



# Epidemiological Alert: Update on the Cholera Situation

(1 December 2010)

## Epidemiological Situation

### Haiti

The information presented here is provided by the Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP), which integrates data obtained by the partners of the Health Cluster<sup>1</sup>.

From the confirmation of the first cholera cases in Epidemiological Week (EW) 42<sup>2</sup> to EW 47<sup>3</sup> the MSPP has reported a total of 77,208 cholera cases<sup>4</sup>, 34,248 hospitalizations (44%), and 1,751 deaths at national level. With respect to the number of deaths, of the total deaths recorded by the MSPP, 70% occurred at the health services level, and 30% at the community level. The in-hospital case fatality rate is 3.5%.

Currently, there are cholera cases in the 10 departments of Haiti and deaths in 9 departments. The highest incidence rate registered is in the Artibonite department with 246 cases per 10,000 inhabitants, followed by Nord Ouest with 114 cases per 10,000 inhabitants and Centre with 102 cases per 10,000 inhabitants.

In Port-au-Prince and the metropolitan area<sup>5</sup>, the total number of cases reported from the laboratory confirmation of the first cases<sup>6</sup> to EW 47 is 10,542, including 3,487 hospitalizations and 164 deaths (96% occurred at the health services level and 4% at the community level). The health services case fatality rate is 1.5%.

Regarding the trend, and given that the data on hospital visits due to cholera were recently included in the MSPP reports, the only trend that can be observed is one based on the registered daily hospitalization due to cholera. In EW 47, at the national level, the number of daily hospitalizations has slightly decreased compared with reported in previous EW. The same trend is observed for the department of Artibonite, Central, Nord Ouest and Ouest.

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<sup>1</sup> Health Cluster: conformed by organizations which are currently working in response to the cholera outbreak in Haiti and which include the International Committee of the Red Cross, Doctors without Borders, Doctors of the World, Merlin, International Medical Corps, Partners in Health and Save the Children, and other United Nations agencies and bilateral organizations. The Health Cluster is coordinated by the MSPP and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO).

<sup>2</sup> On 20 October 2010 the first cholera cases in hospitalized patients were laboratory confirmed in the Department of Artibonite. The Haiti Public Health Laboratory isolated *V. cholerae* O: 1 serotype Ogawa. This isolation was confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

<sup>3</sup> Data from MSPP, updated as of 27 November 2010.

<sup>4</sup> On 16 November, the MSPP began including data on hospital visits due to cholera in its daily reports, which for the purpose of this report are considered as cases.

<sup>5</sup> Carrefour, Cité Soleil, Delmas, Kenscoff, Pétiion-Ville, Port-au-Prince, Tabarre and Croix des Bouquets.

<sup>6</sup> The first hospitalizations due to cholera were reported by the MSPP on 7 November 2010.

During this week the access to Nord department, particularly in Cap Haitien remained difficult, while PAHO / WHO managed to resupply health partners with one ton of materials on Friday.

Among the activities this week are listed:

1. Awareness activities in Nord Ouest Department.
2. Distribution of water purification tablets and hospital supplies in Nord and Nord Ouest department.
3. Establishment of new CTC and CTU in Nord Est Department.
4. Promotion of hygiene in the camps of Port-au-Prince. 79 residents were trained to handle water and 127 people as community workers in the camps.
5. Training to community leaders in the department focuses on aspects of outbreak control.

A map with the location of the Cholera Treatment Centers (CTCs) and Cholera Treatment Units (CTU), which are currently operational, is daily updated and available at: [http://new.paho.org/hq/images/Atlas\\_IHR/CholeraOutbreak/atlas.html](http://new.paho.org/hq/images/Atlas_IHR/CholeraOutbreak/atlas.html)

A detailed report, updated as of 30 November, on the response activities conducted by the Health Cluster, at national and departmental levels is available at:

[http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=4404&Itemid=3487](http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4404&Itemid=3487)

## **Dominican Republic**

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From the laboratory confirmation of the first case of cholera in EW 46<sup>7</sup>, and as part of enhanced surveillance implemented by the Ministry of Public Health, a total of 9 cholera cases were detected of which four required hospitalizations. One case has been considered imported while the remaining eight cases were considered autochthons. Cases come from the towns of Santo Domingo Este (4) and Santo Domingo Norte (1) in the National District and Navarrete (3) in the province of Santiago.

Of the eight autochthon cases, two of them are relatives. There is no evidence of epidemiological link among other cases.

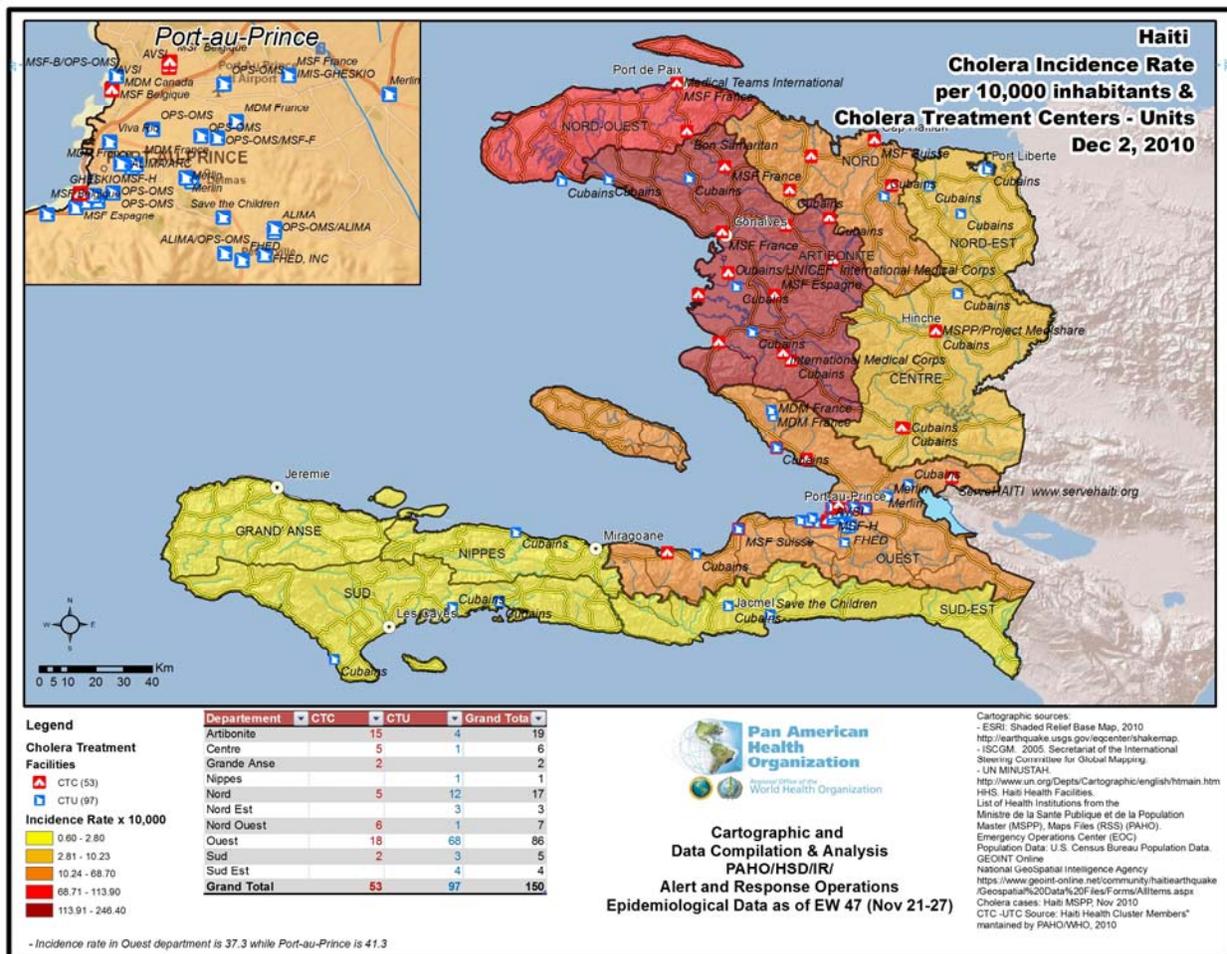
The Ministry of Health continues to implement the national contingency plan against cholera and enhancing actions related to surveillance, risk communication, water and environmental sanitation, assurance of food quality and organization of health services networks.

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<sup>7</sup> On November 16, 2010, the National Reference laboratory isolated V. cholerae O: 1 serotype Ogawa from a sample of a 32 years-old patient.

The Pan American Health Organization points out that current guidelines are related to travel and international trade and encourages countries to implement them:

- Measures such as quarantine to limit movement of people and the embargo of goods and infective are unnecessary to control the spread of cholera.
- No rationale for restricting the movement of people and the imposition of restrictions on imports of food produced under good manufacturing practices, based solely on the fact that cholera is epidemic or endemic in a country.



## References

1. Préliminaire data Ministère de la Sante Publique et de la Population de Haïti. Available at: [http://www.mspp.gouv.ht/site/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=57&Itemid=1](http://www.mspp.gouv.ht/site/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=57&Itemid=1)
2. Bulletin Journalier #1. Centre d'Operation d'Urgence Nationale (COUN). Available at : [http://www.mspp.gouv.ht/site/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=57&Itemid=1](http://www.mspp.gouv.ht/site/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=57&Itemid=1)
3. Health Cluster Bulletin N°5, November, 27 2010. Available at: [http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=4404&Itemid=348](http://new.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4404&Itemid=348)