

Weekly Internal OCHA/ERR Sitrep

12 to 18 March 2017

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Angola: Cholera Emergency Response

Highlights

- Authorities have reported 8 new cholera cases and 2 deaths between 12 and 18 March, mostly on the small islands of north-west Angola, specifically Bocolo, Kimpula, Ilhia Mbubu 1 and Ilhia Mbubu 2.
- The response is ongoing, including the distribution of chlorine tablets for 370 families and training of local officials in water treatment.

204

Confirmed cases

10

Deaths reported



Situation Overview in Soyo

The epidemic situation remains stable and appears to be in the lag phase, where cases are on a downward trend. Since the beginning of the outbreak to March 18, the municipality health authority in Soyo reported a total of 204 cases and 10 deaths, giving a high case fatality rate (CFR) of 4.9 per cent. The majority of the cases are from the areas of Primeiro de Maio, Ilhia Mbubu 1 and 2, Ilhia Kimpula and Ilhia Bocolo. Fuel for transportation to the islands is still a main issue.

The municipal authority does not assume responsibility for the mobilization of funds for fuel to strengthen epidemiologic surveillance. Overall coordination remains a challenge.

Humanitarian Response



Needs:

- Support the *Subcomissão Clínica* to be more active in managing the cholera situation. Lack of medical staff remains a challenge.
- Strengthen epidemiologic surveillance capacity.
- Support on transport and fuel to carry out a systematic monitoring of suspected cholera cases at all levels, and conduct active searches and visits to communities with confirm cases.

Response:

- The WHO focal point for Zaire Provinces visited Soyo this week and supported health authorities to improve data collection, epidemiologic surveillance activities and transport; and in coordination with OCHA supported fuel to travel to islands with confirmed cases to strengthen epidemiologic surveillance monitoring and active case searches.

+ For more information, see [“background on the crisis”](#) at the end of the report

- The WHO focal point provided refresher training to the surveillance technician through analysis and joint comparison of case notification, on how to make a correct report of cases; and the principal information to take into consideration.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Lack of epidemiologic surveillance and data management capacity, especially for active case searching at the community level.
- Lack of transport to conduct regular monitoring and supervising.
- Limited medical staff.
- Protocol not being observed.



Education

Needs:

- It is necessary to meet the Education Representative/ *Chefe da Repartição de Educação* in order to understand the activities developed and implemented by schools to prevent cholera in Soyo.
- There is a need to finalize the printing and delivering of IEC material on cholera prevention for schools and communities in Soyo.

Response:

- UNICEF, ARC and OCHA/ERR will meet with *Chefe da Repartição de Educação* next week to discuss cholera prevention.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Lack of reporting from schools.
- IEC materials to be distributed as soon as possible.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- Fuel for transportation to the islands is still a main issue. The municipality does not assume responsibility for the mobilization of funds for fuel. OCHA and WHO personal used their own funds to buy fuel to visit the islands during the week. It allowed CVA and UNICEF to deliver aquatabs and jerry cans.
- The agreement with CVA in Soyo ended last Monday, the 13th of March. CVA coordinators and volunteers do not have any transport available. UNICEF relies exclusively on the CVA for social mobilization and the distribution of WASH supply.
- Is urgent that soul out the problem with Information, education and communication material and send to that as soon as possible to Soyo. The volunteers need this material to improve the social mobilization in WASH prevention activities.

Response:

- UNICEF supported the MoH and Angola Red Cross to distribute 3,000 Aquatab packages (10 tablets per package and 8 packages per family), and guaranteed the access to safe drinking water for 1,400 people for 7 weeks on the islands of Bocolo, Kimpula and Mbubu 1 and 2.
- UNICEF presented a proposal for latrine designs to prevent cholera.
- UNICEF is currently developing maps for all water sources in Soyo, protocols for monitoring residual chlorine, standardization of forms for data collection and reporting, and guidance for case management.
- UNICEF provided a training session in how to prepare chlorine solutions for health centres.

Gaps & Constraints:

- IEC material, jerry cans and water treatment.
- Latrines

General Coordination

Inter-sectorial coordination with the partners present in Soyo and other stakeholders like the private sector and government authorities improved during the last week, with meetings taking place. During this week OCHA facilitated a meeting between Angola LNG, local health authorities, WHO and UNICEF. The main objectives of the meeting was to get support from the private sector for logistics (transport with boat and fuel) to strengthen the epidemiological surveillance and active search cases; and mobilize the ARC volunteers and latrines construction support for the island.

Together with WHO and UNICEF, OCHA mobilized funds for travel to four affected islands to monitor the situation and facilitate the delivery of aquatabs and jerry cans; as well as support social mobilization and prevention activities with Angola Red Cross volunteers and MoH staff.

Needs:

- There is need for the Municipal Health Director / Chefe da Repartição to call another meeting of traditional and religious authorities to improve social mobilization.
- There is need to meet the Education Representative/ Chefe da Repartição de Educação in order to understand the activities developed and implemented by schools to prevent cholera. In the same line to meet the ADPP representative in Soyo to get an outline of the activities developed by them to support teachers at the school level.
- There is need to meet with the Angola LNG to follow up their continued interest in supporting the response.

Activities, field trips and persons met from March 12 to 18

- Visited the four priority islands, namely Bocolo, Kimpula, Mbubu 1 and 2.
- Distribution of aquatab tablets for around 371 families, conducted cholera awareness trainings for 463 people and distributed 142 jerry cans.
- Training in how to prepare the hypochlorite solution to disinfect and prepared safe drinking water to 20 technical staff from MoH, civil protection, border police and Angola Red Cross volunteers.
- Meeting with Angola LNG representatives to explain the main gaps in the response to the cholera outbreak and the possibility of their support to Repartição Municipal de Saude.
- Participation in a sub-commission coordination meeting for report on the activities carried out, to see the gaps and problems, and present the activities for the next week,
- Visit and follow the cases presented to the CTC for daily epidemiological data collection and action.
- Meeting with the epidemiologic technician together with the WHO focal point to analyse datasets in the case notification sheets.
- Active case searches.