



# Epidemiological Alert: Weekly Update on the Cholera Situation

EW 51 (19 – 25 of December)  
(3 January 2011)

## Epidemiological situation

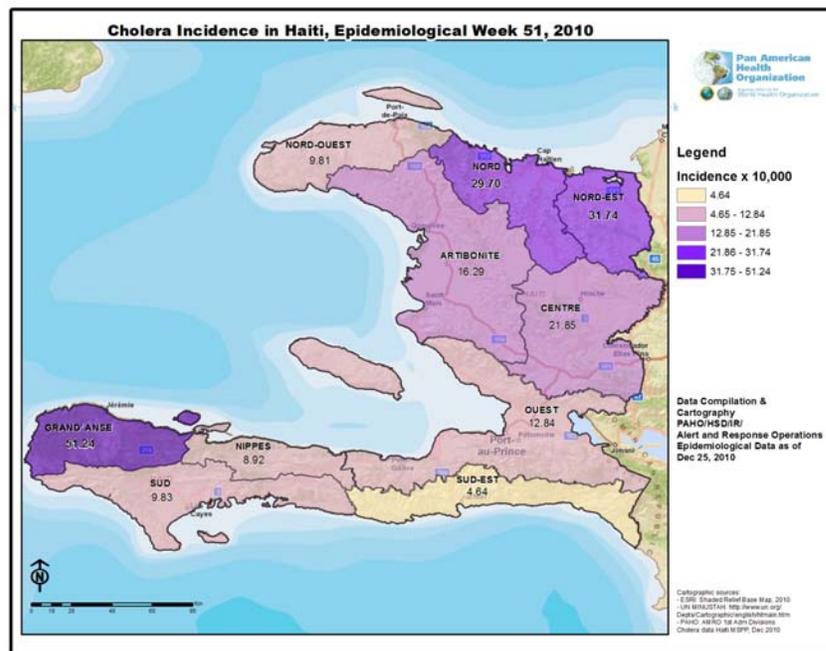
### Haiti

Like the previous epidemiological alerts, the information that is presented here is provided by the Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP)<sup>1</sup> which compiles the data obtained by the different partners of the Health Cluster<sup>2</sup>.

### Incident Cases

During the epidemiological week (EW) 51, at a national level, the MSPP registered 16,838 new cases, 26.5% less than the previous week (22,920 new cases). At the regional level, among the departments that presented the largest incidence of cases for EW 51, Grande Anse presented for the second week in a row the largest incidence of cases (51.29 per every 10,000 inhabitants), followed by Nord Est (31.74 cases per every 10,000 inhabitants), Nord (29.7 cases per every 10,000 inhabitants) and Centre (21.85 cases per every 10,000 inhabitants). See figure 1.

Figure 1.



<sup>1</sup> Rapport de Cas. Cholera. 25 décembre 2010. Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP).

<sup>2</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).

In the EW 51, at the hospital level 66.4% (11.180) of the total of new cases were treated.

## Accumulated Cases

Since the beginning of the cholera outbreak en the EW 42<sup>3</sup> to EW 51, the MSPP registered, at the entire national level, a total of 147,392 cholera cases<sup>4</sup>, of which, 55.7% (82,111) were hospitalized. At the regional level, the departments that presented the largest number of cases were Artibonita (50,465 cases), Ouest (34,231 cases), Nord (21,106 cases), Nord-Ouest (13,265 cases) and Centre (12,798 cases).

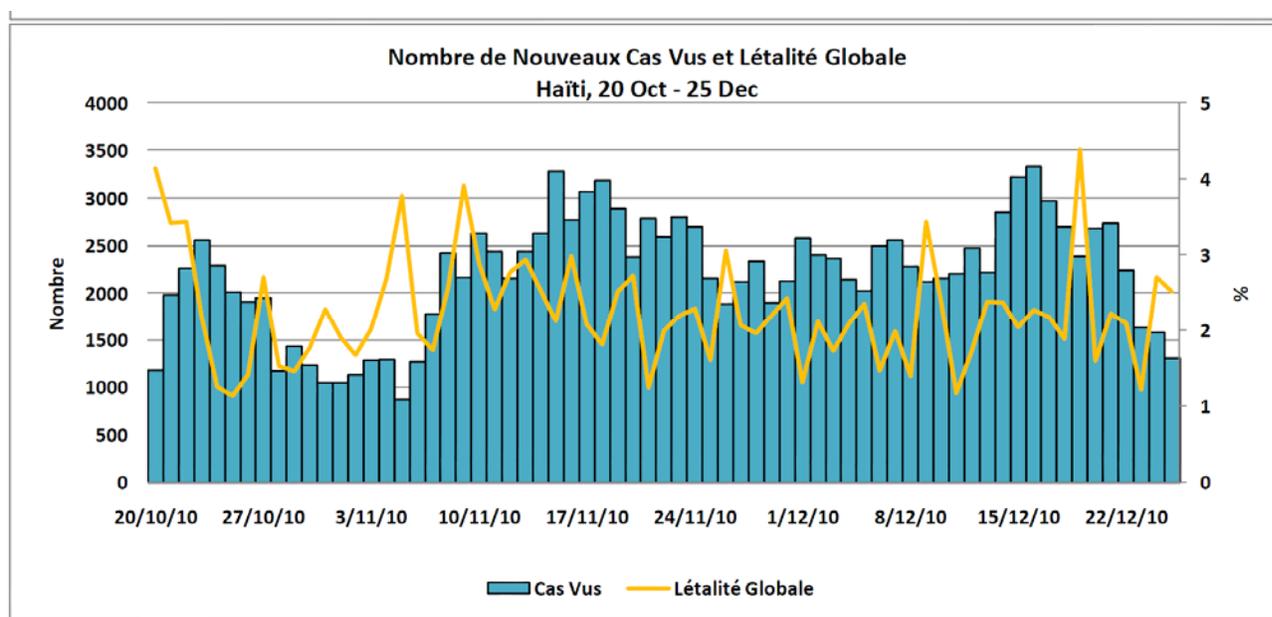
The departments with the largest incidence between the EWs of 42-51 were, Artibonita (321.2 cases per 10,000 inhabitants), Nord (217.5 cases per 10,000 inhabitants) and Nord-Ouest (200.1 cases per 10,000 inhabitants).

## Fatalities

In the EW 51, at the national level, 540 new fatalities were registered, 40% more than those registered in the previous week (385 deaths). In total, since the beginning of the epidemic, there have been 3,301 fatalities reported, of which, 66.2% (2,186) died at health facilities and 33.8% (1,115) within their communities. The case-fatality in hospitals was 2.7% and the global case-fatality was of 2.2%. It can be seen in daily detail in Figure 2.

At the regional level, during EW 51, the greatest number of fatalities was registered in Grand Anse (226 deaths), Sud Est (58 deaths), Nord (55 deaths) and Nord Est (52 deaths).

**Figure 2.** Daily curve of the cases and deaths by Cholera. Haiti. EW 42 through EW 51



Source: Ministère de la Sante Publique et de la Population

<sup>3</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).

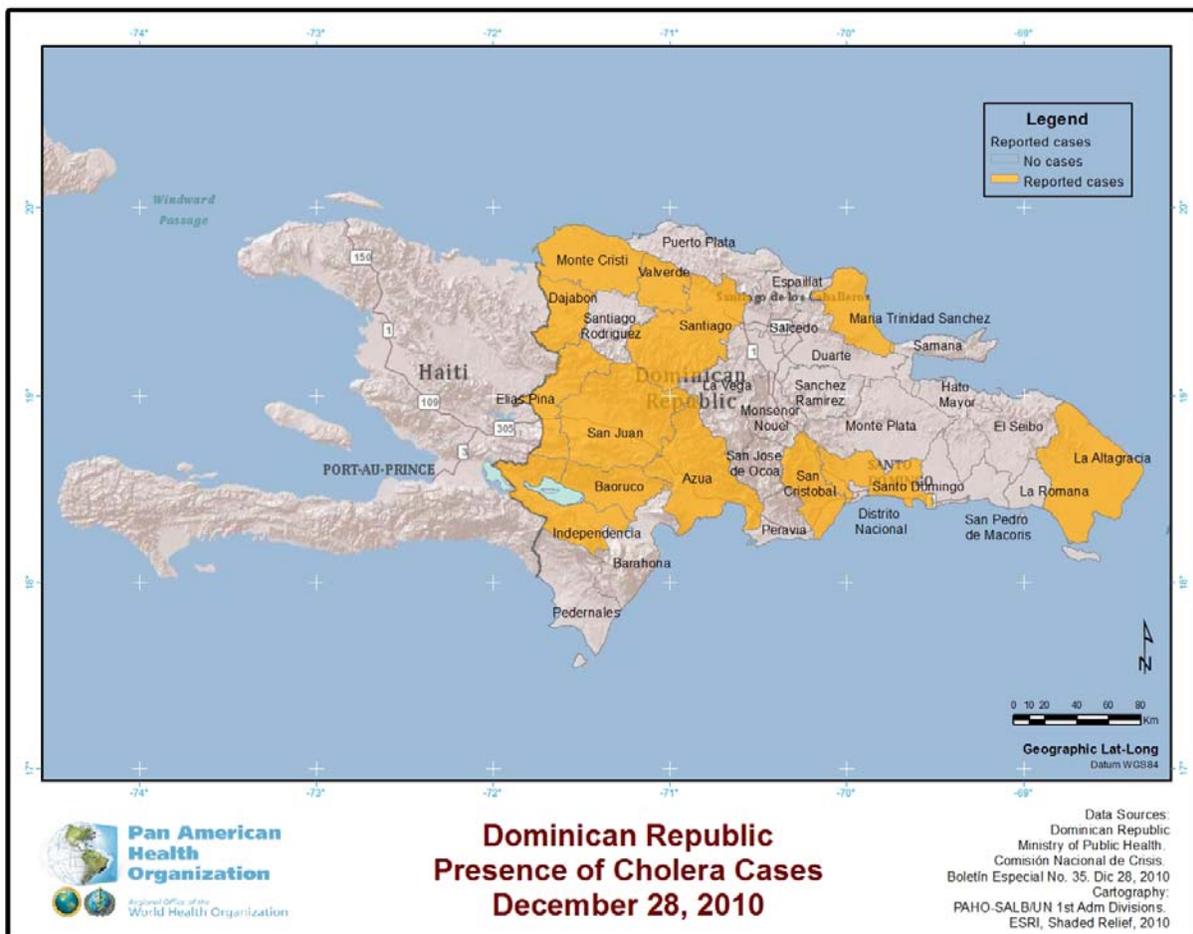
<sup>4</sup> On 16 November, the MSPP began including data on hospital visits due to cholera in its daily reports, which for the purpose of this report are considered as cases.

## Dominican Republic

According to the Ministry of Public Health from Dominican Republic<sup>5</sup>, since the beginning of the detection of the first case of cholera in the Dominican Republic (EW 46<sup>6</sup>), until the 28<sup>th</sup> of December of 2010, the Ministry of Public Health of the Dominican Republic has registered 131 cases of cholera with laboratory confirmation, of which 78% (103) were hospitalized. Up to this date no deaths have been registered.

Among the provinces that reported the greatest number of cases was: San Juan (28), Santiago (27), Elias Piña (27) and Santo Domingo (17). See figure 3.

**Figure 3.** Dominican Republic provinces with reported cases



<sup>5</sup> Boletín Especial N. 35. Cólera. Ministerio de Salud Pública de República Dominicana.

<sup>6</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 daily updates in respect to the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths by cholera are published through the Interactive Cholera Map, which is available through the following link:

[http://new.paho.org/hq/images/Atlas\\_IHR/CholeraHispaniola/atlas.html](http://new.paho.org/hq/images/Atlas_IHR/CholeraHispaniola/atlas.html)

The report about the actions taken by the Health Cluster at the national and county level can be found through the following link:

[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)

The Pan American Health Organization would like to remind Member States the need to strengthen surveillance measures, update response and preparedness plans, and implement appropriate prevention and promotion measures.

The following is an update of the **World Health Organization's International Travel and Health website**, as of 7 December 2010.

#### **Haiti - travel, trade and cholera**

Although it is unusual for tourists and short term visitors to be affected by cholera provided that they adhere to proper food safety and adequate hygiene, this disease continues to cause serious outbreaks in parts of the world where water supplies, sanitation, food safety, and hygiene are inadequate.

WHO does not recommend any travel and trade restrictions in relation to the Haiti cholera outbreak. National authorities are encouraged to provide arriving travellers with information on cholera symptoms, hygienic preventive measures and how to seek for medical care in case of symptoms. Authorities are also encouraged to disseminate information about the cholera situation worldwide and about current outbreaks in particular, to travel clinic, travel medicine networks, and other health care networks.

<http://www.who.int/ith/updates/20101207/en/index.html>

## Reference

1. Préliminaire data Ministère de la Santé 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)