

This report was issued by OCHA Haiti. The next report will be issued on or around 29 October.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- The Ministry of Health has confirmed 4,649 hospitalisations and 305 deaths from cholera according to data from 20 to 27 October recorded by the government.
- The Artibonite, Centre and North departments have reported confirmed cholera cases according to the Ministry of Health.
- Viva Rio reports supporting teams who disseminate prevention information while distributing oral rehydration salts in communities with a population of 50,000 people. The organisation will focus in particular on engaging with pregnant women, children, the elderly and handicapped.
- The WASH cluster reports almost two thirds of communities in the 15 communal sections at the epicenter of the outbreak have received water purification tablets and supplies in the past five days.
- The logistics cluster reports available air, road and sea transportation capacity.

II. Situation Overview

The Ministry of Health (MSPP) reports that 305 deaths and 4,649 hospitalized cases of cholera have been confirmed in Haiti from 20 to 27 October. In support of the national strategy against cholera, WHO/PAHO continues to provide the MSPP with technical support in epidemiology and monitoring the outbreak. In surveillance, WHO/PAHO follows the case and death rates, representative of cases as of 17h00 the previous day. The figures are then reported by the MSPP at a daily press conference at 10h00. The numbers provided represent confirmed cases while suspected cases are often aggregated by other sources, thus resulting in a fluctuation in reported figures.

The strain of *Vibrio cholerae* O: 1, which according to WHO/PAHO as causing the epidemic, has been isolated in Haiti and tested by the Centres for Disease Control and has shown resistance to trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, furazolidone, nalidixic acid, and streptomycin.

With an estimated 1.3 million people living in spontaneous settlements in the areas affected by the 12 January earthquake, the Government, humanitarian partners, and UN continue to increase sensitization, contingency planning and cholera prevention activities in camps for internally displaced people (IDPs) in the West and Southwest departments and in particular Port-au-Prince. Camp-level communication initiatives led by numerous humanitarian partners utilise community radio, SMS and voice messages, community mobilisation teams and flyers to pass on MSPP-approved prevention and sensitization messages.

Demonstrations and trainings explaining how and when to prepare and administer oral rehydration solutions as well as hand washing techniques are ongoing in the affected area and with a special emphasis in IDP camps and communities in Port-au-Prince. In collaboration with local government, partners are reported to be carrying out sensitization activities in the Northeast, Northwest, West, South and Southeast departments in support of these initiatives.

In support of distributions of medical supplies, personnel, and WASH equipment, logistics cluster has made available trucking fleets in Port-au-Prince, Jacmel, Cap Haitien and Gonaives with a total of 40 trucks. A 1,500 metric tonne barge is available and calls at regional ports and/or wharfs to re-supply regional relief operations. United Nations Humanitarian Air Service has on standby a helicopter with the capacity to transport three metric tonnes of humanitarian assistance to inaccessible areas.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Health

The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

The MSPP, WHO/PAHO, UN and humanitarian community continue to respond to the cholera epidemic, transporting urgent medical supplies and personnel to treat cases while continuing to support the public information campaign which is essential for prevention, early detection and treatment of cholera.

WHO/PAHO has trained 60 community health workers whose role will be to provide public information related to hygiene, sanitation, treatment and locations of public health centres. Eight hospitals are being prepared for increased case load, and three are currently ready. Among the ten CTCs planned for metropolitan Port-au-Prince, five are ready, with a bed capacity of 450 beds. The Red Cross Movement plans to open one of five CTCs which will provide additional medical assistance and isolate cholera patients.

IOM psychosocial teams have incorporated MSPP messages, hand washing demonstrations and stress management as part of their regular activities including guided self-help, discussion groups and counselling. These activities cover 17 IDP camps and two psychiatric hospitals in Port-au-Prince having reached an estimated 6,000 people in the past week. Counselling and psychological first aid sessions are being organized for IDPs who have lost family members or relatives to cholera in affected areas.

J/P HRO (J/P Haiti Relief Organization), an NGO, has reportedly deployed personnel and supplies to the affected area with three medical staff and ten cleaners dispatched to the Partners in Health-run St Nicolas Hospital in St Marc. A five person cleaning team was also reported to have been deployed to Donald King Hospital in Archaie, in the West department. The organization is building capacity in Port-au-Prince for treatment of patients. Nearby the JP/HRO-run hospital facilities at the Petionville Golf IDP camp, a cholera isolation centre with 40 beds and a 100 person capacity is being erected.

Four new communes out of seven in upper Artibonite have reported confirmed cases: Gonaives, Gros Morne, Saint-Michel (Platana, Bayonne), Marmalade and Ennery with a total of 455 cases including 10 deaths from 20 to 26 October. In upper Artibonite MSF-Spain is reportedly planning to establish a CTC. The Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent have distributed 15 beds and provided five nurses at the hospital of Gros Morne.

In Jacmel, local health authorities and the directorate of the Ministry of Environment of the Southeast department has circulated a list to partners identifying needs as they develop a cholera-preparedness contingency plan. In Léogane, all suspected cholera cases are being referred to the MSF hospital Swiss Chatuley. The MSPP is now chairing a committee to address the cholera outbreak through development of an operational action plan. In Petit Goâve the MSPP reports that a CTC is being established.

Health authorities in the Northwest department reported 120 cases of severe diarrhoea with two deaths on 27 October. 80 per cent of cases are reported to be in Blue Basin bordering Artibonite and 20 per cent in Chansolme and Port-de-Paix. According to the departmental director of health, the number of cases are increasing.

Gaps & Challenges

Health authorities in the Northwest department report two CTCs, medicine, and WASH facilities are needed. Access is difficult to rural communities in the department in case of rain. The departmental director of Health may request the support of international partners to support ongoing prevention efforts.

Action Against Hunger (ACF) reports a need for 13 nurses and three physicians as well as medical supplies such as Ringer's lactate, units of dextrose saline, tablets of doxycycline and tetracycline, gloves and mattresses to support their activities in the Northwest department.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Almost two thirds of communities in the 15 communal sections targeted for blanket distribution of water purification tablets have received supplies in the past five days, according to WASH cluster. The area in question is at the epicenter outbreak along the Artibonite River where the risk of contracting the disease is higher than in other parts of the country. Many communities are isolated due to poor roads or the high water level of the river. Distributions are ongoing as a key operational NGO ACTED reports improved logistical support and as additional actors commit assistance in the region

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The six priority hospitals in Artibonite and Centre departments report having committed partners to facilitate the installation and maintenance of water, sanitation and hygiene activities.

ACF is the only WASH partner reported in the Northwest department and local authorities report only having five health officers for the entire department. ACF has provided a total of 15,000 water purification tablets to communities in the area.

In Artibonite, ACF has begun distributing hygiene kits to 3,700 families in the commune of Saint Michel and will continue these operations in Gros Morne and in Platana on Saturday. MINUSTAH military has also reported delivering 5,000 litres of potable water to the community in Dauphin, which is isolated due to high river levels and reportedly unreachable by road.

The Red Cross Movement continues activities in the communes of Dedune, Verrettes and Petit Riviere where it has mobilised volunteers who are conducting household sensitization, distribution of soap, water purification tablets, oral rehydration salts as well as disinfecting schools, health centers and markets. IOM reports conducting training activities for 23 people on hygiene promotion in Gonaives, in addition to monitoring training activities in the L'Estère area, Desdunes and Douin.

Gaps & Constraints

ACF reports a need for 100,000 water purifications tablets, 250 gallons of bleach, 100 kilograms of chlorine powder, and kits for hand washing in Northwest department. In Artibonite, ACF reports a need for water purifications tablets and oral rehydration salts. Some communes and communal section are not yet reported to be covered by WASH activities according to the WASH cluster based in St Marc. To continue to support the prevention of cholera in Artibonite and Centre departments as well as the spread of the disease elsewhere, replenishment of stocks and continued distributions of WASH supplies are recommended.

Logistics

The logistics cluster, MINUSTAH and partner organisations continue to increase support for the response across the country. In Artibonite, Handicap International has made available two trucks to facilitate the delivery of supplies in the northern part of the department. The NGO IDEA in collaboration with Organisation Sante Populaire report having two vehicles that may be used for evacuation and transfer of patients upon request of the health cluster partners. The Spanish Red Cross reports that it has offered four water tankers to be used by the WASH cluster to supply water to health institutions. International Medical Corps and Grass Roots United also report assisting with logistical and other efforts to assist in responding to the crisis.

Logistics cluster has provided helicopter support for Save the Children delivering medical items to Maissades and to Grand Saline. In support of WASH activities in Grand Saline, 1.5 metric tonnes of supplies such as water filters, water purification tablets, hygiene kits, and bleach were airlifted for the Partners in Health today.

Partners engaged in responding to the cholera outbreak can request logistical support from MINUSTAH through the Joint Operations and Tasking Centre (JOTC). Request forms can be picked up at the crisis information centre in OCHA's office at the United Nations Logistics base in Port-au-Prince, or at MINUSTAH Regional Offices. Forms can be submitted by email to Minustah-jotc@un.org.

Humanitarian partners interested in utilising services provided by the logistics cluster should first approach the cluster to verify whether the request can be satisfied with the resources available. If the request cannot be met by the humanitarian community, it can be referred to the JOTC following the logistic cluster endorsement of the request. For any Cargo Movement Requests and/or Temporary Storage Requests, humanitarian partners are asked to complete a form available <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/hti10a> and submit to haiti.cargo@logcluster.org.

In addition, OCHA should also be informed of requests and be used as an intermediary to submit humanitarian requests to MINUSTAH through its representative to the JOTC. Should partners be unable to contact directly cluster leads for requests and/or signatures, OCHA will facilitate communication with and agreement from the clusters as well. Please contact uncmcoordhaiti@gmail.com for more information.

Food

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The World Food Programme (WFP) works continuously with the departmental health authorities, and humanitarian partners to support the response to the cholera outbreak. Distributions of meals-ready-to-eat (MREs) and dry food rations to hospitals are ongoing in affected areas in upper and lower Artibonite. At the Hopital St Nicolas in St Marc, 1,404 MREs were delivered today to provide food to 500 patients and 200 hospital staff. In Gonaives, WFP continued distribution, delivering 396 MREs to Hopital de la Providence and 132 MREs to the hospital in Raboteau. Distribution of 300 kilograms of dry rations reached the hospital in Dechapelles today, providing sufficient food stocks for the hospital for the next two weeks.

Education

The education cluster in collaboration with the Ministry of Education is finalizing an strategy on the cholera response in schools. The strategy is centred on the treatment of water sources in schools, sensitization of school directors on hygiene promotion and the enforcement of hand-washing practices in all schools across the country.

As part of the school feeding program, WFP has procured 20 metric tons of soap to be distributed in schools in the affected areas and will begin to conduct hygiene trainings in schools. The shipment is expected next week and will be distributed shortly thereafter. Seven food aid monitors have attended a training on cholera awareness, water and sanitation led by WFP and partners.

The NGO People in Need is training school directors in 88 schools in Petit Goâve on hygiene promotion. Once these directors begin communicating hygiene promotion messages in their schools, UNICEF estimates that approximately 23,000 students in the region will benefit. Outreach International is raising awareness on cholera in 21 schools and distributing oral rehydration salts.

In 120 schools with an estimated 48,000 students, Plan International is conducting assessments of water and sanitation facilities in addition to facilitating the training of teachers and school directors on hygiene promotion. These activities are carried out in tandem with distribution of flyers containing MSPP-approved cholera awareness messages, soap, oral rehydration salts, and water bottles. MINUSTAH peacekeepers are distributing 1,000 water filters to schools and other entities in Artibonite.

Communication

Joint sensitization campaigns continue, with UNOPS, Red Cross, and IOM. Teams were divided into smaller units to allow a greater coverage of sites: UNOPS teams covered 9 camps in Delmas, IOM teams covered 4 camps in Carrefour, and Red Cross teams covered 4 camps, reaching a total of 17 camps today.

Viva Rio has been engaged in sensitization activities since 21 October, focusing on disseminating cholera-awareness messages and demonstrating hand-washing techniques and waste management in IDP camps, schools and in churches across Port-au-Prince. An estimated 1,500 people have already been involved in the sensitization campaign which takes place at their community center, *Kay Nou* (Our House). Viva Rio has also trained and mobilised teams that conduct community-based sensitization in the areas of Bel Air, Solino, Fortouron, La Saline, Warf Jeremie and Fort-Dimanche which have an estimated population of 90,000 people. In IDP camps, Viva Rio reports supporting teams who disseminate prevention information while distributing oral rehydration salts in communities with a population of 50,000 people. The organisation will focus in particular on engaging with pregnant women, children, the elderly and handicapped.

Help Age International also reports outreach and communication activities, including training 36 home-based care providers supporting care of the elderly. The training was a joint initiative with IOM, Goal and the American Red Cross. In all, Help Age reports sending out 219 personnel into the eight communes of and around Port-au-Prince in teams which include nurses and "vulnerable people focal persons".

In upper Artibonite, ACF has deployed 40 hygiene promoters, including 30 in St Michel and 10 in Gonaives. Community awareness will be reinforced by posters approved by the MSPP. CARE International is stepping-up sensitization activities through 14 radio stations as well as disseminating messages in schools and communities across the affected area.

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