



**Tuesday, October 26, 2010
6:00 PM, EDT**

EOC SITUATION REPORT #5 Cholera Outbreak in Haiti

Summary

- The MSPP (*Ministère de la santé publique et de la population*) is leading the response to the cholera outbreak and has prepared the National Response Strategy to the Cholera Epidemic. This strategy is organized around three levels:
 1. Protection of families at the community level;
 2. Strengthening of the 80 centers of primary health care in the metropolitan area;
 3. Reinforcement of the network of 10 Cholera Treatment Centers (CTC) and 8 hospitals for the management of severe cases.
- Work has also started on establishing community rehydration centers that provide oral rehydration by community workers. This will be introduced in phases using priority areas identified by the MSPPP.
- Haiti's MSPP updated the number of hospitalized cases and deaths, which have increased to 3,769 and 284, respectively. The majority of cases (96%) come from the Artibonite Department, while 4% come from the Central Department.
- The emphasis is on prevention by ensuring clean water, promoting good personal hygiene, and food handling practices, including hand washing, and trying to prevent defecation in open areas.



PAHO/WHO Response

- PAHO is mobilizing experts in the area of [proper body disposal](#) to travel to Haiti. Just under half of reported deaths so far are taking place in hospitals, with more than half in the community.

- PAHO continues to mobilize international experts including epidemiologists, risk communication, case management, laboratory, water and sanitation, logistics, and LSS/SUMA to Haiti and also to the Dominican Republic.
- PAHO's PROMESS warehouse currently has stocks of medicines and antibiotics, and PAHO is procuring additional stocks of IV fluids and medical supplies.
- PAHO continues to coordinate these efforts with other UN agencies, and with health officials in the U.S. and Canada. Relief efforts continue as the government, MINUSTAH, UN agencies and NGOs continuing to provide assistance in a growing number of locations.
- **PAHO's Deputy Director, Dr. Jon Andrus, will be holding a press briefing on Wednesday, October 27 at 2pm EST.**

Health Partners Response

- As the international community responds to this new crisis, PAHO is coordinating donations from various countries. The Government of Brazil is sending an air shipment of medical supplies and chemicals for water treatment directly to Haiti.
- Other countries have pledge donations to Haiti to cope with this recent outbreak. An immediate needs appeal prepared by PAHO was covered by AECID (Spain) and CIDA (Canada). In addition, funds received from development partners such as Japan and the UK to strengthen the epidemiological surveillance system after the earthquake are proving valuable to support the current outbreak response.
- The IOM is focusing its attention on communicating prevention methods to halt the spread of the disease among the 1.3 million people living in camps since the January earthquake. IOM is collaborating with Haiti's largest cell phone carrier, Digicel, to specifically target phone subscribers. In addition IOM has also sent key messages to over 115,000 households in Port-au-Prince, reaching over 500,000 people a day with a hygiene campaign.
- IOM's Health and WASH Units travelled to Gonaives over the weekend to reinforce the capacity and resources of the teams there in responding to the epidemic. The IOM staff in Gonaives was provided with information on cholera and preventive measures. Essential items such as ORS and water purification tablets were also distributed to staff.
- The WASH Cluster in Haiti, with the support of PAHO, is distributing powdered chlorine (including supplies from Brazil) for water purification and testing water that is being distributed to settlement camps. PAHO is making special efforts to ensure clean water and proper sanitation in hospitals.

- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) continued to support the MSPP in and around the Artibonite, widening its work in the most affected areas and preparing for any further spread of the disease. In the last few days, MSF has treated almost 2,000 people for acute watery diarrhea.
- Local health authorities in the Artibonite department, with the support of MINUSTAH, announced at a press conference at St. Marc a response plan combining field intervention and community messages which will be distributed through radio, SMS and television. In the Artibonite department OCHA reports more than 20 organizations assisting the affected areas with water and sanitation, health, and communication assistance, including DINEPA, the Red Cross Movement, UNICEF, Partners in Health/Zanmi Lasante, ACTED, IOM, MSF, Oxfam, and WFP.
- In the North and West departments, preparations are being made for cholera treatment centers with support from MINUSTAH, Oxfam, and MSF. Humanitarian partners is supporting the public information campaign on cholera prevention and hygiene, in particular in the West department and in Port-au-Prince.

Cholera Key Facts

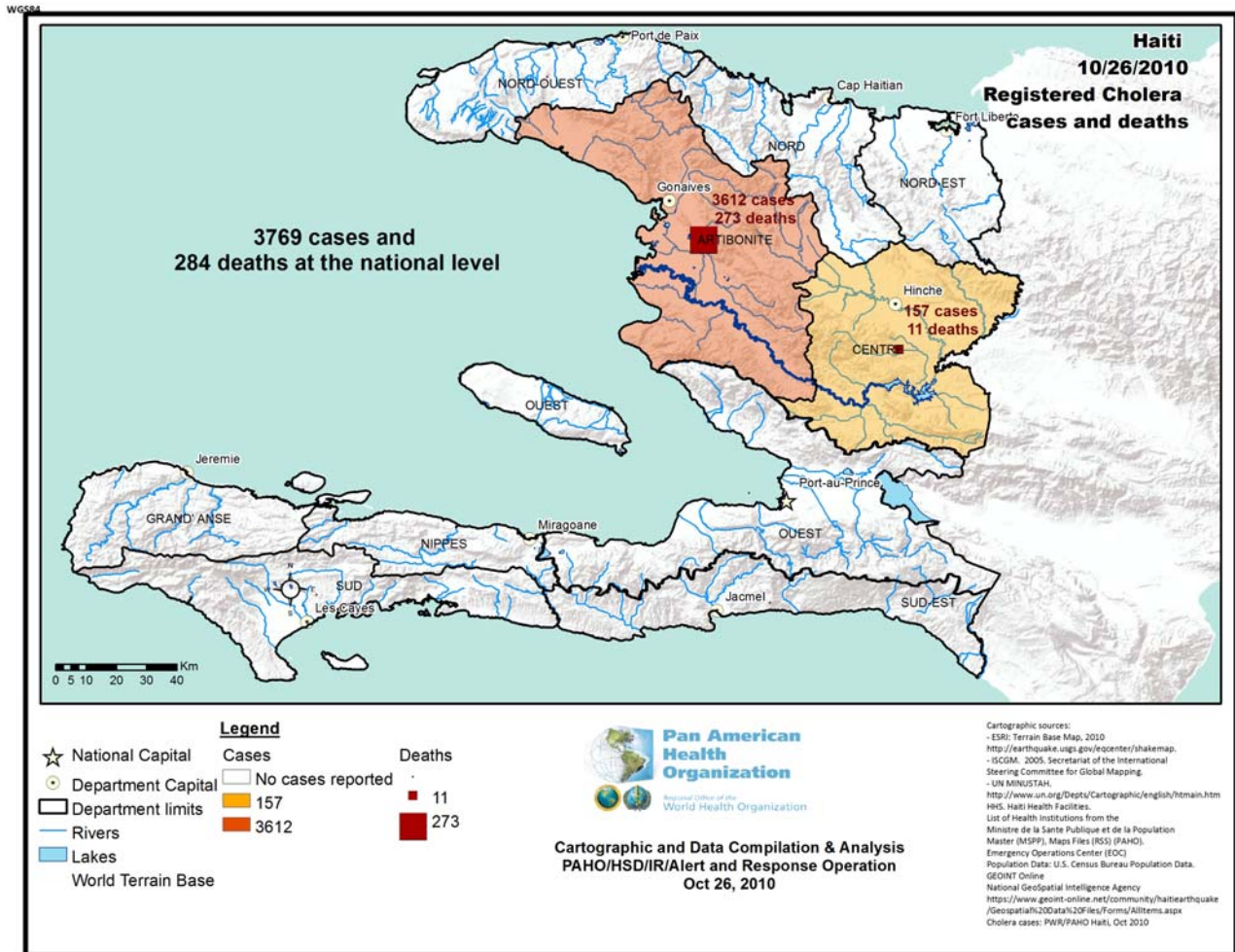
- Cholera is an acute diarrheal infection caused by exposition, ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae* 0:1.
- Provision of safe water and sanitation is critical in reducing the impact of cholera and other waterborne diseases.
- Up to 80% of cases can be successfully treated with oral rehydration salts.
- There are an estimated 3–5 million cholera cases and 100 000–120 000 deaths due to cholera every year around the world.

Resources

- [PAHO disasters homepage](#) and [PAHO](#)'s main website.
- [Global Task Force on Cholera Control](#) and [WHO](#)'s main website.
- [Haiti OneResponse](#) Health Cluster.
- [ReliefWeb Haiti Cholera Outbreak](#) page.
- [Post-Earthquake Health Resources for Haiti](#) by NIH Disaster Information Management Research Center (updated for the cholera outbreak).
- [MINUSTAH](#) (*Mission des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation en Haiti*).

- For constant updates on the cholera outbreak in Haiti and other international public health information please check the [PAHO EOC](#) channel in Twitter.

Situation Map



Updated maps will be posted on www.paho.org.

The PAHO/WHO Emergency Operations Center will issue situation reports as the situation requires.

Contact the PAHO EOC at +1 202 974 3399 or eoc@paho.org
[Click here](#) to view previous situation reports from the PAHO Emergency Operations Center.