



# Epidemiological Alert: Cholera

(31 October 2010)

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## Current Situation of the Cholera Outbreak in Haiti

In the Epidemiological Week (EW) 42 were confirmed the first cases of cholera in the department of Artibonite, in Haiti, a department of approximately 1,300 000 inhabitants of which 15% makes up displaced population. For the EW 43, four more departments (Plant, Nord-Ouest, Nord and Ouest) registered cases and the Ministry of Public Health and Population of Haiti reported that by the end of that week, the total of hospitalizations by cholera rose to 4,764.

Although 89% of the hospital admissions by cholera in the department of Artibonite was registered in the population of five or more years old, the cumulative incidence rate to the EW 43 in this age group (34.6 cases x 10,000 inhabitant) is similar to the observed in children under 5 (35.7 cases x 10,000 inhabitants).

At the national level, there were registered a total of 337 deaths, 52% of which occurred at the level of the health services and 48% at the community level.

The daily rate of hospital case-fatality observed in the department of Artibonite has varied in a range from 2.3 to 6.3% (average of 4.0%) which it indicates that there still exist challenges at the level of health care services.

Recent tests of sensitivity of the isolates of *V. cholerae* O:1 of the outbreak in Haiti, were carried out by the National Laboratory of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the United States. The results confirm resistance to trimetoprim-sulfamethoxazole, furazolidone, nalidixic acid and streptomycin. Based of this finding there were formulated preliminary recommendations for the treatment of the patient with cholera, which were disseminated in the Epidemiological Alert of October 28.

In the coming days, it is expected that the Tropical Storm "Thomas" affects the island, causing a scenario change, in which it may require an increase in the capacity of response of the health system.

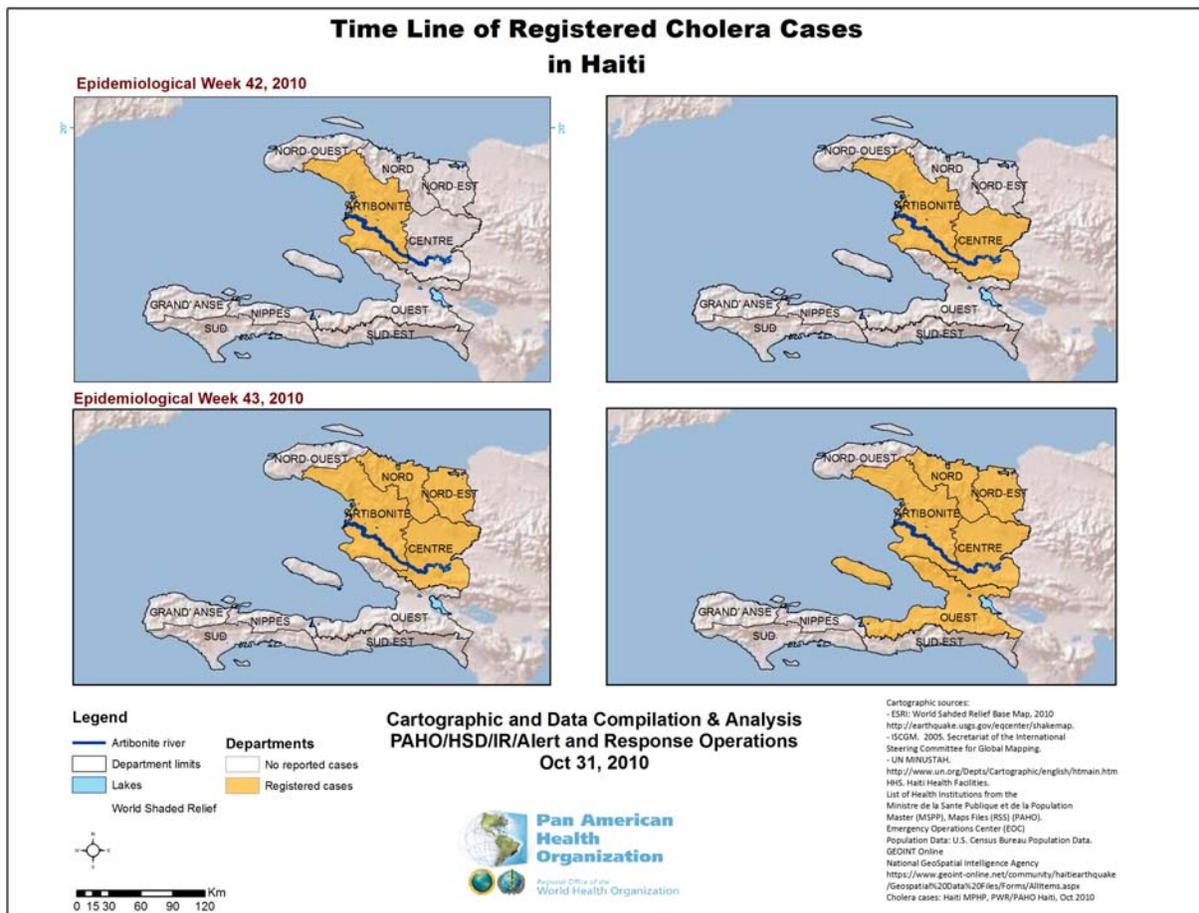
The occurrence of this outbreak has triggered a response on the part of the majority of the countries of the Region in which have taken actions in order to update their preparedness plans and response and they have strengthened their surveillance systems for the early outbreak detection.

The purpose of this Epidemiological Alert is to remember that the orientations of the Organization related to travel and international trade are still in effect, as well as to encourage the countries to the implementation of the following:

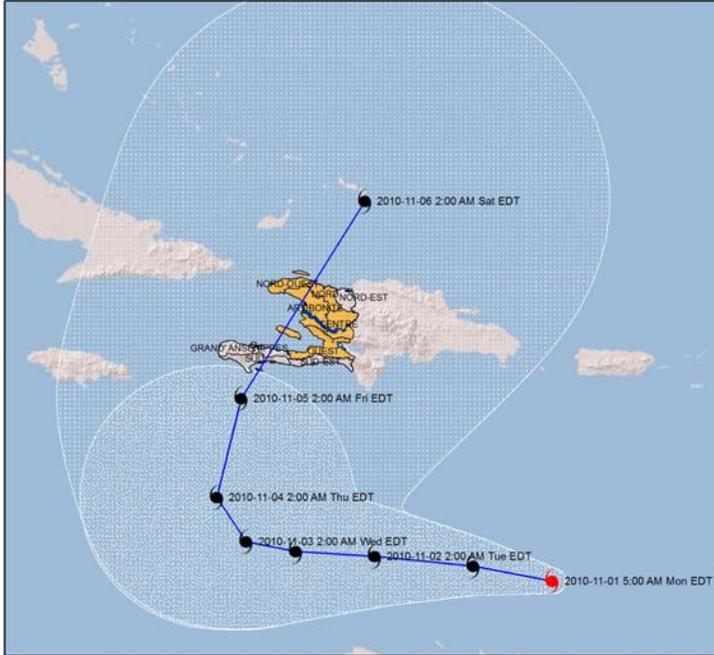
- Measures such as the quarantine to limit the movement of people and the embargo of goods are unnecessary and ineffective in order to control the spread of the cholera.
- The restriction of the movement of people and the imposition of restrictions is not justified to the imports of food produced in accordance with the adequate practices of manufacture, being based exclusively in the fact that cholera is epidemic or endemic in a given country.

## References

1. Population Data: U.S. Census Bureau Population Data. GEOINT Online. National GeoSpatial Intelligence Agency. Available at: <https://www.geoint-online.net/community/haitiearthquake/Geospatial%20Data%20Files/Forms/AllItems.aspx>
2. Population Movement. Ocha. 22 February 2010.
3. Prevention and control of cholera outbreaks, WHO policy and recommendations, September 2007. [http://www.emro.who.int/CSR/Media/PDF/cholera\\_whopolicy.pdf](http://www.emro.who.int/CSR/Media/PDF/cholera_whopolicy.pdf)



## Haiti's Registered Cholera Cases as of November 1st, 2010 & Tropical Storm Tomas Forecast Positions (NOAA)



### Legend

- |                                       |                      |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Forecast Positions &amp; Dates</b> | <b>Cholera Cases</b> |
| ● 2:00 AM Fri                         | □ No reported        |
| ● 2:00 AM Sat                         | ■ Registered         |
| ● 2:00 AM Thu                         | ■ Lakes              |
| ● 2:00 AM Tue                         | — Artibonite river   |
| ● 2:00 AM Wed                         |                      |
| ● 2:00 PM Mon                         |                      |
| ● 2:00 PM Tue                         |                      |
| ● 5:00 AM Mon                         |                      |
| <b>Potentail Track Area</b>           |                      |
| 1-3 DAYS                              |                      |
| 4-5 DAYS                              |                      |
| <b>Trajectory</b>                     |                      |
| — TS                                  |                      |



**Cartographic and Data Compilation & Analysis  
PAHO/HSD/IR/alert and Response Operations  
Nov 1st, 2010**

Cartographic sources:  
- ESRI: World Shaded Relief Base Map, 2010  
- NOAA, National Hurricane Center, Tropical StormTOMAS  
[http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/refresh/graphics\\_at1+shim/08114.shtml?5-day#contents](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/refresh/graphics_at1+shim/08114.shtml?5-day#contents)  
- ISGMA, 2005. Secretariat of the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping.  
- UN MINUSTAH,  
<http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/english/htmain.htm>  
- HES, Haiti Health Facilities,  
List of Health Institutions from the  
Minister de la Sante Publique et de la Population  
Master (MSP), Maps Files (RSS) (PAHO).  
Emergency Operations Center (EOC)  
Cholera cases: Haiti MHW, PWR/PAHO Haiti, Oct 2010