

Thursday, November 11, 2010  
6:00 PM, EST

## EOC SITUATION REPORT #13 Cholera Outbreak in Haiti

### Summary

- Cholera continues to spread throughout Haiti. This trend is expected to continue in the forthcoming weeks. Outbreaks in remote areas are of special concern because there are fewer resources there to treat cases and implement prevention measures. Health Cluster partners are tracking these outbreaks to help guide deployments of human and material resources.
- The government and its partners are in the process of setting up 10 new cholera treatment centers (for severe cases), each with capacity of 100 to 400 beds, and have strengthened hospitals with triage units. Eight cholera treatment centers— with capacity of more than 1,000 beds— are operational in Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas, in addition to 14 public and private hospitals with 10-50 cholera beds each.
- Most cholera cases should be treated outside health facilities, or in lower-level facilities, with oral rehydration salts. Prevention messages, ORS and chlorine tablets are being distributed in both urban and rural areas by health partners.
- The *Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population* (MSPP) reported that, as of November 9, the cumulative number of hospital admissions and deaths due to cholera was 11,125 and 724, respectively in six departments. In Port-au-Prince the cumulative number of hospital admissions and deaths due to cholera were 278 and 10, respectively.



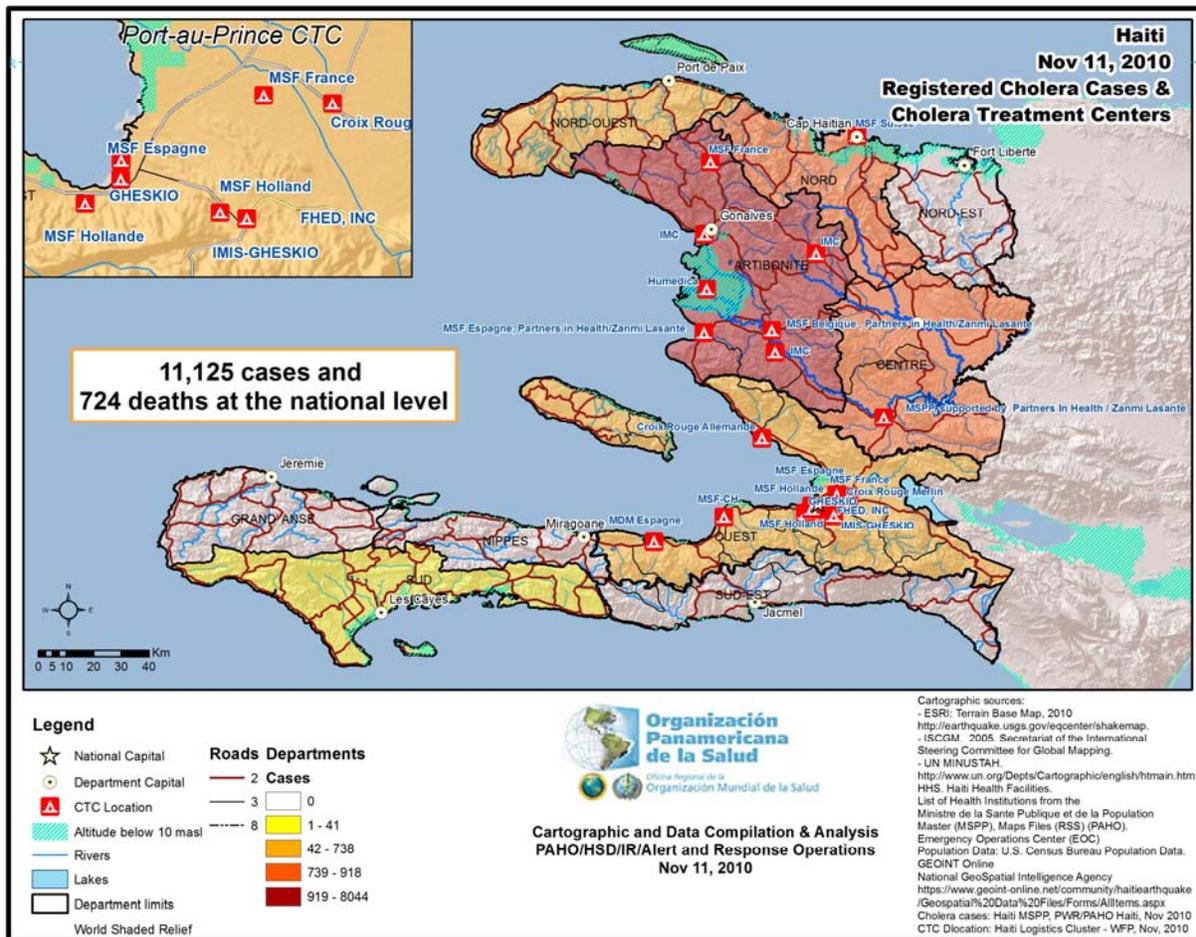
A PAHO/WHO staff member training health workers on cholera treatment and prevention in Port-au-Prince. Photo: PAHO/Harold Ruiz Pérez Castañeda.

### Health Cluster Response

- A Standard Operating Procedure for procurement and distribution of supplies has been released by PROMESS, the Government warehouse for essential medicines and supplies managed by PAHO/WHO. Before providing supplies, all requests made to PROMESS must be validated by the DPM (*Directeur Départemental*).

- The Master Cholera Response Packing List for CTC/CTU (has been developed by MSPP, PAHO/WHO, UNICEF and other health partners. The list of supplies includes items for infection control (chlorine, disinfectant, and sprayers), treatment support (waste bags, and buckets), module installation (plastic sheeting, ropes, tents, and cholera beds), water distribution (water tanks/bladder) and treatment and consumables (oral rehydration salts, ringer's lactate, antibiotics, and soap). The supplies will be distributed to 14 hospitals in Port-au-Prince.
- MDM-Spain, who is already in Petit-Goâve working on a sexual and reproductive health program with six dispensaries in the mountain, has set up a triage and CTU at the hospital. The organization has established a field space two kilometers from the hospital in order to deploy a CTC with 50 beds, which is anticipated to be open in three days. Medical cases are being reported through the Cuban Medical Mission.
- The Cuban Medical Mission, which includes both Cubans and Haitians trained in Cuba, has a health response presence of 252 personnel: 118 doctors, 78 nurses, and 56 support staff (technicians, lab, and engineers). This group is working in CTUs, or in their planned locations. They are part of the strategic and operational response; they are also part of the epidemic team supporting the MSPP.
- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) medical teams have treated more than 200 people suffering from severe diarrhea in Port-au-Prince. The numbers of patients treated has increased since Saturday, November 6th in MSF's four facilities in Haiti's capital. They are constructing an additional 320-bed CTCs in the Sarthe neighborhood located near Port-au-Prince to relieve pressure on local hospitals. MSF is working to provide safe drinking water to populations living in affected areas of the city, currently providing 280,000 liters of water per day to 14,000 people. This effort, however, is far below the requirements of the community.
- MSF is continuing to support two MSPP hospitals in St. Marc and Petite Riviere in the Artibonite Region, where the cholera outbreak originated. This includes sending intravenous fluids, oral rehydration salts, chlorine for disinfection, and other relevant medical supplies. MSF is setting up new CTCs in Gonaives and Bassin Bleu.
- The Health Cluster is holding regular meetings to coordinate cholera response operations, and a small committee of NGOs operating CTCs has been formed. The Health, WASH and Camp Coordination Management Clusters have developed an operational plan in order to mount a predictable and coordinated response to the outbreak. This plan is intended to support the National Cholera Response Plan of the Ministry of Health and other ministries. The synergy in cholera interventions between WASH and Health includes activities in health centers and prevention activities in community settings, many of which are Internally Displaced Person Site coordinated by CCCM.
- The Health Cluster is maintaining a list of CTC (Cholera Treatment Centers), CTU (Cholera Treatment Units) and ORS sites throughout the country. The list is being updated daily and shared with health cluster partners to coordinate response operations.
- PAHO/WHO's Deputy Director, Dr. Jon K. Andrus, held a press briefing on Tuesday, November 9, 2010. In reference to the general elections scheduled for November 28, Dr. Andrus said that *"there is no reason to expect the elections to have a negative impact on the cholera epidemic, (...) and in fact, the Ministry of Health is planning to use the occasion to disseminate prevention messages to the population. It will help prevent the spread of infection"*. The full [video of the event](#) is now available online.

## Cholera Treatment Centers in Haiti



Cases updated with MSPP figures as of November, 9.

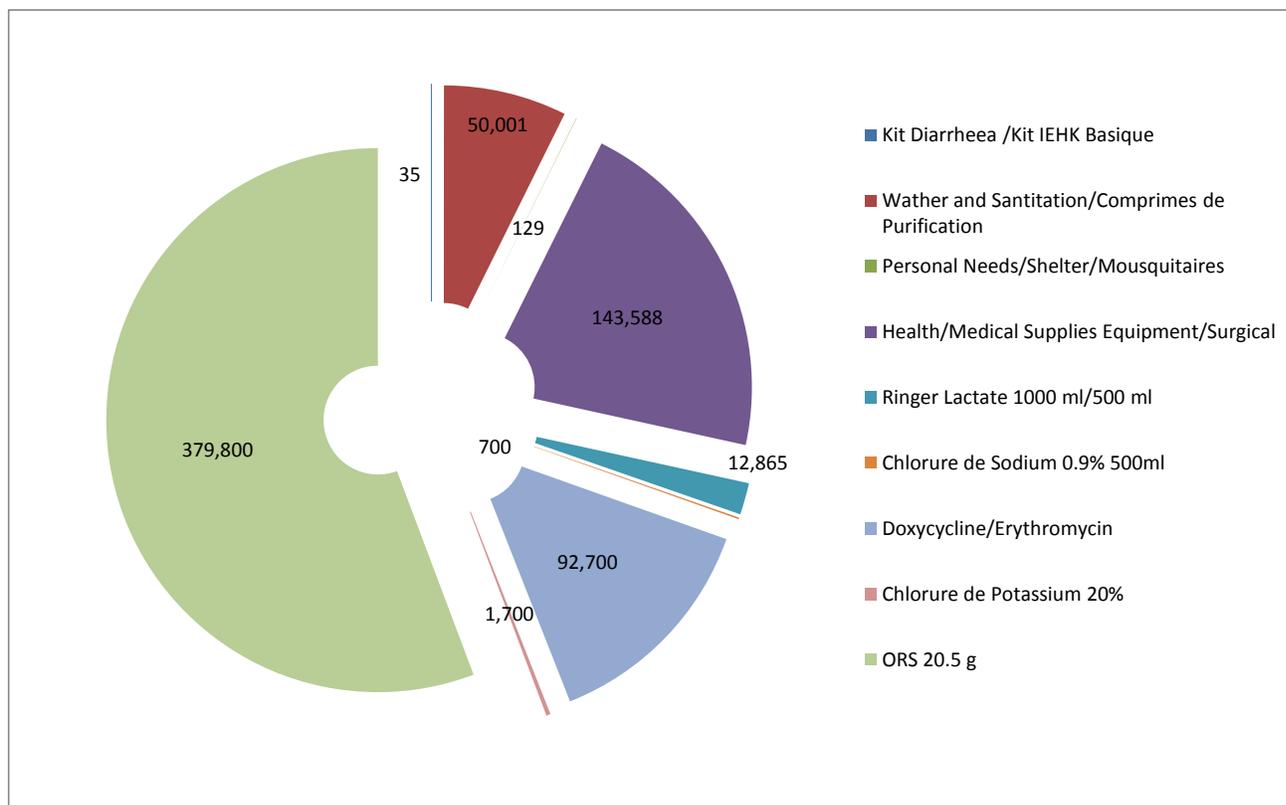
## Cholera situation map

PAHO/WHO disseminates an Interactive Atlas with epidemiological information. Please follow [this link](#) to launch the map. To access the new information, please click on *Situation Updates*.

## 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.
- **More information:** cholera fact sheet – [English](#), [French](#), and [Spanish](#).

**PROMESS distribution of cholera supplies by number of units  
(21 October – 5 November, 2010)**



Information processed with LSS/SUMA by PAHO/WHO

**Guidelines and Recommendations**

<i>Case Management and Vaccination</i>	
Infection control precautions in cholera outbreaks	<a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">Spanish</a>
Recommendations for cholera clinical management	<a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">Spanish</a>
PAHO/WHO position on cholera vaccination in Haiti	<a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">French</a> <a href="#">Spanish</a>
<i>Laboratory</i>	
Manual of procedures for isolation, identification and characterization of Vibrio cholerae	<a href="#">Spanish</a>
Procedures for identification of Vibrio cholerae in the microbiology laboratory	<a href="#">Spanish</a>
Search procedures for Vibrio cholerae in environmental samples	<a href="#">Spanish</a>
Diagnóstico de Vibrio cholerae y Salmonella	<a href="#">Spanish</a>

<i>Outbreak Control in Complex Emergencies</i>	
Be a better donor: practical recommendations for humanitarian aid	<a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">Spanish</a>
Management of dead bodies after disasters	<a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">French</a> <a href="#">Spanish</a>
Cholera in Disasters Situations	<a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">Spanish</a>
Acute diarrhoeal diseases in complex emergencies: critical steps	<a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">French</a> <a href="#">Spanish</a>
Cholera outbreak: assessing the outbreak response and improving preparedness	<a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">French</a> <a href="#">Portuguese</a>
First steps for managing an outbreak of acute diarrhoea	<a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">French</a> <a href="#">Spanish</a>
<i>Prevention</i>	
Poster 1: Protect yourself not to get cholera	<a href="#">Creole</a>
Poster 2: What to do when someone has diarrhea and vomiting	<a href="#">Creole</a>
Preventions messages to protect us against cholera	<a href="#">Creole</a>
5 key ways project: adapting the WHO manual on food safety for use in Guatemalan elementary schools	<a href="#">English</a>
Five keys to safer food	<a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">Spanish</a>
Prevention of foodborne disease: the five keys to safer food	<a href="#">English</a> <a href="#">French</a> <a href="#">Spanish</a>

## Other Resources

- [Ministère de la santé publique et de la population](#) (MSPP).
- [PAHO/WHO disasters](#), [Haiti emergency blog](#), and [PAHO/WHO](#)'s main website.
- [Global Task Force on Cholera Control](#) and [WHO](#)'s main website.
- OCHA's [Crisis Information Centre](#) on Haiti.
- [ReliefWeb Haiti Cholera Outbreak](#) page.
- [Haiti Resource Finder](#), and [Health Facilities Master List](#).
- [Mission des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation en Haiti](#) (MINUSTAH).
- [SUMA Logistics Support System](#).
- [CDC Haiti cholera outbreak resource center](#).
- [Post-Earthquake Health Resources for Haiti](#) by NIH's Disaster Information Management Research Center (updated for the cholera outbreak).
- For constant updates on the cholera outbreak in Haiti and other international public health information please check the [PAHO/WHO EOC](#) channel in Twitter.

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