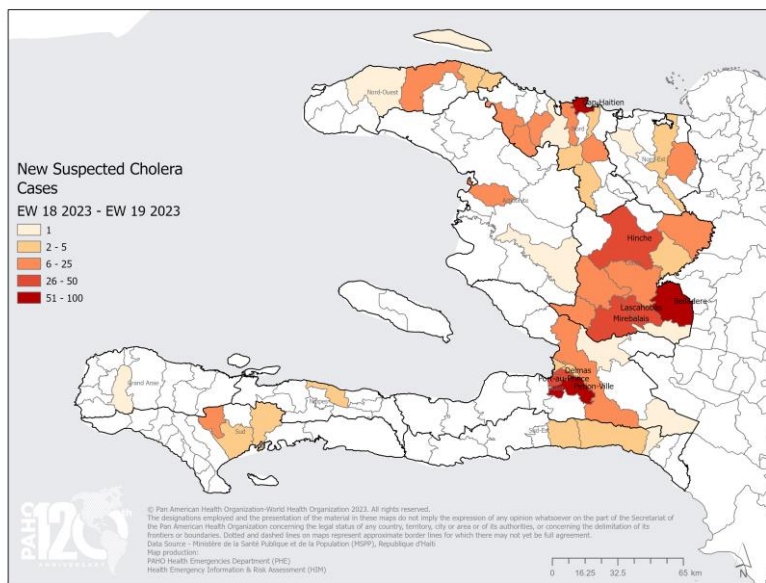


CHOLERA EPIDEMIC IN HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

16 May 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

- In Haiti, as 15 May 2023, the Department of Epidemiology, Laboratories, and Research (DELR) have reported 42,351 suspected cases and 2,678 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 total number of confirmed cases is 99**, of which 74 are reported in the capital city of Santo Domingo.



Reported Suspected Cholera Cases in Haiti by Department as of 16 May 2023

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

IN NUMBERS

As of 15 May 2023

Haiti

42,351 Suspected Cases *

2,678 Confirmed Cases

38,772 Hospitalized Cases

686 Deaths

1.66% Case Fatality Rate
(suspected cases)

1.21% 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.



CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

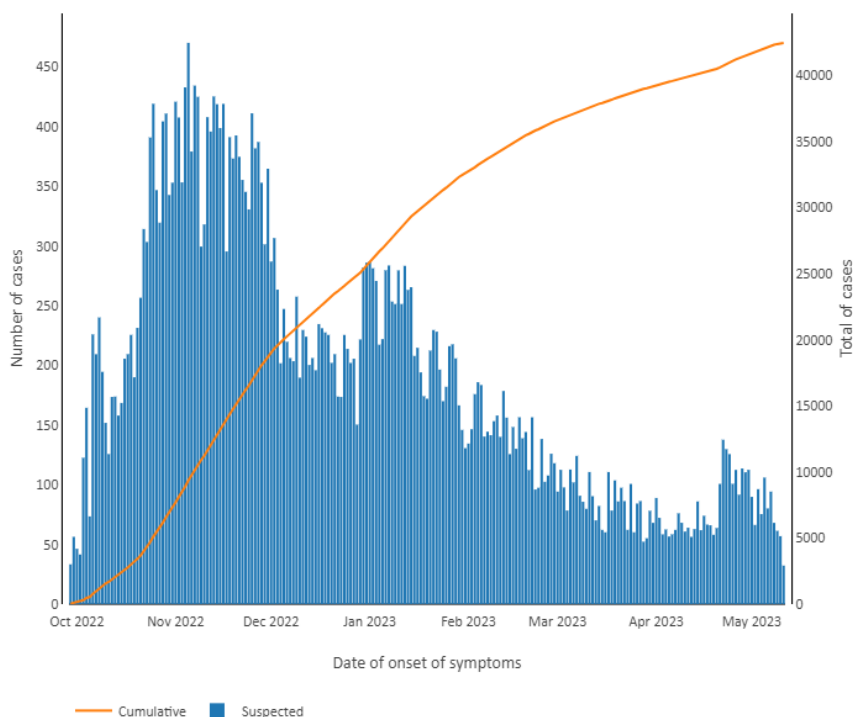
- In Haiti, the complex humanitarian and socio-political crisis, with high levels of insecurity, fuel shortages and economic instability, continue to be major challenges in the response to the cholera outbreak, limiting access to health and basic water, hygiene and sanitation services, as well supplies:
 - 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 15 May, a total of **42,351 suspected cholera cases** were reported in all ten departments in the country, (Figure 1) of which **2,678 were confirmed** by the national laboratory, including **686 deaths**.
- To date, **ten departments have reported confirmed cases**, with the majority reported in Ouest (1,321), followed by Centre (451), Grand Anse (199), and Nord (171). The most affected municipalities in the Ouest Department continue to be Port-au-Prince, Delmas, Cité Soleil, Carrefour, and Pétion-Ville.

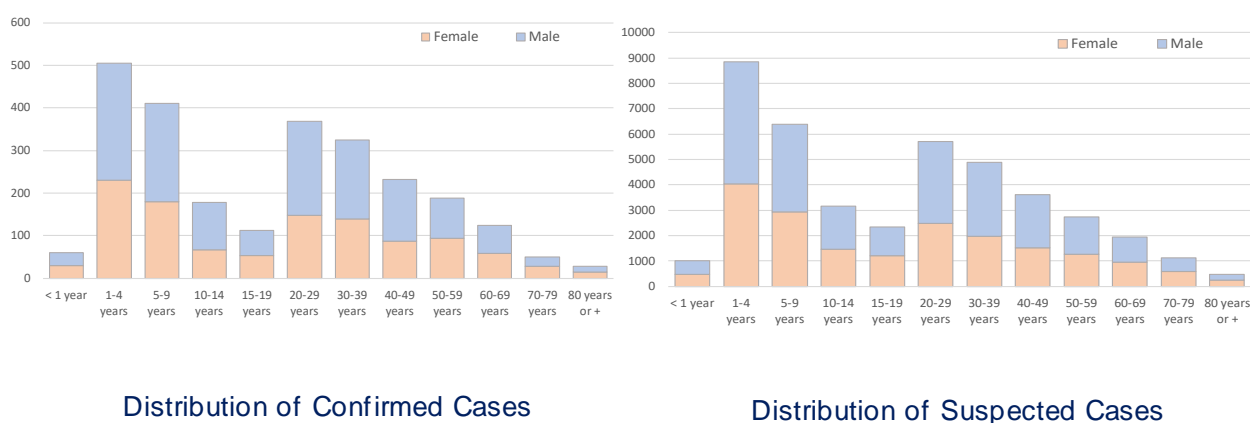
Figure 1. Daily distribution of suspected cases of cholera in Haiti as of 16 May 2023



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

- Based on MSPP information from 15 May, 54.41% of reported suspected cases are male, and 45.59% female (Figure 2).
- Since 9 May, **there has been an overall increase of 4.44% in suspected cases and a 0.0 % increase in confirmed cases** across the country. During the same period, except for the Ouest Department, the **other nine departments reported an average decrease of 6.27% in suspected cases and a 0.004% rise in confirmed cases**.
- The case fatality rate among suspected and hospitalized cases is 1.66% and 1.21% respectively.
- Age groups 1-4 (20.99%) and 5-9 (15.13%) are the most affected among the 2,678 confirmed cases.

Figure 2. Distribution of suspected and confirmed cases of cholera by age group and gender in Haiti as of 15 May



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



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 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. Additionally, to support scaling the response at the country level and the activation of the health cluster, a PAHO Health Cluster Coordinator (HCC) has been dispatched to Haiti. The HCC is working with PAHO and partners in the coordination of a new CERF which includes the Cholera Response.
- 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. In EW 18 and 19, over 500 alerts were reported and 99% of them were investigated within 48 hours. Data regarding non-hospitalized patients is confirmed by epidemiological surveillance officers.
- In Haiti, equipment, and materials to provide sustainable power to the Immaculée Conception Hospital in Les Cayes of the Sud Department have delivered. Additionally, the purchase of similar equipment and materials for the Justinien University Hospital laboratory in Cap Haitian of the Nord department is ongoing.
- Between EW 17 and 18, the PAHO labo-moto nurses sampled, collected, and transported 254 cholera specimens through land and air transportation with the support of the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS).

Case management

- In Haiti, PAHO, with the support of the Directorate for the Organization of Health Services (DOSS), organized a training of trainers (ToT) for cholera case management in treatment centers from May 8th through May 10th. Over 20 health professionals from nine departments, in Haiti benefitted from the training.
- PAHO/WHO conducted a follow-up mission to La Gonâve island to evaluate the upgrade of the CTC in in Pointe-à-Raquette and set up a third CTC in the Gros Mangle area. Additionally, a mission to the Nippes department was conducted to evaluate all CTCs and determine the next steps.

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- PAHO/WHO is undergoing logistic preparations to upgrade the CTC's in the Centre department which includes acquiring local contractors and suppliers to undertake repairs and purchasing materials and equipment.
 - 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.

WASH

- PAHO/WHO conducted CTC WASH inspections and provided WASH materials in the Sud Est, Nord Ouest, and Nord Est departments in Haiti. Additionally, PAHO/WHO distributed chlorine and alcohol products and evaluated water sources in the commune of Fort Liberté in the Nord Est department.
- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO evaluated the Jacmel prison in the Sud Est department and will support in emptying the septic tank in the prison.

Risk communications and community engagement

- In Haiti, the community response by PAHO/WHO in the commune of Croix des Bouquets resulted in the referral of 12 suspected cases of cholera to the CTC's in the Ouest department. Additionally, in the Port-au-Prince commune 8 cases of cholera were identified in the community and locally managed with Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) during home visits carried out by community health workers in the Ouest department.
- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO launched mass media campaign with prevention messages being broadcasted on both commercial and community radios in the Ouest, Centre, and Nord Ouest departments.

Vaccination

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO received over 526,000 additional doses of the Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) and is working with the MSPP to implement the second phase of the vaccination campaign in the Centre departments and prisons in the country.
- PAHO/WHO continues to provide technical support to the MSPP in integrating the OCV campaign into the catch-up activities in Artibonite, Nord Ouest, and Centre departments.
- 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 Nord-Est, Centre, and Ouest departments including La Gonâve island.
- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO has dispatched tablets and laptops to strengthen data management at the field level in different departments. The delivery of these materials is supported by UNHAS.
- PAHO/WHO continues to engage with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to provide Non-Food Items (NFIs) and WASH items to be distributed to beneficiaries in CTC's.