



## Country Office Ghana

### Situation Report on Cholera Outbreak in Ghana 10 November 2016

#### I. Key Highlights

- Twenty-four (24) new cases of cholera were reported from Cape Coast on 10 November 2016. The apparent upsurge in cholera incidence observed over the weekend has persisted throughout the week. The epi-centre of the outbreak has moved to the environs of Cape Coast University including student halls and hostels.
- An emergency Development Partners (DPs) meeting was held on Thursday 10 November 2016 at UNICEF House. The Head of Disease Surveillance Department, Ghana Health Service and WHO Epidemiologist updated the DPs on the status of cholera outbreak in Cape Coast and presented the national cholera response plan. A number of DPs committed to provide financial, logistical and technical support towards the cholera response.

#### II. Situation update

- The outbreak of cholera in Cape Coast Metropolitan, Central region continue to evolve with 24 new cases reported on 10 November 2016, taking the total caseload to 292 with no death. The recent upsurge being seen is an indication of continuous transmission of infections in the communities in spite of the control measures being implemented. This latest trend calls for critical appraisal of the ongoing outbreak control strategies and/or their implementation.

#### III. Ongoing activities

##### Coordination

- The Regional Health Director updated the Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) that includes the Regional Minister, the Chief Director, the District Chief Executives, Presiding Members of District Assemblies, and the Regional Heads of Departments.
- Cape Coast Metropolis convened its Public Health Emergency Management Committee (PHEMC) meeting on Thursday 10 November 2016 to discuss the cholera outbreak. The meeting was chaired by the Metropolitan Chief Executive. The Metropolitan Assembly committed to provide additional support for the response and participate in community mobilization/ sensitization.

## **Case management**

- Cholera patients are being managed in the health facilities within the Metropolitan that have been provided with adequate medicines and medical supplies. The health facilities still face IPC challenges that are being addressed gradually.

## **Surveillance/ laboratory**

- Case detection, recording and reporting of cases at the health facility level is being conducted; line lists are being completed; however, contact tracing remains a challenge.

## **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

- The WASH team visited 56 households in Cape Coast Metro and provided hygiene education to 123 people, distributed 200 strips of *Aquatabs* to over 120 people; and disinfected 7 households.
- In KEEA district, the team distributed 585 strips of *Aquatabs*; disinfected 30 houses and 3 public toilets; and provided personal hygiene education to 259 pupils.

## **Risk Communication/ Social mobilization**

- The communication team received jingles from the national level and distributed them to the local FM stations.
- The team secured air time at the Community Information Centres that will be used for public health education.
- Evening and dawn broadcasting using the mobile van was done in 9 communities in Cape Coast and 12 communities in KEEA
- The local FM radio stations continue to air cholera prevention and control messages.

## **Logistics**

- There are adequate logistics for the response currently.

## **IV. Major gaps**

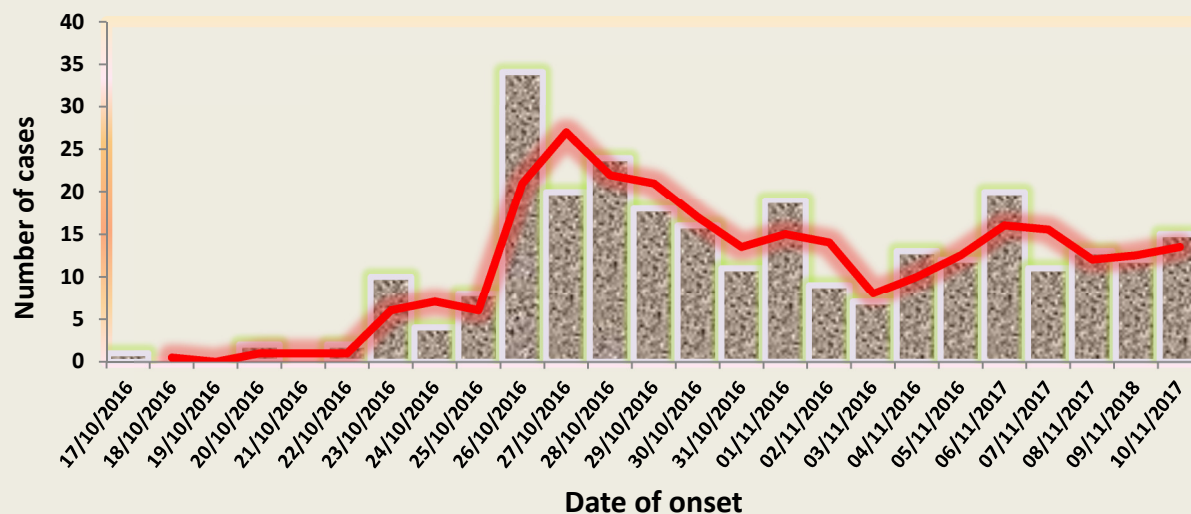
- The single overriding challenge is lack of operational funds to expand the coverage of the interventions.
- Lack of cholera bed remains a gap.

## **V. Conclusion and Next Steps**

The cholera outbreak in Cape Coast Metropolitan is showing tendency of increasing despite the interventions being implemented. This therefore calls for intensified outbreak containment measures in terms of coverage and quality.

## VI. Infographics

**Fig 1: Epidemic curve for cholera epidemic in Cape Coast, Ghana  
17 October - 10 November 2016**



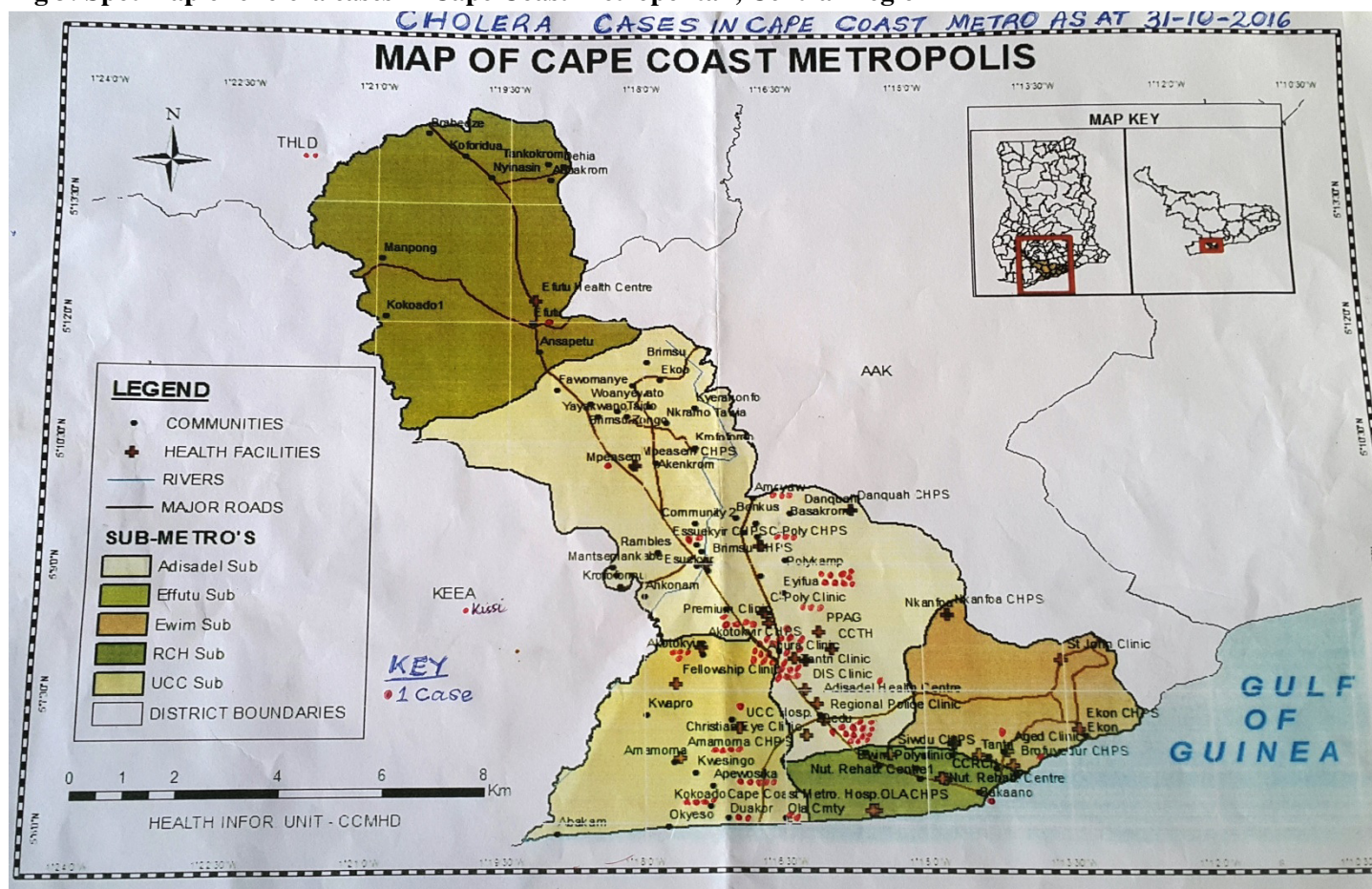
**Fig 2: Distribution of cholera cases by districts in Ghana  
22 October - 10 November 2016**



**Table 1: Age and gender distribution of cholera cases in Cape Coast**

Age Group (years)	Male	Female	Total	%age
Less than 5	6	10	16	5.7
5 - 14	22	15	37	13.2
15 - 24	48	58	106	37.7
25 - 34	35	32	67	23.8
35 - 60	28	16	44	15.7
Above 60 yrs	2	9	11	3.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Fig 3: Spot map of cholera cases in Cape Coast Metropolitan, Central Region



## VII. Contacts

For further information please contact

Dr Appiah Ebenezer  
 Director General  
 Ghana Health Service  
[appiahd@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:appiahd@yahoo.co.uk)

Dr Owen Kaluwa LAWS  
 WHO Representative  
 Ghana  
[kaluwao@who.int](mailto:kaluwao@who.int)

Dr Badu Sarkodie  
 Director of Public Health  
 Ghana Health Service  
[sarks60@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sarks60@yahoo.co.uk)

Dr Sally-Ann Ohene  
 DPC  
 WHO Country Office, Ghana  
[ohenes@who.int](mailto:ohenes@who.int)

Dr Franklin Asiedu-Bekoe  
 Head, Disease Surveillance Department  
 Ghana Health Service  
[kofi2711@gmail.com](mailto:kofi2711@gmail.com)

Dr Charles Okot LUKOYA  
 Epidemiologist  
 WHO Country Office, Ghana  
[okotc@who.int](mailto:okotc@who.int)