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CHOLERA, DIARRHEA AND DYSENTERY UPDATE 2011 (30): AFRICA

A ProMED-mail post

<http://www.promedmail.org>

ProMED-mail is a program of the
International Society for Infectious Diseases

<http://www.isid.org>

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- [1] Cholera - West and Central Africa

Date: Wed 7 Sep 2011

Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

[edited]

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/factbox-cholera-infects-tens-of-thousands-in-westcentral-africa>

Cholera epidemics have hit tens of thousands of people and killed more than 1400 others in 7 West and Central African countries since the start of 2011, the UN office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said in a report on Tue 6 Sep 2011.

The WHO says cholera is preventable and treatable and that any death rate higher than one percent, as is the case in several countries, denotes problems in a health system.

Following are some facts and figures on outbreaks in the region's various countries:

Cameroon: 9 of the country's 10 provinces have reported outbreaks of cholera, with a total of 10 582 cases and 379 deaths as of mid-August 2011.

Chad: There is a rapid spread of the disease from the west to the east of the country with a total of 11 345 cases and 340 deaths as of the end of August 2011.

Congo DR: A cholera epidemic that started in the east of the country has spread along the Congo River to the west, with 5171 cases and 301 deaths as of 22 Aug 2011.

Mali: Health authorities said there have been cholera outbreaks in 3 regions of the country, leaving 880 people infected and 36 dead as of 23 Aug 2011.

Niger: There have been outbreaks in about 10 districts in the south and southeast districts of the country, leading to 1008 people being infected and 26 deaths as of mid-August 2011.

Nigeria: Reports say there have been cholera epidemics in 23 of the country's 36 states, with 13 551 cases and 353 deaths as of mid-August 2011.

Republic of Congo: There have been cholera outbreaks in 4 provinces in the country, Brazzaville, Cuvette, Likouala and Plateaux, with 341 people said to have been infected and 20 deaths.

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[2] Cholera - Burundi

Date: Wed 14 Sep 2011

Source: UN Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) [edited]

<http://gantdaily.com/2011/09/14/cholera-outbreak-in-burundi-kills-a-dozen-people/>

Burundian health officials are battling to control a cholera outbreak that has killed 12 people and infected 600 others since August 2011. Although the epidemic is under control in some areas, health officials in the capital, Bujumbura, said a new area of infection had started at Nyanza Lac, Makamba province, where 80 new cases have been reported, 64 of whom are in hospital.

"The figure is still high at Nyanza Lac because the infection is still new there, and contingency measures are not yet in place as in other affected areas," said Pamphile Bukuru, an officer in charge of information, education and communication for behaviour change in the Ministry of Public Health.

The epidemic was reported on 5 Aug 2011 in the southern town of Rumonge in Bururi province, a cholera-prone area where residents often use unsafe water from Lake Tanganyika. The disease then spread rapidly to other localities, including the capital, Bujumbura, and provinces of Bujumbura Rural, Bubanza, Cibitoke and Makamba.

The Health Ministry declared the outbreak an epidemic on 18 Aug 2011 and mobilized its partners to put in place measures to control the disease.

Cholera frequently breaks out in the south of the country as well as in the capital's suburbs due to the lack of safe drinking water and latrines. Hygiene sensitization is, therefore, a crucial component of the strategy to control the disease outbreak.

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[3] Cholera - Chad

Date: Wed 7 Sep 2011

Source: The Spec [edited]

<http://www.thespec.com/news/world/article/590630--red-cross-says-cholera-epidemic-hit-364-deaths-so-far-this-year>

The Red Cross says Chad faces a cholera epidemic with 12 713 cases and 364 deaths recorded so far in 2011. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies says cholera has spread to 33 of Chad's 62 districts, and the number of cases could double within a few weeks in the fall rainy season.

The humanitarian aid group told reporters Wednesday [7 Sep 2011] in Geneva its main concern is to prevent cholera from spreading to more regions of the country and to stop it reaching refugee camps along the Sudanese border. The IFRC said it is also worried about cholera outbreaks in Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria.

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[4] Cholera - Somalia (Mogadishu)

Date: Thu 15 Sep 2011

Source: Press TV [edited]

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/199353.html>

Cholera has claimed 58 more lives in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, where cases of waterborne diseases have increased due to unhygienic living conditions, Press TV reports. The victims died within the last 24 hours in southern districts of Mogadishu, a Press TV correspondent reported on Thu 15 Sep 2011.

More than 310 people, suffering from cholera and waterborne diseases, also flocked hospitals in southern Mogadishu to get some medication. This comes as doctors are already overstretched by the number of those arriving with cholera.

Doctor Ahmed Sheikh Doon Diini, from Banadir hospital in Mogadishu, said on 23 Aug 2011 that overcrowding at the camps has been the main challenge to health workers. A combination of poor sanitation conditions, scarcity of safe and clean drinking water, and overcrowding has led to the spread of waterborne diseases in Mogadishu.

According to the World Health Organization, some 75 percent of all cases of highly infectious diarrhea are among children under the age of 5.

Cholera is confirmed in Banadir, Bay, Mudug and Lower Shabelle regions of Somalia, and the number of acute diarrhea cases has increased dramatically in the last few months.

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[5] Cholera - Ghana (Western Region)

Date: Tue 6 Sep 2011

Source: Ghana News Agency [edited]

<http://www.ghananewsagency.org/details/Social/Cholera-outbreak-kills-4-in-Tarkwa-Nsueam-Municipality/?>

[ci=4&ai=33195](#)

Four people have died as a result of a recent cholera outbreak in Kenyanko, a community within the Tarkwa Nsueam Assembly. The deceased ranged from 29 to 50 years old.

Mr Ebenezer Tetteh, the Municipal Disease Control Officer at the Tarkwa Government Hospital, told the GNA that his office recorded its 1st case on 29 Aug 2011, but the victim was treated and discharged.

He said since then 35 cases have so far been recorded with 3 victims currently on admission at the Nsueam health center. He said the disease has since spread to other areas like Nkwanta, Agona, Pataho and Keyankor.

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[6] Cholera - Nigeria (Osun)

Date: Wed 14 Sep 2011

Source: Nigerian Tribune [edited]

<http://www.tribune.com.ng/index.php/community-news/28138-edc-hospitals-treat-80-cholera-patients>

Doctors in Ede Community in Osun State, where an outbreak of cholera has been reported, said recently that no fewer than 80 victims were hospitalized in various hospitals in the town. The doctors made the disclosure in separate interviews with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Ede.

NAN reported that while most of the patients had been treated and discharged, a handful of them were still lying ill in the hospitals visited. Speaking with NAN, Dr Ganiyat Olatunji, of the Muslim Hospital, Ede, called on residents to take health issues seriously by drinking safe water and to live in clean environments. Olatunji, whose hospital admitted scores of cholera victims in August 2011, said that more than 40 patients had been treated so far.

Also speaking with NAN, Dr Akeem Bello, a Director of Prime Maternity Home, said the hospital had treated 10 patients, while Dr Peter Adebayo of Ronbay Hospital said he had treated 25 patients.

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[7] Cholera - Nigeria (Oyo)

Date: Thu 15 Sep 2011

Source: Nigerian Tribune [edited]

<http://www.tribune.com.ng/index.php/news/28246-oyo-recorded-947-cases-of-cholera-in-3-months-govt>

The government of Oyo State has disclosed that a total of 947 suspected cases of cholera have been recorded in the state between June and September of 2011. The government also said it had contained the outbreak of the epidemic, with curative and preventive measures put in place to ensure that the people of the state remained healthy.

Dr Lateef Olopoenia, the state Commissioner for Health, said out of

about 30 deaths said to have occurred from the suspected cases, only 11 had been clinically confirmed to be related to cholera, adding that it was not in every instance of reported vomiting and diarrhea that cholera had occurred.

The commissioner gave a breakdown of the figure to include 359 suspected cases in Saki West Local Government Area; 280 in all the 11 local government areas in Ibadan; 252 in Irepodun council; 17 in Ibarapa and the remaining in other zones of the state.

[Byline: Dare Adekanmbi]

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Communicated by:
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[8] Cholera - Nigeria (Nasarawa)

Date: Mon 29 Aug 2011

Source: The Nation [edited]

<http://www.thenationonlineng.net/2011/index.php/news/17583-cholera-kills-11-in-nasarawa.html>

11 persons were yesterday [28 Sep 2011] killed in an outbreak of cholera in 2 local government areas of Nasarawa State. Seven persons were said to have died in Lafia Local Government and 4 in Karu Local Government, near the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

The Chief Community Health Officer of the Primary Health Care (PHC) Clinic, Mana, near the Emir's palace in Lafia, Mrs Aishatu Yahaya, said the 1st case was recorded in June 2011. She said many reported cases came from Makama and Ciroma wards, and a few others from Gayam ward, all in Lafia.

It was learned that between June 2011 and 28 Aug 2011, 189 cases had been reported.

[Byline: Johnny Danjuma]

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Communicated by:
ProMED-mail
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[9] Nigeria (Bauchi, Yobe, Sokoto)

Date: Tue 6 Sep 2011

Source: Agence France-Presse (AFP) [edited]

<http://www.starafrika.com/en/news/detail-news/view/cholera-kills-18-in-northern-nigeria-of-188103.html>

A fresh cholera outbreak has killed 18 people in northern Nigeria's Bauchi state in the past week, officials said Tue 6 Sep 2011, in the latest epidemic to ravage the region during the rainy season. They said infections spread across 4 districts of the state, with the worst-hit being Warju council area, which recorded 10 deaths.

"We have recorded 10 deaths from the cholera outbreak, while another 30 people have been hospitalized in the past week," Adamu Yahaya, head of Warju local government area of the state, told AFP. State health commissioner Sani Malami said 8 other people had died in 3 other districts.

Some 35 people have died from cholera in northern Yobe and Sokoto

states in the past 2 weeks, while dozens of others have been hospitalized.

Cholera outbreaks occur regularly during the rainy season in Nigeria, when downpours wash contaminants into wells used by families. The rainy season typically runs from April to September.

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[The rainy season in West and Central Africa is contributing to the upswing in cholera cases, while the drought in Somalia is doing similarly. Although epidemic disease due to *V. cholerae* was originally called Asiatic cholera, a great majority of the cases occurring yearly are now in Africa. - Mod.LL]

See Also

Cholera, diarrhea & dysentery update 2011 (29): HAITI, DR
[20110920.2856](#)
Cholera, diarrhea & dysentery update 2011 (28): Africa [20110830.2665](#)
Cholera, diarrhea & dysentery update 2011 (27): Africa [20110828.2634](#)
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