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Fighting Water Borne Diseases

## Cholera Response Fact Sheet

August 2016 (DATA FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY TO 27 August)



- The United Nations interventions against cholera in August 2016 reached more than 80,000 Haitians

- Funds are urgently needed for the rapid response while 26,800 cases have been registered in 2016

### Current situation

The Ministry of Public Health and Population in Haiti (MSPP) has reported 26,799 suspected cholera cases and 242 cholera related deaths from 1st January to 27 August 2016, in comparison with the 20,814 suspected cases and 178 related deaths registered in 2015 from 1st January to 8 August. The heavy rains, combined with a reduced number of response teams due to funding shortage, have resulted in an increase in the number of cases. Political instability may also hinder local capacity to respond to outbreaks.

The UN Secretary-General has made eliminating cholera a key UN priority, and the UN system in Haiti continues to support the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera (2013-2022) and the rapid response to cholera.

Haitian and international efforts have succeeded in drastically reducing the cholera cases and fatalities in Haiti by almost 90% since the peak in 2011 (350,000 cases in 2011 down to 36,000 suspected cholera cases last year). However, funds are urgently needed to maintain the rapid response and the long-term response, so that gains are not reversed. Therefore, the United Nations in Haiti strongly encourages all parties to remain vigilant, since vulnerability to cholera persists in many areas of the country.

**The rapid response has proved successful saving lives; it is urgent to maintain it**

The UN alerts about the the fact that the current rapid response mechanism is only adequately funded until end September, having a gap of US\$ 12.3 million. This rapid response has proved successful in cutting the transmission and saving lives, and reducing the teams would increase the risk of new cases during the rainy season, usually a critical period.



Campagne de vaccination en 2016. L. ABASSI

**PAHO/WHO AND UNICEF SUPPORTED HAITIAN AUTHORITIES TO DEVELOP THE NATIONAL CHOLERA ELIMINATION PLAN FOR THE MEDIUM TERM PHASE**

### Evolution of suspected cholera cases between October 2010 and 27 August 2016

Source: MSPP Haiti

Year	Suspected cholera cases	Total Deaths	Incidence rate (per 1.000)	Fatality rate in hospitals
2010 (Oct-Dec)	185,351	3,951	18.36	2.43%
2011	351,839	2,918	34.33	1.04%
2012	101,503	908	9.73	0.96%
2013	58,574	581	5.57	1.05%
2014	29,078	297	2.71	1.01%
2015	36,045	322	3.9	0.75%
2016 (1 Jan-27 August)	26,799	234	2.46	0.81%
<b>Total</b>	<b>789,242</b>	<b>9,229</b>		

### 7<sup>th</sup> High Level Committee on Cholera and visit from the Special Advisor to the SG, Dr. David Nabarro

On 30 August 2016, the Minister for Public Health and Population, Dr. Daphnee Delsoin Benoit, and the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General in Haiti, Sandra Honoré, co-chaired the seventh meeting of the High Level Committee on Cholera (HLCC). Also present on the United Nations side were the Special Advisor to the Secretary-General, Dr. David Nabarro, on mission in Haiti, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, and the representatives of PAHO/WHO, UNICEF, OCHA and the World Bank. The High Level Committee on Cholera (HLCC) was set up by the UN Secretary General and the Prime Minister of Haiti in May 2014 in order to coordinate and support the cholera response. It meets on a regular basis and is co-chaired by the SRSO and the Health Minister.

At the plenary session, the Minister of Health acknowledged the contribution of the UN, requested further support for the medium term Plan for the Elimination of Cholera in Haiti (2016-2018), with special emphasis on sanitation, access to water and health care structures for the patients. In this regard, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General reaffirmed the continuous mobilization of the United Nations efforts to support the response to cholera.

### Mid-Term review of the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera for the period 2016-2018

On 18 August 2016, the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) alongside with the international community presented the mid-term review of the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera 2013-2022 for the period 2016-2018, with an estimated budget of US\$ 182.3 million.

### The UN response to cholera between 2010 and 2016

-Between 2010 and August 2016, the UN family in Haiti has directly mobilized more than US\$60 million to implement 291 initiatives (projects and programs) for both rapid response and longer term response to address the root causes of the epidemic; strengthening water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructures, quality accessible health services, and capacity development. This is a priority for the Sustainable Development Goals agenda.

-The UN has also supported the Haitian Government to mobilize US\$307 million for the National Plan for the Cholera Elimination (the previously mentioned US\$60 million are included) to address the root causes of the cholera epidemic and of all water borne diseases.

### Vaccination 2016

-The PAHO/WHO and UNICEF accompanied the Haitian Ministry of Health (MSPP) to launch in Arcahaie the 2016 cholera vaccination campaign, as part of the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera, targeting 400.000 persons. In April and May 2016, an estimated 118.000 persons have already received the two doses of the oral vaccine in vulnerable areas.

-In July, the Ministry proposed to expand the initial target group of beneficiaries to vaccinate 868.000 persons during the period 2016-2017, including the entire centre department. This campaign will depend on the availability of funds and vaccines, and therefore is still under discussion.

### The UN response to cholera in August 2016



- UNICEF and partners have implemented together with the Ministry of Health 495 rapid responses to cholera alerts in all 10 departments, benefiting about 5,169 households (approximately 20,000 individuals) and responding to 869 cases (providing health treatment, sanitation, water and prevention kits)

- As part of the National Sanitation Campaign, UNICEF continued working with Haitian authorities (DINEPA) to improve sanitation in 6 of the 16 cholera high-priority communes.



- PAHO/WHO supported the MSPP in follow-up and monitoring activities in health structures in the Artibonite, North East and West departments to improve the standards for care and treatment of cholera.
- PAHO/WHO and UNICEF supported the MSPP and DINEPA in the development of the National Cholera Elimination Plan for the medium term phase. Workshops were held August 8-12.

International  
Organization  
for Migration



- IOM's funded cholera response ended July 31st 2016. However, IOM maintained its epidemiologic surveillance /monitoring and continued its support to Household Water treatment (AquaJif).



- MINUSTAH continued working on 24 projects focused on WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) and health, representing US\$ 1, 4 million and reaching some 391,809 direct and indirect beneficiaries in 6 of the country's ten Departments. Of these 24 projects, five projects, totaling US\$ 340,170 and reaching 61,860 people, were officially completed in August. Four others have been approved and 15 are on-going.

The UN response to cholera in 2016 has been supported by ECHO, DFID; Norway, Canada and Japan Government; German and French UNICEF national committees and OFID.