

CHOLERA EPIDEMIC IN HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

7 April 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- In Haiti, as 7 April 2023, the Department of Epidemiology, Laboratories, and Research (DELR) have reported 38,086 suspected cases and 2,592 confirmed cases in all 10 departments of the country, which represent a **1.72% increase in confirmed cases and a 0.50% 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 Non-food Items, 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 **3 new cholera cases** since the last report on 22 March, bringing the **total number of confirmed cases is 99**, of which 74 are reported in the capital city of Santo Domingo.

IN NUMBERS

As of 7 April 2023

Haiti

38,086 Suspected Cases *

2,592 Confirmed Cases

33,928 Hospitalized Cases

650 Deaths

1.73% Case Fatality Rate
(suspected cases)

1.29% Case Fatality Rate
(Hospitalized cases)

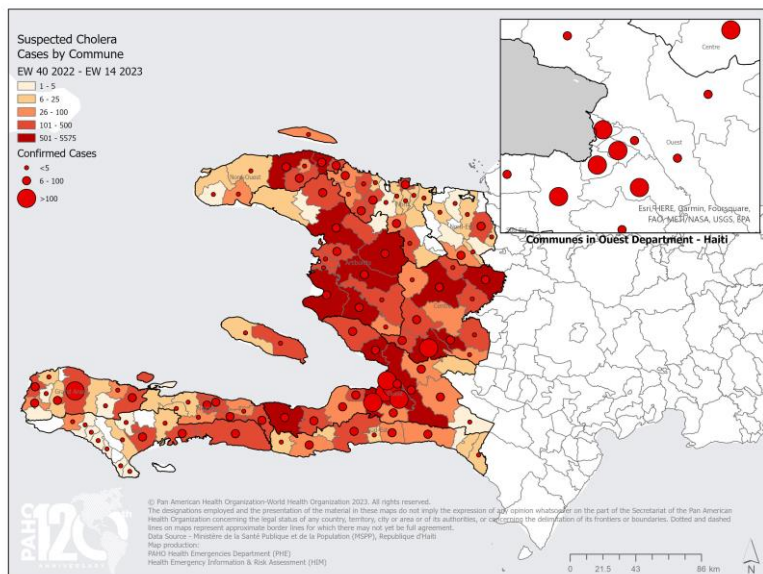
Dominican Republic

99 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 7 April 2023

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



CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

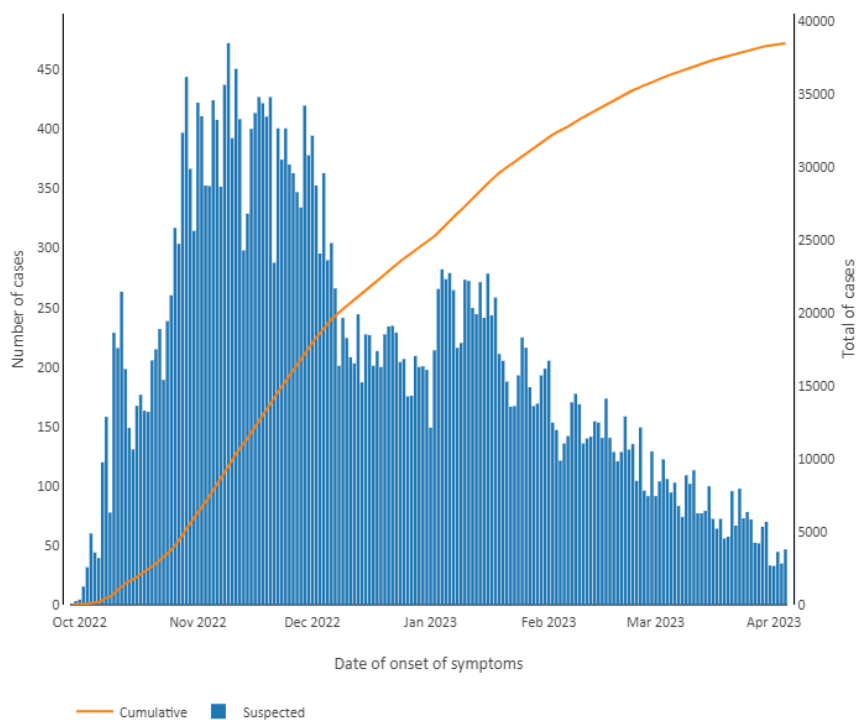
- In Haiti, the complex humanitarian and socio-political crisis, with high levels of insecurity, fuel shortages and economic instability, continue to be major challenges in the response to the cholera outbreak, limiting access to health and basic water, hygiene and sanitation services, as well supplies:
 - 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 7 April, a total of **38,086 suspected cholera cases** were reported in all ten departments in the country, (Figure 1) of which **2,592 were confirmed** by the national laboratory, including **650 deaths**.
- To date, **ten departments have reported confirmed cases**, with the majority reported in Ouest (1,314), followed by Centre (451), Grand Anse (193), and Nord (167). The most affected municipalities in the Ouest Department continue to be Port-au-Prince, Delmas, Cité Soleil, Carrefour, and Pétion-Ville.

Figure 1. Daily distribution of suspected cases of cholera in Haiti as of 7 April 2023



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

- Based on MSPP information from 5 April, 54.94% of reported suspected cases are male, and 45.06% female (Figure 2).
- Since 31 March, **there has been an overall increase of 1.72% in suspected cases and a 0.5% 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 2.56% in suspected cases and a 0.24% 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 (19.7%) and 5-9 (16.2%) 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 7 April



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

Figure 3. Summary of percentage difference of suspected and confirmed cases compared to 31 March 2023

Summary				
Department	Suspected Cases 7.4.23	% Difference 31.3.23	Confirmed Cases 7.4.23	% Difference 31.3.23
Ouest	18561	0.85%	1314	0.77%
Artibonite	6083	1.82%	104	0.00%
Centre	6369	2.43%	451	0.00%
Nord	1519	7.43%	167	0.00%
Sud	487	7.98%	76	0.00%
Nord-Est	202	37.41%	34	0.00%
Nord-Ouest	2307	1.45%	72	0.00%
Grand Anse	704	2.18%	193	1.58%
Sud-Est	527	-3.66%	123	0.00%
Nippes	1327	0.30%	58	0.00%
Total	38086	1.72%	2592	0.50%



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.
- To support the Ministry of Public Health (MSPP), PAHO/WHO hired an information manager to coordinate the health sector at the national level.
- 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 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 addition, PAHO/WHO continues to monitor and support the rapid investigation of cholera alerts and response activities including the placement of data managers in all departments. Data regarding non-hospitalized patients is confirmed by epidemiological surveillance officers.

Case management

- In Haiti as of 7 April, 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 is supporting the Directorate for the Organization of Health Services (DOSS) in

Haiti with a case management expert on the evaluation, monitoring, and improvement of CTCs. Additionally, PAHO/WHO is supporting the facilitation of a training-of-trainers session on cholera case management.

- PAHO/WHO engaged in meetings with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Health Through Walls to respond to alerts in prisons and prevent new outbreaks.
- 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.

Risk communications and community engagement

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO deployed 25 community health workers (ASCPs) in the District Health Units (UAS) of Matheux, Croix de Bouquets, and La Gonave. The ASCPs research active suspected cholera cases, conduct home visits, and sensitization activities. In the UAS of Matheux, 91 localities have been visited over 8 weeks and data shows a decreased in suspected cases.
- Additionally, in the UAS of Croix de Bouquets the ASCPs have reached remote localities and identified and treated 120 cases of diarrhea weekly with Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS). Some cases have also been referred to alternate cholera treatment centers.

Vaccination

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO continues to engage with ICG in requesting to use the remaining doses of the Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) to vaccinate inmates in prisons in the country.

Supplies and Logistics

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO continues to support the cholera response by distributing cholera medical and WASH supplies in the Artibonite and Nord-Ouest departments.
 - In Haiti, PAHO/WHO is engaging with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to provide Non-Food Items (NFIs) and WASH items to partners for their distribution.
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