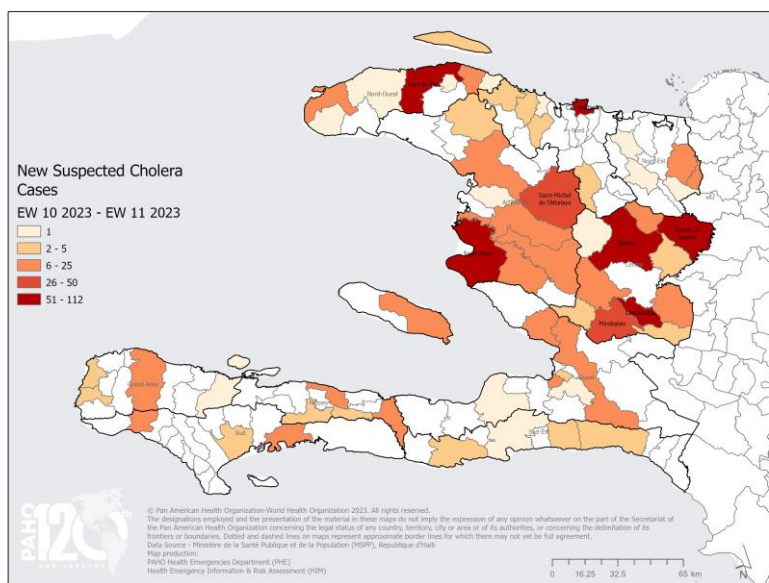
96 Confirmed Cases

0 Deaths

**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 #149.

Source Dominican Republic: Ministerio de Salud Pública.



Reported Suspected Cholera Cases in Haiti by Department as of 21 March 2023

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



CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

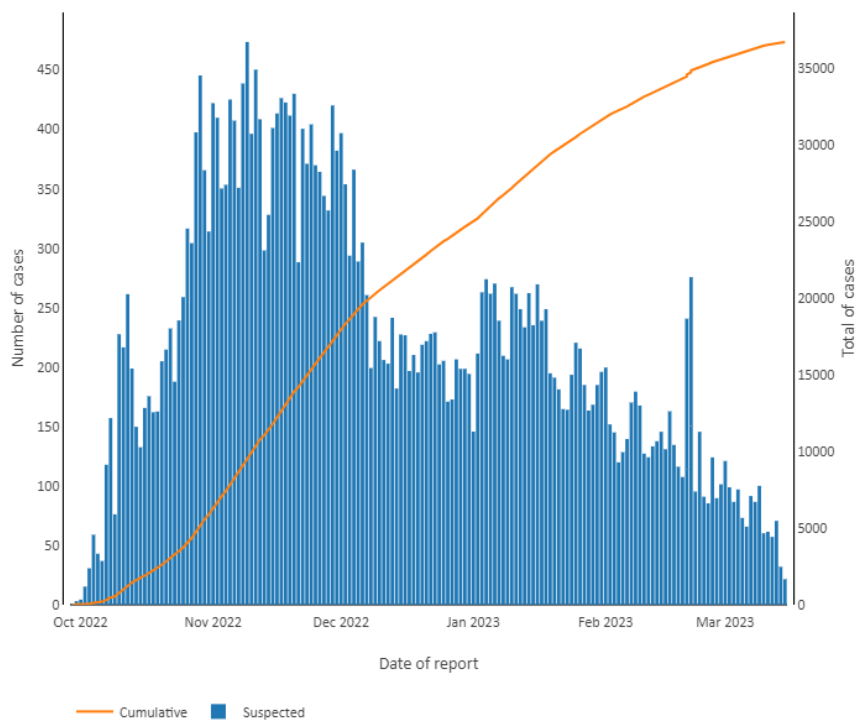
- In Haiti, the complex humanitarian and socio-political crisis, with high levels of insecurity, fuel shortages and economic instability, continue to be major challenges in the response to the cholera outbreak, limiting access to health and basic water, hygiene and sanitation services, as well supplies:
 - 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 community level water, hygiene, and sanitation activities.
 - Although fuel distribution has restarted in the Ouest Department, availability remains 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.
- 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.



EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATE

- In Haiti, as 28 February, a total of **36,544 suspected cholera cases** were reported in all ten departments in the country, (Figure 1) of which **2,519 were confirmed** by the national laboratory, including **632 deaths**.
- To date, **ten departments have reported confirmed cases**, with the majority reported in Ouest (1,291), followed by Centre (449), Grand Anse (184), and Nord (160). The most affected municipalities in the Ouest Department continue to be Port-au-Prince, Delmas, Cité Soleil, Carrefour, and Pétiön-Ville.

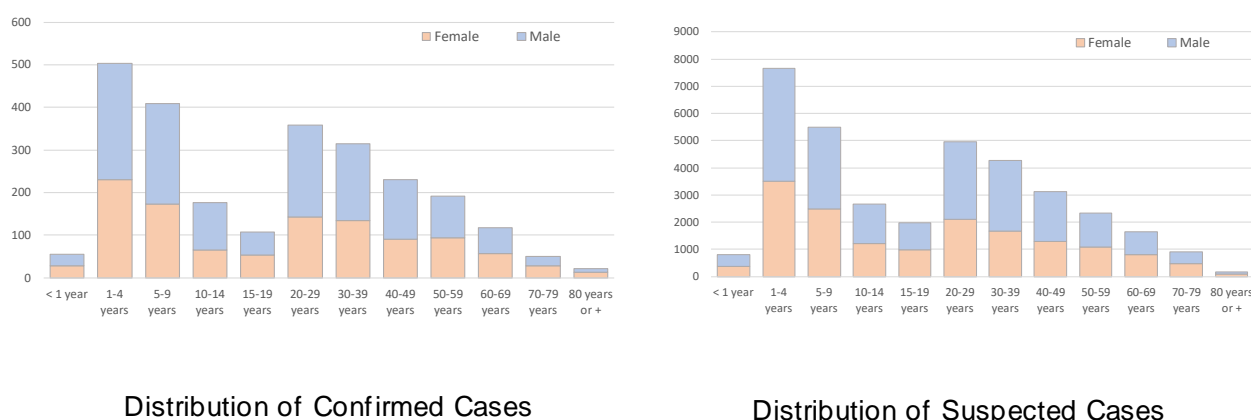
Figure 1. Daily distribution of suspected cases of cholera in Haiti as of 17 March 2023



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

- Based on MSPP information from 17 March, 54.42% of reported suspected cases are male, and 44.11% female (Figure 2).
- Since 14 March, there has been an overall increase of **2.41% in suspected cases** and a **0.96% increase in confirmed cases** across the country (Figure 3). During same period, except for the Ouest Department, the **other nine departments reported an average increase of 4.60% in suspected cases and a 1.82% rise in confirmed cases**, of which the major increase has been observed in the Nord-Est and Nord-Ouest departments.
- The case fatality rate among suspected and hospitalized cases is 1.73% and 1.29% respectively.
- Age groups 1-4 (19.96%) and 5-9 (16.4%) are the most affected among the 2,439 confirmed cases.

Figure 2. Distribution of suspected and confirmed cases of cholera by age group and gender in Haiti as of 17 March



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

Figure 3. Summary of percentage difference of suspected and confirmed cases compared to 14 March 2023

Summary				
Department	Suspected Cases 17.3.23	% Difference 14.3.23	Confirms Cases 17.3.23	% Difference 17.3.23
Ouest	18291	0.32%	1291	0.16%
Artibonite	5881	3.76%	104	0.00%
Centre	5840	5.80%	449	0.22%
Nord	1340	5.35%	160	0.63%
Sud	425	4.42%	75	7.14%
Nord-Est	135	20.54%	25	19.05%
Nord-Ouest	2181	5.82%	54	0.00%
Grand Anse	640	1.75%	184	5.14%
Sud-Est	539	2.08%	123	0.00%
Nippes	1272	1.52%	54	3.85%
Total	36544	2.41%	2519	0.96%



HEALTH NEEDS

- Medical and non-medical supplies for case management, including Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS), Ringer Lactate solution, cholera beds and WASH supplies.
- Human resources at CTC 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 sufficient fuel and transportation services (air and land) for the timely and effective distribution of essential cholera supplies.



PAHO/WHO RESPONSE

PAHO/WHO continues to support national health authorities and operational partners in prioritizing the cholera response in the departments and municipalities most affected based on the epidemiological situation 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 the Dominican Republic, PAHO/WHO is supporting the Ministry of Health and other partners 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, in collaboration with the National Laboratory of Public Health (LNSP) is supporting the mission in the Sud-Est, Nippes, Sud and Grand Anse Departments in efforts to improve the labo-moto network for the rapid investigation of cholera alerts and to ensure appropriate implementation of surveillance guidelines.
- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO continues to support the MSPP to strengthen the capacity of regional laboratories for the rapid detection and diagnosis of cholera, including in procuring equipment, laboratory materials and reagents.
- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO supports the missions in Nord, Nord-Est, and Nord-Ouest Departments in efforts to improve the surveillance pillar.
- PAHO/WHOs also supporting the ongoing case investigations in the Nord-Est, Nippes, and Centre departments by conducting epidemiological response activities to help break the chain of transmission.
- In addition, PAHO/WHO continues to monitor and support the rapid investigation of cholera alerts and response activities.

Case management

- In Haiti as of 21 March, there are 123 health structures and a total of 1,591 beds providing care to cholera patients in all 10 departments.
- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO continues to support the Departmental Health Directorates to monitor and ensure the quality of case management in CTCs. Currently, PAHO/WHO is supporting the assessment and improvement of all CTCs in the Centre department, in terms of clinical management, WASH and IPC conditions. This includes supporting the quality assessment of case management for cholera cases in the Hinche prison and providing case management training to CTC staff.
- 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. To date, all ten departments have case management focal points to evaluate and monitor case management at CTCs.
- As the number of hospitalized cases in commune of l'Asile in the Nippes department, PAHO/WHO continues to support the Nippes Health Directorate to increase bed capacity.
- PAHO/WHO with the support of Humanité & Inclusion Barge Service delivered medical and WASH supplies for treatment of cholera to Ile de la Gonâve in the Ouest department.

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

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO supported missions to evaluate CTCs WASH and IPC conditions were conducted in the Nord-Ouest, Sud, and Grand Anse department.
- PAHO/WHO delivery of WASH supplies to the departments of Nord-Ouest, Nord-Est, Ouest, and Nippes.

Risk communications and community engagement

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO is supporting the training and deployment of 25 community health workers and 2 auxiliary nurses in the communes of Arcahaie and Cabaret for the implementation of the community health response to the cholera outbreak. In those 2 communes, 805 home visits were conducted, 3 352 people have been sensitized on cholera prevention and 10 suspected cholera cases were referred to CTCs. Additionally, 15 community health workers are being trained to be deployed in the commune of Croix des Bouquets to strengthening the community response in the area.
 - In Haiti, PAHO/WHO is supporting the Health Directorates of Grand' Anse, Artibonite, Centre for the planning and implementation of risk community and community engagement (RCCE) activities for the response to the cholera outbreak. Activities include the mobilization of 825 influential community leaders, 26 interactive multiplex radio shows, were organized, cholera sensitization messages were distributed in 2,349 churches, schools, voodoo temples and 34,901 people were sensitized in door-to-door activities in localities with active cholera hotspots.
 - In Haiti, PAHO/WHO is supporting the Health Directorate of the Nord-Ouest department to plan RCCE activities in some of the most affected communes in the department. Resource mobilization is ongoing to be able to implement all planned activities.
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Vaccination

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO participated in a meeting with ICG on the second phase of the OCV campaign on 10 March.

Supplies and Logistics

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO continues to support the cholera response by distributing cholera medical and WASH supplies in the Artibonite, Nord-Ouest, Ouest (Petit Goave, Grand-Goave, Pointe à Raquette, Anse à Galets) and Nippes (L'Asile) departments.
 - In Haiti, PAHO/WHO acquired cholera reagents and transport mediums at PROMESS, but due to the deteriorating security situation and daily restriction of movements, it is increasingly difficult for international logisticians to go to PROMESS.
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