HEALTH CLUSTER BULLETIN

CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN HAITI – TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2010 – #2

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The Government of Haiti has established an emergency response center at the National Palace to better coordinate a national response to the cholera outbreak. The center has representation from key ministries, including Communications, Health, and Finance, Haiti's water and sanitation authority DINEPA (Direction Nationale d'Eau Potable et Assainissement), and representatives of UN agencies and bilateral organizations. The goal is to streamline activities and information for a multi-sectoral response.

Cholera continues to affect 7 Departments in Haiti and their communes. Partners in Health/Zanmi Lasante reports increasing numbers of patients with cholera in the Artibonite, Central and Ouest Departments, including a total of 7,159 hospitalized patients in their facilities in Artibonite/Central Plateau.

For metropolitan Port-au-Prince, the following communes have been reporting increases in cases: Carrefour, Cite Soleil, Delmas, Kenscoff, Petion Ville, and Tabarre. The rise in the number of cases in Cite Soleil is particularly concerning, due to its crowded living conditions, poor sanitation, and lack of access to potable water. Médecins du Monde (MDM)-Canada is operating three mobile clinics which serve a population of 45,000 people in 14 camps in Cite Soleil as well as 55,000 people who live in areas surrounding the camps.

A significant rise in cases in the North-West and North Departments has been reported over the last three days, with implementing partners working to find suitable space for patients and supplies for treatment. The situation was aggravated with protests on November 15 and 16, which restricted distribution of critical health supplies and prevented the roll-out of health promotion campaigns. Trainings of health care workers have also been postponed due to the civil unrest.

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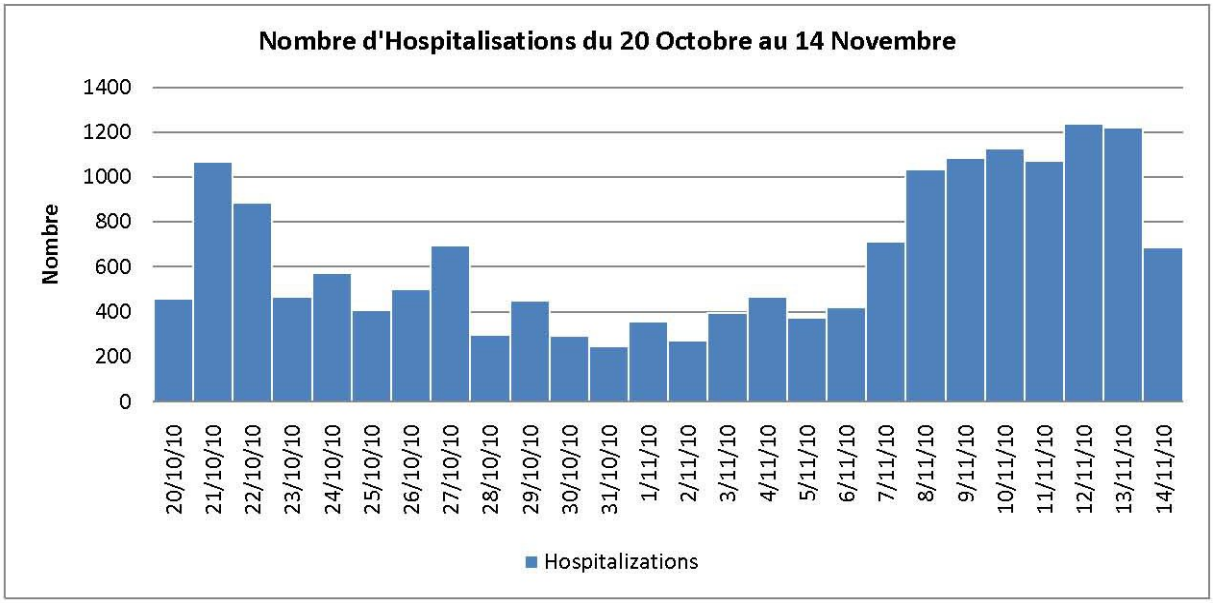
Health Cluster partners are asked to contribute to this bulletin with information on needs and activities as well as corrections to content, by emailing haiclsan@paho.org (subject heading: Health Cluster Bulletin). For useful information on meetings, guidelines, and health facility locations, visit: http://haiti.humanitarianresponse.info.

In metropolitan Port-au-Prince, nine cholera treatment centers (CTC) are operational, with an estimated bed capacity of 600-1,000. Nationwide, 30 CTCs as are operational with estimated bed capacity of 1,600-2,000. These CTCs are operated by the larger health NGOs. The establishment of new CTCs and increasing beds in existing CTCs are high priorities.

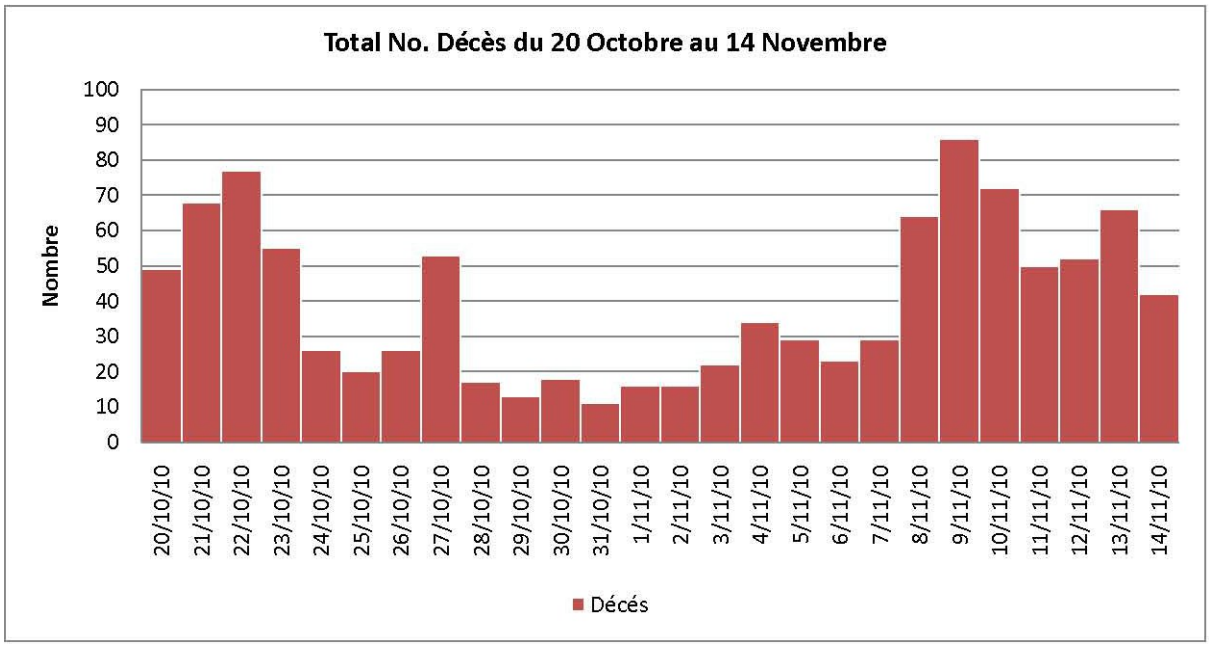
Training was conducted on management of dead bodies at the DSO (Département Sanitaire de l'Ouest) in Port-au-Prince on November 14. Twenty recruited participants were trained on de-contamination and transportation of corpses from medical facilities and from communities. Participating organizations will be provided with appropriate vehicles, personal protective equipment and supplies to manage dead bodies, under the supervision of the director of the Departement Sanitaire.

Epidemiology

On November 16, the MSPP (Ministère de la Sante Publique et de la Population) reported that the cumulative number of hospital admissions and deaths due to cholera as of 14 November were 16,799 and 1,034, respectively. These numbers reflect data sent by the departments to the Directorate of Epidemiology and now include cases reported by NGOs. This data indicates that the cholera outbreak is spreading, with increases in the number of cases in the six affected departments. Data for November 14 do not include cases for the West Department.



Number of cholera hospitalizations: October 20 - November 14



Number of cholera deaths: October 20 - November 14

DEPARTMENT RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

North West

The impact of the outbreak in Port de Paix is concerning and there is insufficient capacity to treat the increasing case numbers and hospitalizations. MSPP has reinforced health education with the deployment of 100 agents de santé and with the deployment of a community sensitization plan in partnership with Care and Catholic Relief Services. Lack of nurses at the hospital, lack of vehicles to transport patients, and insufficient cleaning supplies were primary gaps cited by area health partners.

The Hospital of the Missionaries of Charity in Port de Paix, a 200 bed facility, reports seeing several hundred cases over the last two weeks. Primary needs in this facility include additional training of staff on cholera treatment procedures.

PAHO/WHO provided a supply drop in partnership with WFP on November 10 for distribution in St. Louis du Nord and Port de Paix. Many of these supplies went to Medical Teams International, an NGO operating three CTC (La Pointe, St Louis du Nord, and Grosmorne) in the North West. Supplies included 500 bags of Ringer's Lactate, 1,000 ORS sachets, 500 IV giving sets, 100 22g catheters, 1 drum of granulated chlorine and 1 WATSAN log kit (including buckets, aspersion pumps, gloves and other supplies).

In La Pointe, a small town of 25,000 people, 8 km east of Port de Paix, a CTC is operational at the Beraca Church Hospital. The site began receiving patients on November 4 and has seen over 200 patients since then. In St Louis du Nord the CTC has seen 350 patients in the same period.

MSF France is currently managing operations at the Port de Paix General Hospital, and a separate CTC Bissin Bleu.

There have been a large number of cases in this department –particularly over the last two days. Supplies are running low, but PAHO/WHO has made arrangements for a shipment of new supplies. A remaining concern is the challenging access to health centers and CTC's, due to mountainous terrain and poor road conditions.

North

In the North, cholera is still affecting slums areas of Cap Haitien, while new cities are reporting cases. On November 14, the health center in Grand River North received several dozen patients and had to reduce normal activities to meet the demand of cholera cases. There will be a need for a CTU or CTC if cases continue to increase.

MSF-CH, which is operating the CTC Gymnasium in Cap Haitien, will try to extend the number of beds through an extension of the actual CTC Gymnasium and the opening of a new CTC in another area. The protests in Cap Haitien on November 15 and 16 have restricted movement of UN and NGOs actors. This could become problematic in the coming days for provision of supplies and treatment of patients.

PAHO/WHO plans to continue to support the MSPP and health facilities in providing medical supplies in following locations: Limbe, Plaisance, Milot, Cap Haitian, and Galeman du Plat.

North East

The North-East Department is now affected by cholera, with Ouanaminte, Terrier Rouge, Trou du Nord, and Perche reporting cases. These communities are close to the border of the Dominican Republic. PAHO/WHO has been supporting the MSPP in the Department, through provision of medical supplies, logistics, and training of medical staff.

Artibonite

In Artibonite, 9 CTCs are operational, with a bed capacity of 750.

Partners In Health/Zanmi Lasante staff continue to see increasing numbers of patients with cholera in the Artibonite, Central and Ouest Departments, including a total of 7,159 hospitalized patients in their facilities in Artibonite/Central Plateau. At least 62 patients have been treated in a new stabilization unit at the Old Military Airport camp between November 8 and November 11.

CTCs continue to operate inside St Marc and PRA hospitals, somehow reducing access to primary and second level healthcare services provided to the population. All actors are working to negotiate suitable and acceptable locations for the CTCs to be moved outside existing facilities, in order to allow primary healthcare to return to normal.

In Gonaives, CHF International has 20 people working around 3 sections of Gonaives, visiting individual households, churches, and carrying out public meetings to share information on cholera prevention and provide public education as hygiene kits are distributed by ACF and IOM.

More than 2 million SMS have been sent by the IFRC to people in the Artibonite and across Port-au-Prince, providing people with basic but potentially life-saving information. Over the coming week more than 2 million more will be sent to people across the country.

Haitian Red Cross/Spanish Red Cross continues support to 2 CTC (L'Estere and Dessalines) in Bas Artibonite.

L'Estere: The Cuban CTC has been moved to the new CTC arranged by UNICEF in the same location. The CTC now has two different sections, organized according to the severity of the cases.

Dessalines: HRC/SpRC is supporting the CTC with a disinfection team and assessing water facility options with MSF Spain, which is managing the CTC.

Saint Marc: 2 disinfection teams have been created in the St Marc area. One of the teams is carrying out disinfection activities in the town and the other one in the outskirts of the city.

West

MDM Canada is present in 14 camps in Cité Soleil where they are operating three mobile clinics. They serve more than 45,000 displaced people in Cité Soleil and 55 000 people living near the camps.

Outreach activities to accompany the mobile clinics include awareness raising through public health messages on cholera and distribution of soap bars to each family. These actions are consistent with the first level of the MSPP cholera strategy, which supports Level 1 of the strategy MSPP.

As part of its scaled-up hygiene promotion and cholera prevention efforts, the American Red Cross will have 82 health promoters working this week on health messaging in public places across Pétion Ville, including markets, churches and bus stations. In its first 2 weeks of this scaled-up programming, the American Red Cross trained more than 220 promoters in hygiene promotion and cholera prevention, who then worked in a total of 41 camps. In the first phase, the promoters were deployed to a total of 34 camps

Center

PIH/ZL opened a 40 bed CTC in Mirebalais (in collaboration with Project Medishare, J/PHRO) and a 30 patient CTU in Port-au-Prince on November 8, 2010.

South East

As a prevention measure, the Netherlands Red Cross together with the Haitian Red Cross in the South East & West Department is working to contain the spread of cholera through hygiene promotion and Jerry Cans, soap, and water tablets distribution. The targeted people will be the beneficiaries already targeted (plus the extended community) by the WASH Program that the Netherland Red Cross is implementing in the South East & West Departments of Haiti (10,000 households in the South East Department, commune of Jacmel, Cayes Jacmel, Marigot, and La Valee; and 10,000 households in the West Department, commune of Leogane).

The plan is as follows: for the week 15-19 November volunteer training in Leogane and Jacmel; the week 22-26 November start hygiene promotion and item distribution; the week 29-03 November/Decembe) finalize hygiene promotion and item distribution. In the case that cholera arrives in the targeted communities, each of the 20,000 households will have access to 25 liters of drinkable water for 30 days.

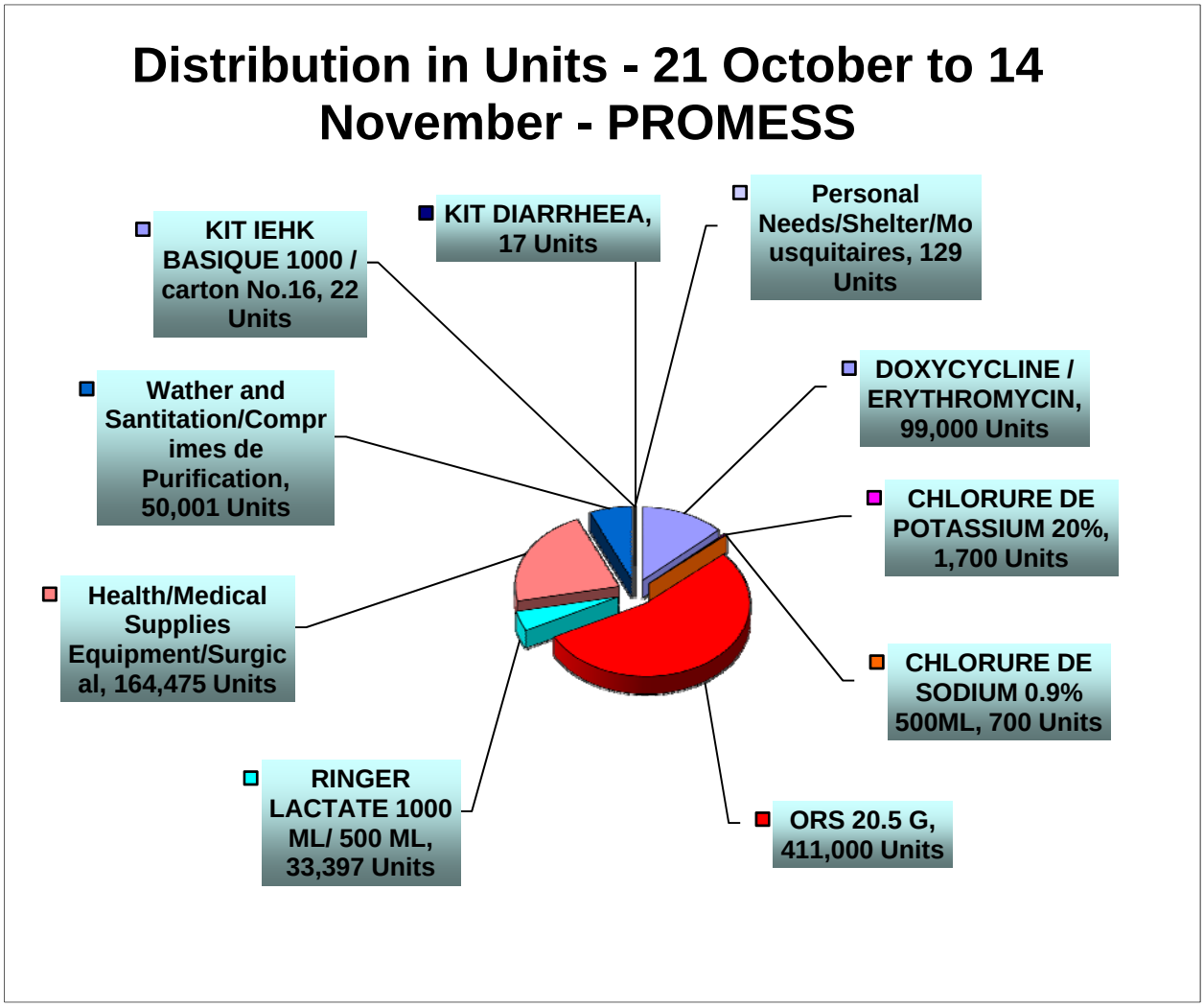
Supplies

On November 12 at 9:30 PM 2 trucks provided by MINUSTAH/Brazilian Battalion arrived at PROMESS loaded with 10 tons of medical supplies for the ongoing outbreak. This donation was made by the Spanish Government to the Government of Haiti through the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). These supplies were the second delivered by AECID; the first arrived on Wednesday, October 27. That shipment included 14.3 tons of medicines and water purification tablets. AECID has also supported DINEPA by making available $2.5 million from AECID's Fund for Cooperation for Water and Sanitation(FCAS). Both entities have already started with the distribution in Haiti of 2 tons of chlorine powder and 24 million water purification tablets, sufficient for 108 million liters drinking water.

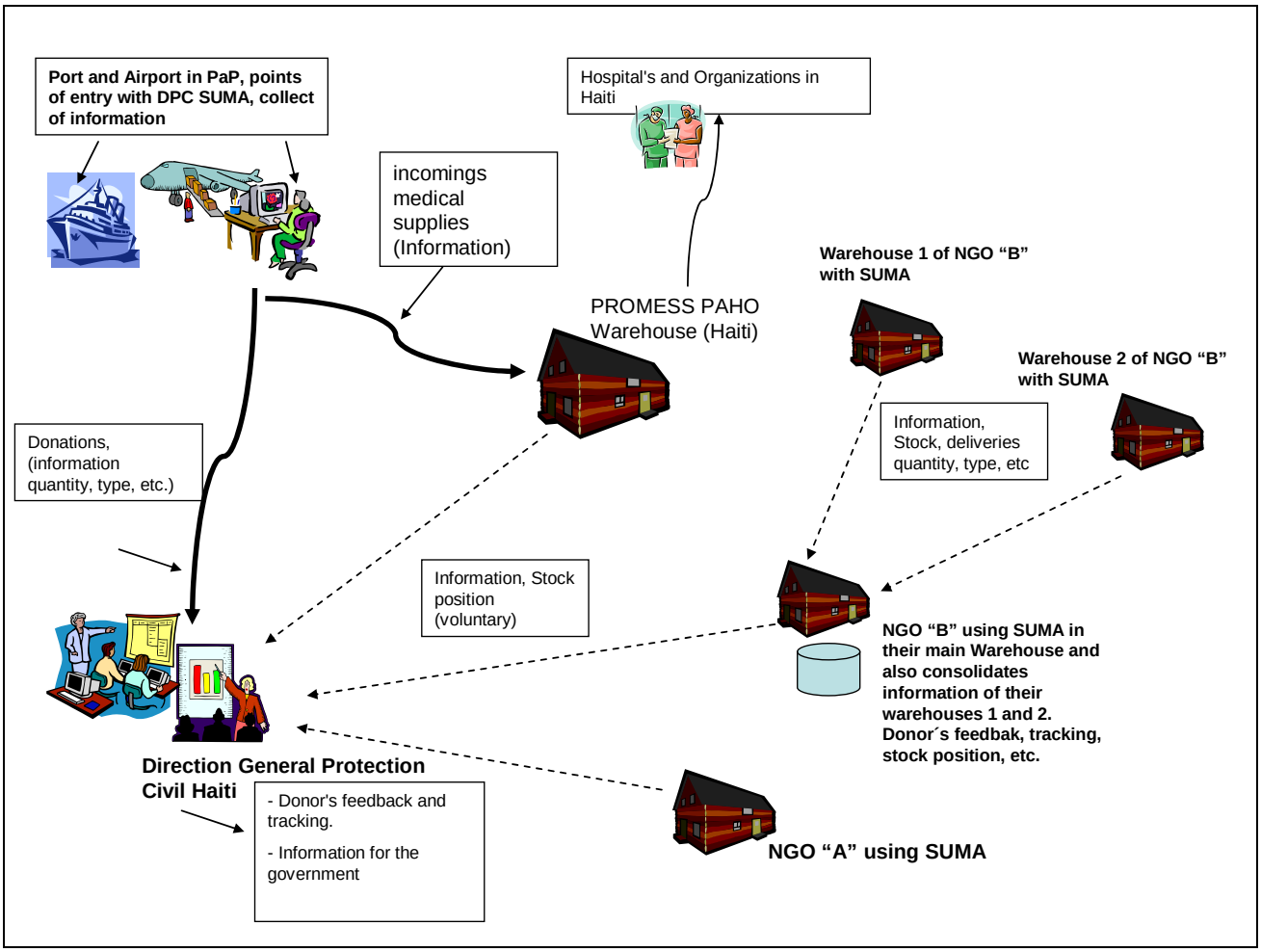
LSS/SUMA

LSS/SUMA is now processing the supplies received and delivered by PROMESS, and it is regularly updating reports on the type and destination of these supplies. LSS/SUMA is also in the process of being deployed at Port-au-Prince's airport, in coordination with Civil Protection and WFP.

The following chart summarized the different units processed at PROMESS from October 21 to November 24:



NGOs managing supplies are encouraged to download and install the free LSS/SUMA software to consolidate their supplies. Training and a list of special items related to the cholera outbreak is available to interested NGOs. The following chart summarized how NGOs can integrate LSS/SUMA within their organization:



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