



CHOLERA PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

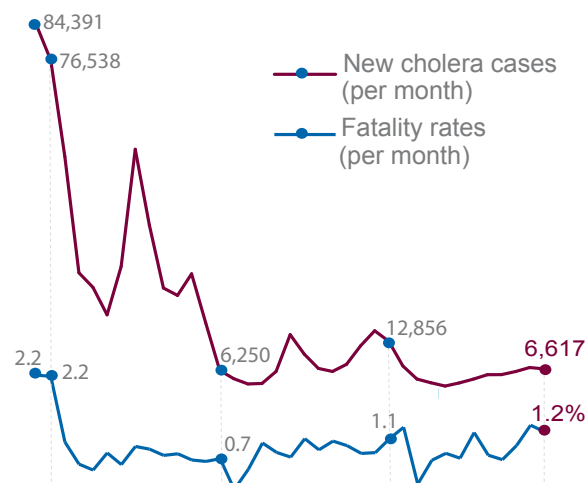
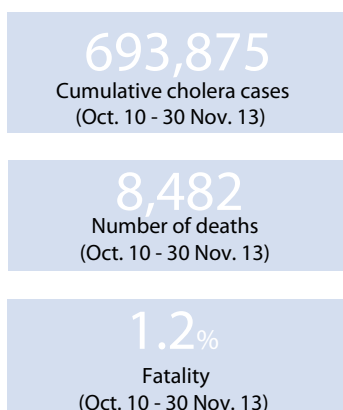
Strengthening the Government's capacity to respond to cholera remains the central objective behind UN efforts, including the launch by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon of a new initiative to support expanded access to clean water and sanitation, improved health care and the global mobilization of resources to tackle cholera in Haiti.

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

Since its emergence in October 2010, cholera has affected an estimated 697,715 people and claimed the lives of 8,547 people. (1) From January to December 2013, Haiti reported more than 58,600 cases and 592 deaths. According to WHO/PAHO, up to 45,000 people could be affected by the epidemic during 2014.

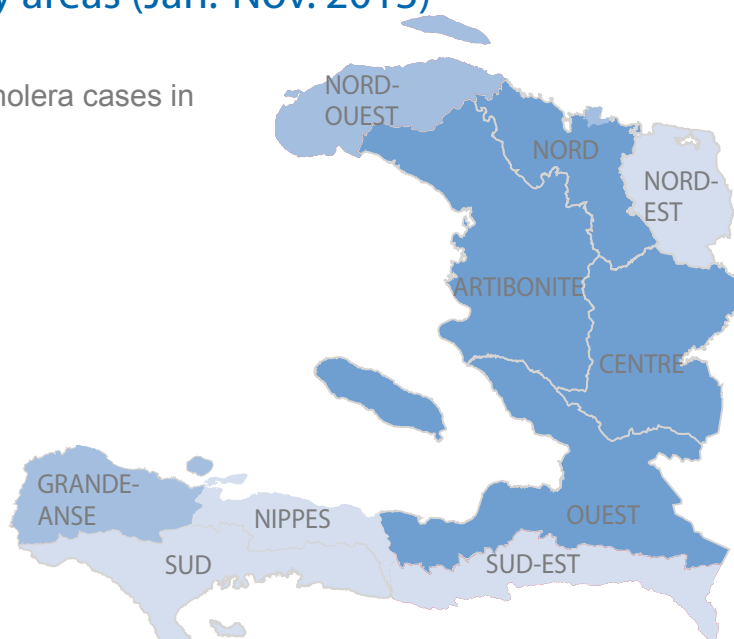
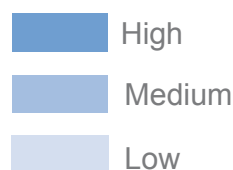
The number of suspected cases has been reduced significantly every year, from 352,033 cases in 2011 to 58,600 cases in 2013. The number of people perishing due to the disease stands at 1.22%, slightly over the 1% internationally recognized global target for effective cholera control but far below 2.2% observed at the end of December 2010.

General information on cholera in Haiti (Oct. 2010 - 30 Nov. 2013)



Current priority areas (Jan.-Nov. 2013)

Based on number of cholera cases in department



More than \$140 million USD spent and/or committed to respond to the epidemic since its outbreak.

The United Nations helped establish/upgrade 160 cholera treatment facilities, rehabilitated water and sanitation (WASH) infrastructures in five department hospitals and 14 cholera treatment facilities, improved water quality in 80 health centres and established nearly 700 water and chlorination points across Haiti.

A water-quality monitoring system is implemented in 56 health centres and is being expanded to all of Haiti's 140 communes.

Sanitary facilities were built in 240 schools.

Reduced risks for an estimated 1.2 million people through desludging of latrines.

More than 9 million water purification tablets, soaps and medical items and equipment supplied for the prevention and treatment of cholera.

Oral cholera vaccines were purchased to cover up to 110,000 people.

Community-based hygiene campaigns have reached hundreds of thousands of families.

400 metric tons of health, water and sanitation materials provided to areas facing cholera outbreaks.

A network of national and international NGOs working in WASH with experience in fighting cholera in Haiti was set-up to reinforce the role of national authorities and to improve nationwide coordination and response.

A majority of recommendations made by a panel of independent experts were adopted on how to avoid future epidemics.

CHALLENGES PERSPECTIVES

The number of international actors engaged in cholera response efforts has declined from 120 in 2011 to about 50 in 2013, while national capacity has not increased by any comparable degree, creating a significant gap in treatment coverage.

There is an urgent need to continue supporting waste treatment in IDP camps. The dysfunctional national water system needs to be improved.

Rising institutional death rates reflect the need to improve the quality of case management across the country, which is severely hampered by insufficient medical staff due to the lack of payment of salaries and incentives.

The UN and its partners remain fully mobilized to address these challenges in support of the Government of Haiti and will continue to appeal for additional funding to adequately address both short and longer-term needs.

The UN Secretary-General launched the Initiative for the Elimination of Cholera in the Island of Hispaniola in December 2012. In view of strengthening initiatives underway, the SG requested the elaboration of a clear road map outlining the UN's cholera elimination efforts in the country, the establishment of a Cholera Coordination Unit in Haiti to oversee UN efforts and appointed a Senior Cholera Coordinator based in New York to optimize UN resources and support the national plan for the elimination of cholera.

A Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP) and a cholera-specific UN plan were developed for 2014, in which USD 40 million are requested for cholera prevention and treatment.

(1) Data as of 8 January 2014

Sources: WHO/PAHO, MSPP, WASH Cluster, Health Cluster