

HEALTH CLUSTER BULLETIN

CHOLERA OUTBREAK IN HAITI – FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2011 – #14

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The last Health Cluster meeting, held in Port-au-Prince on January 11, 2011, focused mostly on the planning for the next few months and arrangements for the expected handover of cholera control activities to the Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP). With some agencies announcing their upcoming departure, the MSPP and the Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) are coordinating with the health partners to ensure the continuity of health and other services in the departments.

The bed capacity at the Cholera Treatment Centers (CTCs) and Cholera Treatment Units (CTUs) close to the estimated need. However there is still need for more Oral Rehydration Points (ORPs) and social mobilization activities. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions should be incorporated to health response at all times.

Rural areas still need assistance. A main task in rural communities is to elucidate myths associated with cholera.

The security of the teams on the field is an



Picture from the [slide show](#) depicting health cluster partner response during the last year in Haiti.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Health Cluster meetings will be held every Tuesdays at 11.30AM at the Ministry of Health building. Next meeting will take place on January 18, 2011.



The Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP) and PAHO, the Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO) for the Americas, coordinate the Health Cluster. **MSPP Cluster Contacts:** Dr. Claude Surena; Dr. Jean Hugues Henrys; **PAHO/WHO Contacts:** Dr. Dana van Alphen



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

increasing concern, particularly at the border with the Dominican Republic and in remote areas. Some villages are suspicious of the presence of international partners in their communities, which has resulted in aggressive attitude and some instances of violent behavior.

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND ALERTS

On January 13, The Ministry of Health of Haiti (Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population, MSPP) reported that the cumulative number of cholera cases and deaths due to cholera, as of January 9, 2011 was 185,012 and 3,790 respectively.

Of the total cholera cases, 103,532 patients (56.0%) had been hospitalized. The in-hospital case fatality rate was 2.4% while the overall case fatality rate was 2.0%.

Based on these latest data, the cumulated incidence rate is 18 cases per 1,000 inhabitants. There are four departments with higher rates and six departments with a relatively lower rate.

PARTNERS RESPONSE

There are currently 128 national and international organizations working as part of the cholera response in the 10 departments of Haiti.

CASE MANAGEMENT

Table 1: Number of CTC and CTU per Department, 10 January 2011

Department	Number of Structures			Bed Capacity	
	CTC	CTU		CTC	CTU
Artibonite	13	10		1243	188
Centre	5	11		275	258
Grande Anse	3	4		200	78
Nippes	5	1		290	18
Nord	8	14		1020	470
Nord-Est	3	7		300	244
Nord-Ouest	9	4		1097	65
Ouest	33	93		3100	1496
Sud	1	6		35	160
Sud-Est	1	4		50	115
TOTAL	81	154		7,610	3,092

Source: MSPP, PAHO/WHO

AMURTEL (Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team)

Since late October, AMURTEL has been sending regular mobile medical teams targeting cholera affected areas. In November and in December, 981 and 953 villagers respectively were treated in San Michel and other areas. Approximately 60% of cases were cholera infections.

Red Cross Movement

British Red Cross

In Port-au-Piment, the BRC signed an agreement with MSPP to rehabilitate a vacant clinic it had identified and to use it as a CTU in collaboration with the local health authorities.

Canadian-Japanese Red Cross

The Canadian-Japanese RC CTC has treated 860 patients in Carrefour until January 7, 2011. The CTC currently has 16 patients and has been accepting transfers from the Haitian Red Cross, MSF and surrounding hospitals. The site has scaled up operations and now has 21 tents, which can accommodate 65 in-patients and 35 ORPs. A CHM nurse met with 658 patients, who were treated, discharged and given prevention advice.

French Red Cross

The French Red Cross continues its work in the installation and reinforcement of CTC and CTU (material, staff, and trainings). The FRC has developed an "emergency reactive approach", consisting of the installation of an emergency CTU, temporary if needed, at the newly identified outbreak location in order to provide a quick response close to populations and to prevent the propagation of the epidemic. Three of these "mobile CTUs" have been installed in hard-to reach areas (two of them by helicopter).

Some 21 CTUs were installed by the FRC and 19 are operational (in Port au Prince, Delmas, Croix-des-Bouquets, Petion Ville, Kenskoff and Petit Goave). Among other activities, specific zones have been habilitated to receive sick people, and staff has been trained and material has been delivered. The CTU of Chapi in Cité Soleil, is open 24/7. The arrival of 10 Haitian Red Cross volunteers has increased the number of disinfection agents at this centre. More than 2,000 cholera cases have been treated in the FRC's CTUs. In Port-au-Prince, six oral rehydration posts are installed and operational in FRC camps.

German Red Cross

German Red Cross manages a CTC in Archaie and supports MSPP's activities in Carrefour. More than 929 cases of cholera have been treated in the CTC in Archaie which has 24 beds.

Japanese Red Cross

The Japanese RC BHC CTU in Port-à-Piment has treated 335 patients up to January 3, 2011 in close collaboration with British RC. Additional human resources including local nurses have been recruited and will be trained in cholera treatment. The British RC will assist with one day training on cholera treatment for the nurses.

Norwegian Red Cross

A meeting between German RC, Norwegian RC and Medecins Du Monde (MDM) was held to share information on CTCs. Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) is leaving Grande Anse and will hand the CTC in Jeremie over to MDM.

Spanish Red Cross

In the Marchand Dessalines CTC, (run by MSF Spain) the capacity is being increased to 300 beds.

The CTC has been supported with disinfection materials (sprayers, protection materials and buckets).

In the 21 camps where HRC/SpRC is working, the committees in the camps continue detecting cases and starting with early ORS rehydration. Camp's committees have been trained in fast-rehydration, disinfection and they are aware of the CTUs and CTCs around their camps and of the existence of ambulance services. HRC/SpRC is supporting the camp's committees in all these activities and does the reporting of activities and cholera cases. At the moment, 205 cases have been detected in the camps and have been evacuated. 6 deaths were reported among patients using camp-SpRC services.

Save the Children

Two new CTUs were operational this week - one in Delande, Grande Riviere in Leogane with 30 -40 bed capacity. Save the Children started admitting cases since early this week. Another new CTU was set up in Belle Anse, South East Department, with 25-30 bed capacity and started admitting cases last week. Save the Children now supports seven CTUs, which are operational 24/7. Due to increase in number of cases and mortality in South East Department, it will scale-up hygiene promotion and increase the number of Oral Rehydration Posts (ORPs) in South East Department, with focus on Bainet, Belle Anse, Thiotte, Jacmel town, and Grand Gosier communes. The number of new admissions has decreased in Gaston Margron and Delmas this week. Save the Children is supporting cholera response in Dessalines, Maissade, South East Department (Jacmel, Baniet, Belle Anse, Thiotte, Grand Gosier), Leogane, Caffeour, and Delmas.

UNICEF

Daily meetings with PAHO/WHO in the South department are organized to strengthen and improve the coordination, the information sharing and the data collection mechanisms in the departments. UNICEF, together with PAHO/WHO, OCHA, DSSE and NGOs, including Plan and StC, is working to finalize the list of existing ORPs.

WORLD VISION

World Vision is operating 22 ORPs, and one CTU. Five more CTUs and one CTC are being established, while three ORPs are closing. World Vision continues to collect information on needs according to department, municipality, municipal section, city and village. World Vision is also supporting 12 hospitals in Port-au-Prince, the Central Plateau and Gonaive, through the provision of supplies, such as medicines, and the training of staff on cholera prevention.

PAHO/WHO

- PAHO/WHO continues to support the Health Authorities in terms of Monitoring of CTC/CTU, logistics, management of dead bodies and training of staff.
- In the case management area, PAHO/WHO continues focusing in the establishment of CTU to ensure that Haiti will have beds available when the main actors in case management (MSF, MDM, Merlin, etc) leave the emergency.
- A CTU has been completed in Ferrier and another one in Anse-a-Pitres, at the border with Dominican Republic
- The supervision of CTUs installed by PAHO/WHO has started. Measures are taken whenever necessary to improve their services. Training on the job is being done, mostly related to water and sanitation issues.
- PAHO/WHO is giving support to the 43 Outreach Teams of the Cuban brigades working in hard to access communities. These teams partnered with PAHO/WHO in investigating and following up on alerts received by PAHO/WHO's alert system.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH/WASH

Red Cross Movement

French Red Cross

Disinfections of houses, camps and public places in Port-au-Prince, Petit Goave and Artibonite (by pulverizations) are conducted on a daily basis. There are three new disinfection and awareness teams in Petit Goave. Today, there are 4 teams working from 6 am to 12 pm every day. In Bas Artibonite, since the beginning of the operation, more than 16,000 houses have been disinfected. This week, FRC has continued the distribution of material needed for hand washing and latrine cleaning activities in the FRC's sites (mainly chlorine supply). Two primary health centers (in Desdunes and Grandes Salines), two CTC (Marchand Dessalines and Petite Riviere) and a dispensary (Petite Riviere) have been supplied drinking water by water-trucking. Distributions were also conducted in several villages of Desdunes, Saint Marc and Grandes Salines. 100 000 gallons were distributed in total. Today, more than 1,055,500 gallons of water have been distributed by FRC. 6 bladders have been installed in different villages. In Duclos (Desdunes, Bas Artibonite) French Red Cross is rehabilitating the water network of the village. In Bas Artibonite, 6 water treatment stations have been repaired.

German Red Cross

The German Red Cross WASH project in Grand Anse supports the CTC run by MDM with sanitation facilities (latrines and showers). Safe water is supplied to 2 CTCs and 1 CTUs (Jeremie, Moron, and Rousseau).

IFRC

The IFRC and Haitian Red Cross continue providing water services to 220,000 people and also supports PNS in-country. Safe water is supplied to Cholera Treatment Centres (CTCs) and Cholera Treatment Units (CTUs) in Archaie, Port-a-Piment, Grand-Goave and Port-au-Prince (La Piste and Carrefour). Also, the IFRC has supported Haitian water authorities (Direction Nationale de l'Eau Potable et Assainissement –DINEPA) and Movement partners through the provision of 14 million aqua tabs. The

department increased the number of water trucks as an attempt to achieve the goal of 10 litres per person per day. The spraying of latrines with High Test Hypochlorite (HTH) in 13 camps is continued twice a week. The production of more than 200 latrines and showers to cover the needs of sanitation in the camps is currently in progress at the warehouse. A working model that will allow an increase in the number of cubic meters of excreta drawn per day will be implemented shortly. The Watsan team has implemented a new type of filter (metal mesh) for vacuum trucks that will expedite the work and protect the pumping equipment from frequent damage. The team has also now implemented a dosage of Scats with 2% HTH Solution to prevent the spread of cholera. A total of 8 handwashing stations were installed in Premature, Henfrasa, Avenue Populaire, Bell Air, La Piste and Clearcin 24. Desludging activities continued in IFRC camps and PNS camps. The Watsan team removed plastic bags filled with excreta, thrown by the population around the latrine areas and evacuated them to a controlled dump site. Disinfection of the area (including latrines) was done by spraying HTH. An assessment of “Charbonnière” IFRC 068 camp to identify the present needs (additional latrines, showers, hand cleaning facilities, drainage) was carried out, and cleaning material was distributed for the cleaning campaign on solid waste. Carrefour CTC was supported with 12 portable latrines.

Swiss Red Cross

WASH programme will be launched in Palmiste-à-Vin, Léogane, reaching 1,160 households.

Plan International

Following the information regarding the situation in the 11 CTUs in the North-east department, Plan Haiti has sent a Wash specialist to make an evaluation. According to the needs, the following actions will be taken: 9 latrines will be set up as well as a water tank.

UNICEF

GRET with the technical assistance of UNICEF conducted a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey in poorer neighborhoods of Port-au-Prince to measure the impact of sensibilisation campaign and water purification distribution. This population is the most at risk due to poor water and sanitation facilities and high density. Household drinking water was tested for residual chlorine to assess effectiveness of household chlorination. A total of 405 households were included in the survey. The survey revealed that the knowledge of cholera symptoms was high (watery diarrhea 69%, vomiting 85%) as was knowledge of mode of transmission (drinking contaminated water 72%). Although only 56% received water purification tablets, household water treatment increased from 32% pre-outbreak to 77% post-outbreak. Overall, 62% of household drinking water samples were positive for free of residual chlorine indicating use of the tablets. Results of the survey indicate that reinforced cholera knowledge and hygiene interventions increased access to potable water in PORT-AU-PRINCE shanty towns. Similar intervention strategies have to be implemented in other high risk populations of Haiti as part of the cholera response.

World Vision

From 03 January 2011 through 07 January 2011, the WASH team trucked 1.9 million gallons of water to 71,129 households, bringing the total number of beneficiaries with access to clean water up to 356,770. They also distributed 456,310 aqutabs and 957 units of chlorine as an alternative water treatment. To date, WV has distributed over 650,000 aqutabs and 4,500 units of chlorine to prevent the spread of cholera through unclean water sources. We have also provided 1,592 water carrying tools, such as

buckets and jerrycans. Four hundred and twenty pit latrines were installed in Port-au-Prince and 275 mobile latrines were also installed this week. World Vision works to construct more pit latrines than mobile latrines as they last longer and are easier and cheaper to maintain. Critical to cholera prevention, World Vision restocked handwashing stations with 84 bars of soap, bringing the total distribution to 230,000 bars of soap for the 440 handwashing stations that were built around Port-au-Prince. In the last 2 weeks, World Vision has disinfected 943 waste removal trucks at the Truitier landfill, for an average of 67 trucks disinfected a day. This activity limits the spread of cholera from the human waste pit at Truitier back into the downtown areas of Port-au-Prince.

HEALTH PROMOTION/SOCIAL MOBILIZATION

CARE

Since November, CARE has reached a total of 439,086 people with sensitization in the Northwest, Artibonite, Grande Anse, Nippes, Léogâne and Carrefour.

In the camps of Léogâne and Carrefour, CARE has scaled up sensitization and hygiene promotion activities since mid-December. Indeed, apart from working with pre-established health committees or clubs and a network of volunteers, CARE has now identified, trained and engaged about 60 Community-based hygiene promotion sensitizers, to improve coverage in the communities.

The hiring of such daily workers has ensured that sensitization efforts were not discontinued through the holiday season. Therefore, since December, a total of 11,816 people (notably 2,028 - including 1,255 women - in the first week of January alone) have been reached with cholera prevention in the IDP camps of Léogâne and Carrefour.

In the Northwest Department, CARE reached an additional 12,740 people with sensitization activities between 18 December and 6 January, in Port-de-Paix, Chansolme, Bassin Bleu and Saint Louis du Nord. Overall, 155,688 people have now been reached by CARE teams in the department of the North West since the start of the epidemic.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

Dr Armand Rakoto and Joliette Pierre from CRS Health team went on a field trip in the Artibonite and North departments (from 10-14 January 2011) to conduct BCC Training-of-Trainers sessions for Community Health Workers (CHWs) and Nursing staff. Target communes were: Milot, Limbé, Pilate, Gros Morne. CHWs from the sites (Hopital Sacré Coeur, Hopital Saint Jean de Limbé and Hopital Esperance de Pilate, Hopital Alma Mater) will organize community-level sensitization activities starting next week.

Red Cross Movement

American Red Cross

A total of 7,033 people (2,687 male and 4,346 female) in 5,498 tents of Port-au-Prince and Petion Ville camps received hygiene promotion and cholera prevention information and materials.

French Red Cross

Hygiene promotion activities continue at schools, FRC supported camps in Port-au-Prince, Petit Goave and Artibonite. This week, about 1,100 people benefited from these activities in Port-au-Prince. Since October, more than 72,000 people have benefited from these activities in Port-au-Prince. In Saint-Marc, a new Hygiene Promotion Working Group has been launched. It is coordinated by Haitian Red Cross with the support of French Red Cross, every Thursday 9 a.m., at the UCS (Unité Communale de Santé) de Saint-Marc.

IFRC

The IFRC Community health programme conducted a training with 27 “Club 25” (Haitian Red Cross volunteers club) in Port-au-Prince on prevention of cholera and techniques for handwashing. These volunteers will participate in community sensitization at a later date. Another training was conducted with 26 community volunteers in Camp Jerusalem on the prevention of cholera and techniques for handwashing. In Lamartin, 20 community volunteers were trained in cholera prevention, transmission, and techniques for handwashing and preparation for disinfecting solutions. These volunteers will participate in community sensitization in Carrefour, supporting the work of the Canadian-Japanese RC CTC. Additionally, a nurse was hired to supervise the community activities (sensitization) of the CTC in Lamartin. A sound truck continues delivering cholera prevention messages through Port-au-Prince. Last week, it passed through Delmas and Martissant. Aquatabs distribution in Leogane will start in 2nd week of January, beginning with camp Cassagne. This distribution will be done in coordination with the Watsan team. 141 persons from a private company called ACRA were sensitized on cholera prevention, transmission and treatment. This will be continued with other employees.

Spanish Red Cross

Community activities in St Marc, L'Estere and Dessalines: 4,926 houses have been disinfected (2,879 with cholera cases), 53,042 people have been sensitized on cholera issues (transmission, prevention and early treatment, 92,434 aquatabs have been distributed and 1,411 people have been sensitized in correct hand washing technique. In Jacmel, they implemented Cholera training to Canadian, Spanish and Danish Red Cross volunteers conducted by SpRC Hygiene Promoters. Disinfection training was conducted in the communes of Jacmel, Marigot and Cayes Jacmel. At the request of the HRC regional committee, kits were distributed to the local committees in the 10 southeast communes (Côtes de Fer, Baint, la Vallée, Jacmel, Cayes Jacmel, Marigot, Belle-Anse, Grand Gosier, Thiotte and Anses-à-Pitres). In Port au Prince, posters and brochures approved by MSPP are being delivered in the HP activities as well. The team will be working in activities in the 21 camps and in the surrounding communities.

UNICEF

Under the MSPP umbrella, two day-training of 35 Trainers organized by UNICEF took place on community mobilization and was conducted by partner the Institut Haitien de Sante Communautaire. House disinfection process, sensitization activities, body management protocols were on the agenda. A

health promoter network of 250 community mobilizers will benefit from it shortly and these 35 trainers will be guiding them.

WORLD CONCERN

With financial support from the USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) World Concern has launched a cholera response initiative in Haiti to prevent the epidemic among its 100,000 beneficiaries including 35,000 internally displaced persons. The project is being implemented in Delmas and Nazon in Port-au-Prince, and on the south and east of the city where World Concern already has programming and community relations. Building community awareness that includes targeted cholera prevention messaging through its network of churches and faith-based organizations is the primary focus for World Concern in this project. Distribution of ORS packets and 3.5 million water-purifying tablets along with soap and water containers among the project beneficiaries has also been planned. This project strengthens the cholera prevention response of the Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP) of Haiti.

World Vision

Last week, World Vision trained 70 Health Promoters in cholera prevention and treatment. They also trained 1,475 individuals in proper sanitation and hygiene as a cholera prevention tactic.

PAHO/WHO

PAHO/WHO developed health promotion materials including guides, brochures, posters, and key messages which are available to partners for use in their activities of social mobilization and community education. PAHO/WHO has printed enough materials to launch the activities whilst waiting for partners to have the capacity to print materials by themselves.

The training strategy that includes training manual, tools, forms and budget for the brigadiers is at the final stage and will be handed to the MSPP next week.

PAHO/WHO continues to coordinate with the different partners including MSPP, UNICEF, IOM, Cuban Brigades, and others that are involved in social mobilization.

COORDINATION

On 4th and 5th of January, JOTC (Joint Operations Task Center Plans Coordination) members visited the Acra IDP Camp. The UNPOL IDP Camp Unit and OCHA participated as well. The camp manager provided a tour throughout the camp to illustrate the impact of the clogged drainage ditches. It was noted that the majority of the garbage is not coming from the camp, but appears to be flowing down from Petionville and Delmas 40B. JOTC is coordinating with OCHA, IOM and Military Engineering to find a solution to this problem. The persistent cleaning of the ditches is not a permanent solution because the garbage will continue to clog the pipes at the entrance of the camp. The flooding from the result of the clogs has increased the risk of the spread of cholera in the camp. The participants also discussed the issue of eviction by the land owner.

PAHO/WHO is working in close collaboration with the Logistic Cluster in managing the transport of supplies including Ringer lactate, ORS sachets, cholera beds, and other medical equipment to MSPP storage sites to the 10 departments of Haiti. They are using UNHAS helicopters and the trucks.

SUPPLIES AND LOGISTICS

CARE

CARE has donated ORS sachets to the health committees of several vulnerable camps of Carrefour and Léogâne as measure to prepare for cholera.

In the Nippes Department, CARE has donated a comprehensive cholera kit to the MSPP, comprising of catheters, Hartmann's solution, water purification tablets, ORS sachets, antibiotics, gloves and jerry cans. The kit will cover the needs of four communes in the Department. A second cholera kit will be donated to the MSPP shortly.

HELI AVIATION

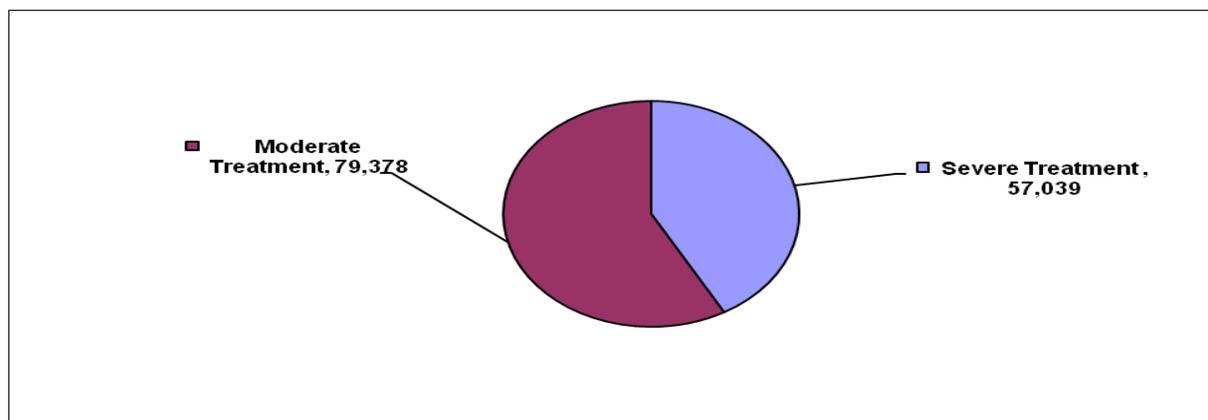
An established helicopter service company from Germany, Heli Aviation, is operating an ambulance helicopter service in Haiti.

The program is financially supported by German NGO "Ein Herz für Kinder." (A heart for Children) Heli Aviation has helicopters stationed at the Indigo helipad 65km North of Port-au-Prince. Support is being provided to relief organizations that require ambulance flights (medevac) and delivery of relief supplies. For further information, please contact the Helicopter Coordination Centre at germanhelpone@gmail.com.

IFRC

IFRC is supporting the Haitian Red Cross (HRC), PNSs, Bureau of Delmas, Medecins du Monde-Canada, Medecins du Monde-France, and other health partners in their efforts in the field. IFRC provides assistance and hygiene supplies to IDP camps through organizations working in them.

PROMESS



Since the start of the epidemic, PROMESS has distributed medical supplies to treat around 57,000 severe cases and 79,400 moderate cases of cholera. Around 60% of the distribution was sent to its final destination, and 40% was prepositioned to the departments. The shipment was made mostly to the MSPP, but also to security-site stocks.

Current inventories of IV fluids and ORS sachets are at a moderately low level. More supplies are scheduled to arrive, but deliveries are not expected until next week. Negotiations are underway for the purchase of more ORS sachets. The price of ORS sachets has significantly increased in the last months, but there are fewer sources.

The current stock combined with the stock in pipeline allow for the treatment of 98,000 new severe cases of cholera and 122,000 moderate cases.

UNICEF

Around 84 gallons of chlorox, 84,000 ORS sachets, 13,440 soaps, 168 buckets, and 25,200 aquatabs were provided by UNICEF to the MSPP. These materials will be used to set up 84 community-based ORPs in 6 communes: Jeremie, Moron, Chambellan, Anse d'Hainaut, Bonbon, Abricots, Roseaux, Corail, Beaumont and Irois in the department of Grande Anse.

PAHO/WHO

The training of the local field logisticians took place on Monday, 10 January, with DINEPA. The logisticians will be in charge of distributing supplies to the ASEC, CASEC, Health Centers, CTC, CTU, and CTC, at department level. Current distribution integrates details of geographic location of each institution at the level of communal section.