

# CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN HISPANIOLA

Situation Report # 6

17 November 2022

## HIGHLIGHTS

- In Haiti, cholera cases continue to spread to new areas of the capital and to additional departments in the country. As of 15 November 2022, the Department of Epidemiology, Laboratories, and Research (DELR) confirmed 821 cases of cholera across 27 municipalities compared to 23 municipalities in the previous epidemiological week. 98.7% of confirmed cases were reported in the Ouest department.
- Critical cholera supplies such as medicines, oral rehydration solution (ORS), rapid tests, ringer lactate, cholera beds as well as human resources remain critically needed to scale up response activities.
- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO continues to support the Ministry of Health (Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population – MSPP) and partners, including:
  - ✓ Delivery of 23,300 gallons of fuel to health facilities and partners since 10 October 2022 to support response operations and functioning of health services and units.
  - ✓ Support to departments in monitoring bed availability and occupation rates at CTCs, conducting field investigations of alerts, and coordinating case management operations.
  - ✓ Facilitating the transportation of samples to the national reference laboratory.
- In the Dominican Republic, no new suspected or confirmed cases have been reported.

## IN NUMBERS\*

As of 15 November 2022

**9,685**  
Suspected  
Cases

**821** Confirmed  
Cases

**8,146**  
Hospitalized  
Suspected  
Cases

**188** Deaths

Map of communes with at least one case of cholera in Haiti as of 15 November 2022

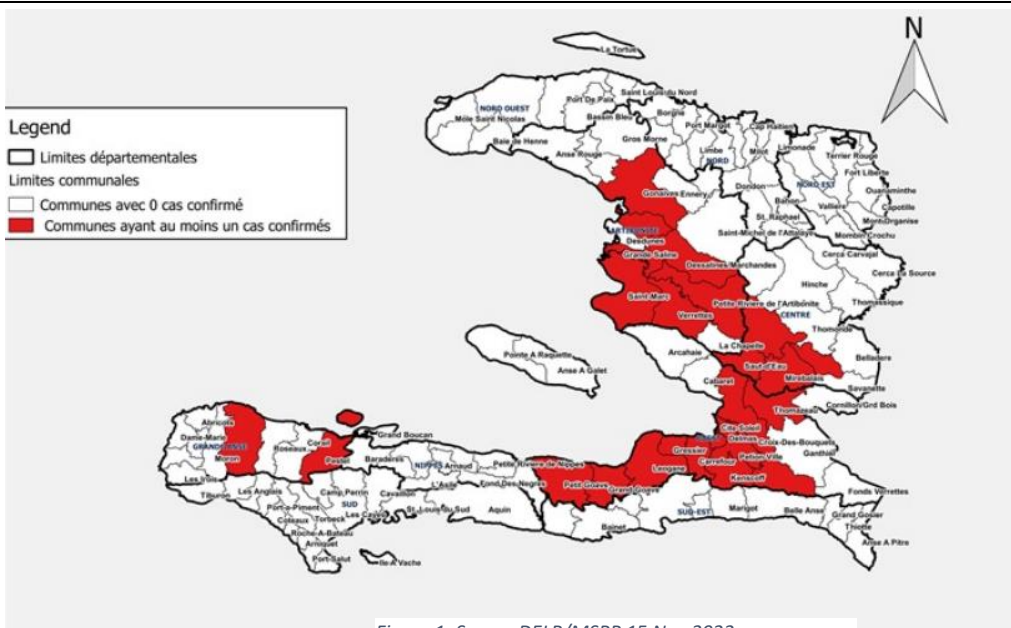


Figure 1. Source DELR/MSPP 15 Nov 2022

\*Total numbers for Haiti include institutional and community cases as well as cases reported in the Civil Prison of PaP. This data excludes the case from the Dominican Republic.

Source Haiti: Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population sitrep #44.

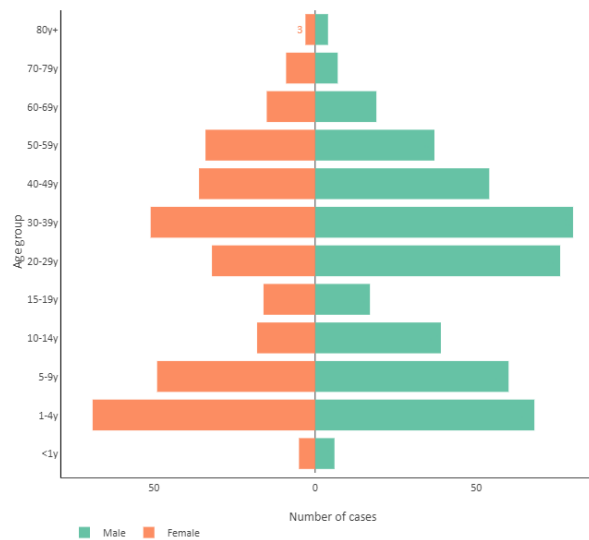
Source Dominican Republic: PAHO/WHO country office.

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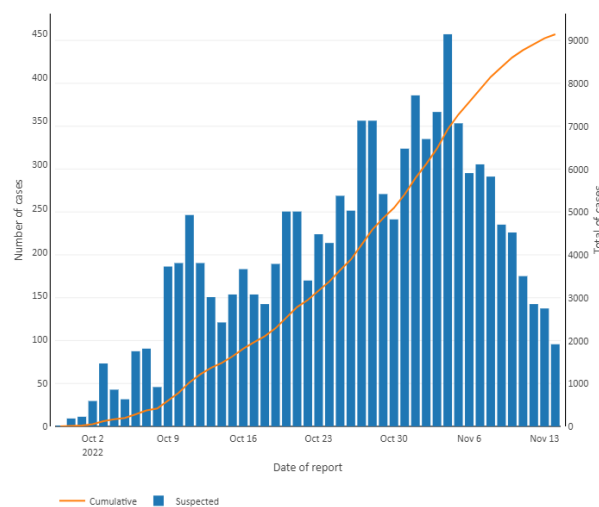
- A total of 9,685 suspected cholera cases were reported in nine of the ten departments of Haiti. Of these, 821 were confirmed by the national laboratory, including 188 deaths. To date, four departments have confirmed cases: 18 in Artibonite, 67 in Centre, six in Grand’Anse, and 730 in Ouest including 14 cases reported in the in the Port-au-Prince Civil Prison.
- The most affected communes in the Ouest department continue to be Port-au-Prince, Delmas, Cité Soleil and Carrefour.
- Based on the MSPP report from 15 November, 59.6% of reported suspected cases are male, 40.4% female and 57.6% are aged 29 years of younger (figure 1).
- Among confirmed cases, age groups 1-4 and 30-39 are the most affected.
- At the Civil Prison of Port-au-Prince, MSPP still reports 368 suspected and 14 confirmed cases and 14 deaths.

**Figure 1.** Distribution of suspected cases of cholera by age group in Haiti as of 15 November 2022



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

**Figure 2.** Daily distribution of suspected cases of cholera in Haiti as of 15 November 2022



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



## RISK ASSESSMENT AND CHALLENGES

- Cholera outbreaks globally generate a high demand for medical and non-medical essential supplies, including the oral vaccine, resulting in limited supply for immediate distribution among all cholera-affected countries.
- In Haiti, lack of access to affected areas due to insecurity, on-going demonstrations and civil unrest continue to hinder 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.



## HEALTH NEEDS

In coordination with health authorities, the following **priority needs** have been identified to reduce morbidity and mortality:

- Medical and non-medical supplies for case management, including Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS), Ringer Lactate, 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

In line with the 5 pillars defined by the MSPP for the cholera outbreak response, PAHO/WHO continues to support the scale up of the MSPP response in Port-au-Prince and in the departments as follows:

### Epidemiological and laboratory Surveillance

- In Haiti, DELR and PAHO/WHO are visiting the Artibonite and Centre Departments to assess the existing surveillance system and data collection process, visit Cholera Treatment Centers (CTCs) to identify gaps in materials and human resources, and deliver supplies for case management and institutional WaSH operations.
- PAHO/WHO is supporting Haitian public health authorities in all departments in conducting field investigations of alerts to identify suspected cases and collect samples for laboratory analysis.
- Given the complexity of ground transportation, PAHO/WHO is facilitating sample transportation to the national reference laboratory (LNSP) through UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) flights.

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### Case management

- PAHO/WHO is supporting the Centre Department Health Directorate in Haiti with a focal point to monitor cholera bed availability and occupancy rates in CTCs for patient care.
- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO is supporting the Health Decentralization Support Unit (UADS/MSPP) and the Directorate for the Organization of Health Services (DOSS/MSPP) to coordinate cholera case management operations and to assess the current capacity in the Artibonite and Centre Departments.

### Risk communications and community engagement

- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO, is training an additional 300 Community Health Workers (ASCP) to be deployed in the communes of Carrefour, Petit Goave, Grand Goave, Leogane, Gressier, Ile de la Gonâve, Croix des Bouquets, and Kenscoff in the Ouest Department. The capacity building sessions are focusing on community awareness raising activities, prevention measures, active case finding, identification and reporting of alerts, and referrals for an integrated response to cholera at the community level.
- In Haiti, PAHO/WHO supported the MSPP in developing and disseminating key cholera awareness and prevention messages through SMS messages that have reached two million people in the Artibonite, Centre, Grand'Anse, and Nippes Departments, as well as posters targeting pregnant and breastfeeding women and radio messages aired in Artibonite and Centre Departments.

### Logistics

- Since 10 October 2022, PAHO/WHO has supported the MSPP, the national laboratory of public health as well as health partners across the country with the delivery of 23,300 gallons of fuel to aid response operations as well as to ensure the functioning of CTCs, hospitals and clinics.
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