



**Monday, October 25, 2010
6:00 PM, EDT**

EOC SITUATION REPORT #4 Cholera Outbreak in Haiti

Summary

- As of today, the MSPP (*Ministère de la santé publique et de la population*), with support from partners like PAHO and the CDC, has reported 259 fatalities and 3,342 confirmed cases.
- Currently there are 12 cholera treatment centers being built to support isolation and treatment of cases: six in Artibonite, one in Central, and five in Port-au-Prince.
- The emphasis is on prevention by ensuring clean water, promoting good personal hygiene, and food handling practices, including hand washing and trying to prevent defecation in open areas.
- While no cases of cholera have been reported in Dominican Republic, the outbreak has prompted the Government to mobilize a contingency plan in the border area.



From left to right: Dr. Claude Surena (Coordonnateur Commission Nacional de Santé), Dr. Lea Guido (Représentant OPS/OMS), Dr. Gabriel Timothee (Directeur General du Ministère de la Santé Publique), Mr. Jean Claude Mubalama (Représentant UNICEF), DR. Jocelyne Pierre Louis (Responsable Direction Santé Familiale MSPP).

PAHO/WHO Response

- As just under half of reported deaths so far are taking place in hospitals, but more than half are in the community, PAHO is in the process of mobilizing experts in the area of proper body disposal to travel to Haiti.
- PAHO continues to mobilize international experts including epidemiologists, risk communication, case management, laboratory, water and sanitation, logistics, and LSS/SUMA to Haiti and also to the Dominican Republic.

- PAHO's PROMESS warehouse currently has stocks of medicines and antibiotics, and PAHO is procuring additional stocks of IV fluids and medical supplies.
- PAHO is also supporting the Water & Sanitation Cluster in Haiti providing powdered chlorine (including supplies from Brazil) for water purification and testing water that is being distributed to settlement camps. PAHO is also making special efforts to ensure clean water in hospitals.
- PAHO's Caribbean Epidemiology Center (CAREC) located in Trinidad is helping Caribbean ministries of health to mobilize and be prepared for any potential cases in the other islands.
- PAHO continues to coordinate these efforts with other UN agencies, and with health officials in the U.S. and Canada. Relief efforts continue as the government, MINUSTAH, UN agencies and NGOs continuing to provide assistance in a growing number of locations.

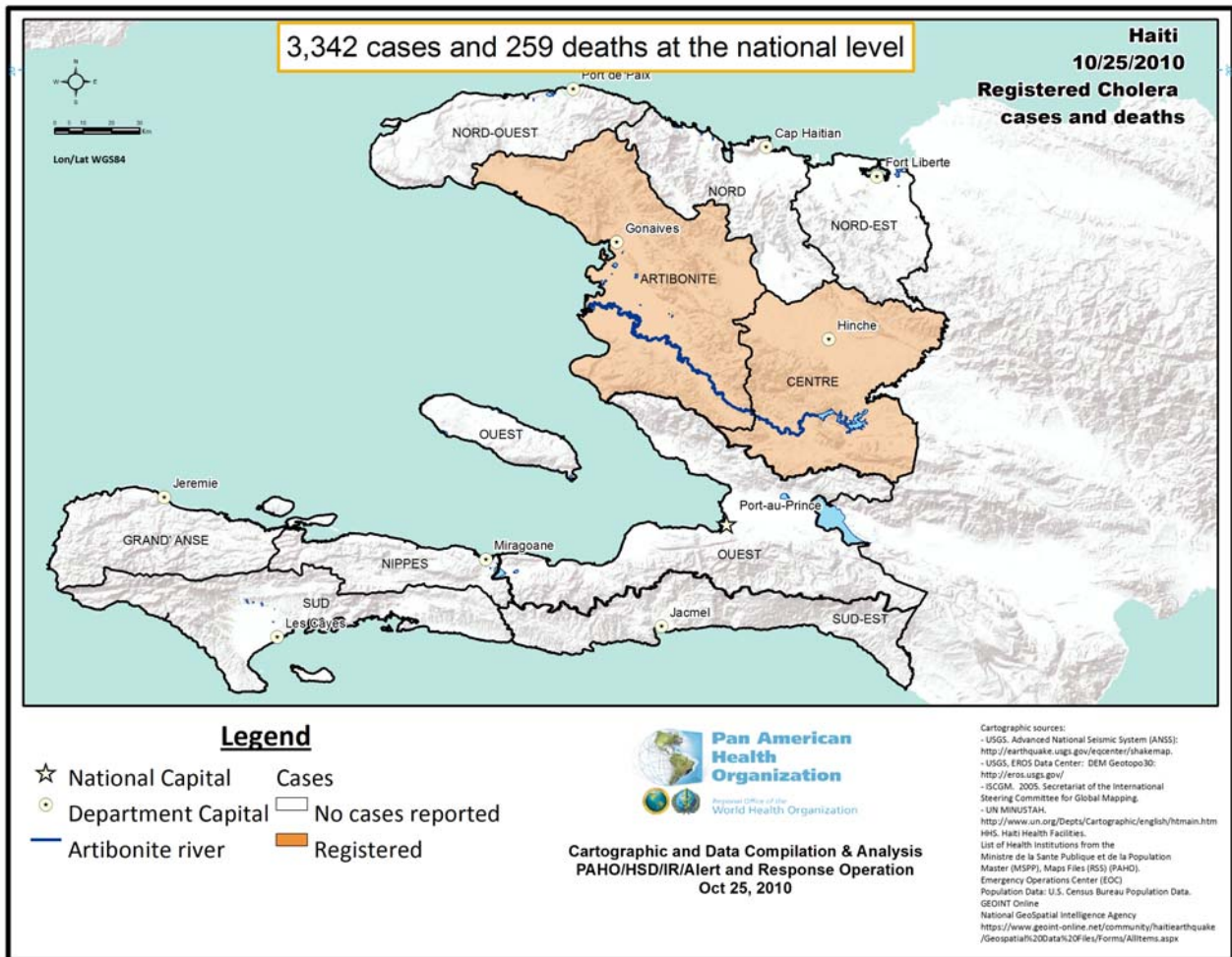
Cholera Key Facts

- Cholera is an acute diarrheal infection caused by exposition, ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae 0:1*.
- Provision of safe water and sanitation is critical in reducing the impact of cholera and other waterborne diseases.
- Up to 80% of cases can be successfully treated with oral rehydration salts.
- There are an estimated 3–5 million cholera cases and 100 000–120 000 deaths due to cholera every year around the world.

Resources

- [PAHO Disasters homepage](#).
- [PAHO's main website](#).
- [WHO Global Task Force on Cholera Control](#).
- [Haiti OneResponse](#).
- [WHO's main website](#).
- For constant updates on the cholera outbreak in Haiti, you can also check the [PAHO](#) and [WHO](#) channels in Twitter.

Situation Map



Updated maps will be posted on www.paho.org.

The PAHO/WHO Emergency Operations Center will issue situation reports as the situation requires.

Contact the PAHO EOC at +1 202 974 3399 or eoc@paho.org
[Click here](#) to view previous situation reports from the PAHO Emergency Operations Center.