



Epidemiological Alert:

Weekly Update on the Cholera Situation

EW 50 (12 to 18 December)

(23 December 2010)

Epidemiological Situation

Haiti

As in the previous epidemiological alerts, the information presented here, which integrates data obtained by the partners of the Health Cluster¹, has been provided by the Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP).

From epidemiological week (EW) 42² to EW 50, the MSPP reported at the national level a total of 128,251 cholera cases³, of which 53.6% (68,764) were hospitalized and 2,707 died (1,888 at the health services level and 819 at the community level). The in-hospital case fatality rate as of EW 50 is 2.7% and the overall case fatality rate is 2.1%.

Currently, all ten department of Haiti have reported cases and deaths due to cholera. During the previous three epidemiological weeks, the highest cumulative incidence was observed in the departments of Artibonite (305 cases per 10,000 inhabitants) followed by Nord Ouest, Nord and Centre (with 190 and 185 and 167 cases per 10,000 inhabitants, respectively).

In Port-au-Prince and its metropolitan area, from EW 44⁴ to EW 50, 20,853 cholera cases were recorded, of which 38.1% (7,942) were hospitalized and 257 died (248 at the health services level and 9 at the community level). The cumulative in-hospital case fatality rate as of EW 50 is 3.1% and the overall case fatality rate is 1.2%.

At the national level, during the EW 50 registered a new increasing number of new cases and hospitalized cases due to cholera, after two weeks of decreasing indicators. The in-hospital case fatality rate due to cholera maintained a decreasing trend for the eighth consecutive week.

At the department level, during EW 50, the number of cholera cases and hospitalized cases due to cholera continues to decline in the same four departments (Artibonite, Centre, Nord and Nord Ouest). During this same week, the department of Sud-Est reported less new cases and new hospitalized cases as compared to previous weeks. In the rest of the six departments, an increase

¹ 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).

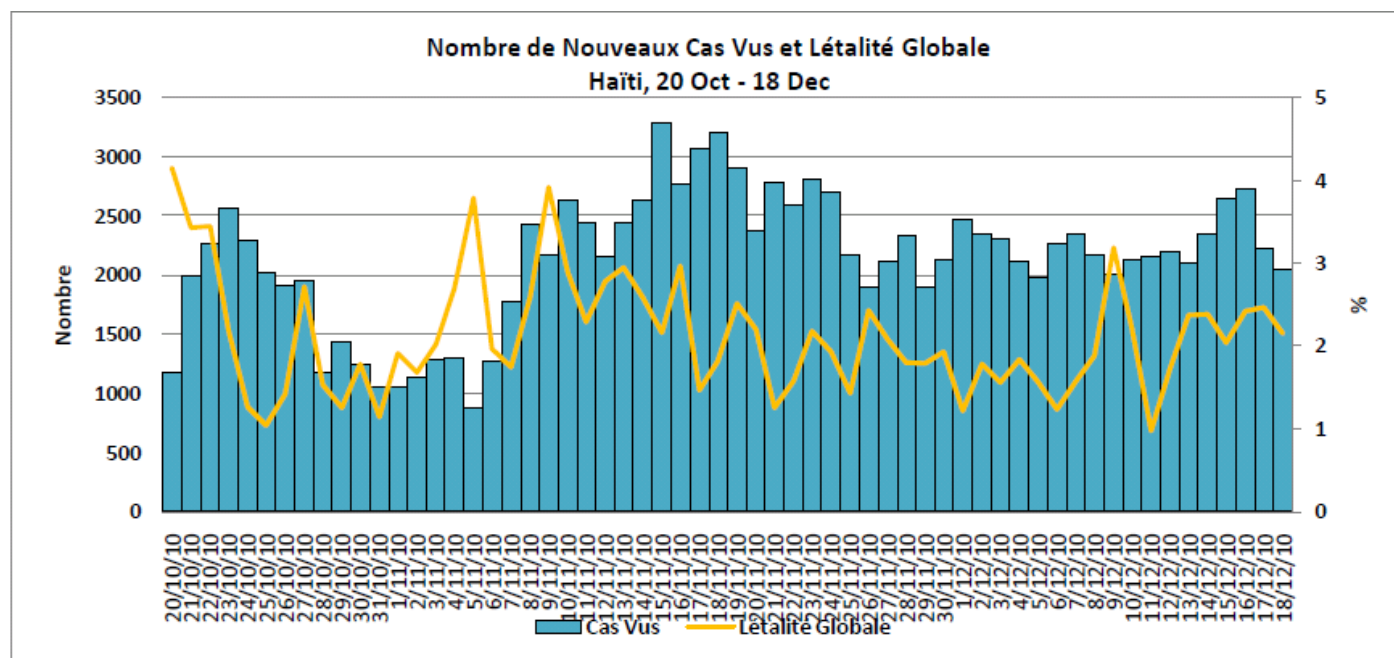
² On 20 October 2010 the first cholera cases in hospitalized patients were laboratory confirmed in the Department of Artibonite. The Haiti Public Health Laboratory isolated *V. cholerae* O: 1 serotype Ogawa. This isolation was confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

³ 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.

⁴ The first hospitalizations due to cholera were reported by the MSPP on 7 November 2010.

of the numbers of cholera cases and hospitalized cases due to cholera was registered. The highest increases were registered in Ouest, Grand Anse and Nippes. In four departments (Artibonite, Nord Oest, Oest and Sud Est) the cumulative in-hospital case fatality rate was less than the one registered in the previous EW. In the rest of departments, and increase was observed.

Figure 1. Daily cholera cases and overall case fatality rate. Haiti. EW 42 to EW 50



Source: Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population

Daily updates, which include information on the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths due cholera, are published on the Cholera Interactive Map, which is available at the following link:

http://new.paho.org/hq/images/Atlas_IHR/CholeraHispaniola/atlas.html

A report 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

Dominican Republic

From EW 46⁵ to EW 50, the Ministry of Public Health of the Dominican Republic recorded 73 laboratory confirmed cholera cases, of which 75% (55) were hospitalized. No deaths were recorded. Also, 4 cases have been considered imported and 69 autochthonous.

In 10 of 32 provinces in the nation, cholera cases were registered: Santiago (19), Santo Domingo (15), Elías Piña (13), San Juan (12), Da-jabón (3), Valverde (2), Independencia (2), Monte Cristi (1), San Cristóbal (1) and Maria Trinidad Sánchez (1).

The Pan American Health Organization would like to remind Members 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>

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
2. 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=3487

⁵ On November 16, 2010, the National Reference laboratory isolated V. cholerae O: 1 serotype Ogawa from a sample of a 32 years-old patient.