



FACTSHEET HAITI CHOLERA EPIDEMICS

1. LATEST AVAILABLE FIGURES

As of 14/11/10	Estimates
Number of deaths	917 ¹
Number of wounded/sick	** 14,642 hospitalisations ¹



Distribution de savon
lundi 25 octobre à Petit
Poteneau, commune de
Grande Saline, ACTED

At the recovery childrens room in L'Estere
Hospital. 28/10/2010. Photo:
B. Garlaschi/Spanish Red Cross



¹ Report from the Ministry of Public Health, Epidemiological data, 14 November 2010

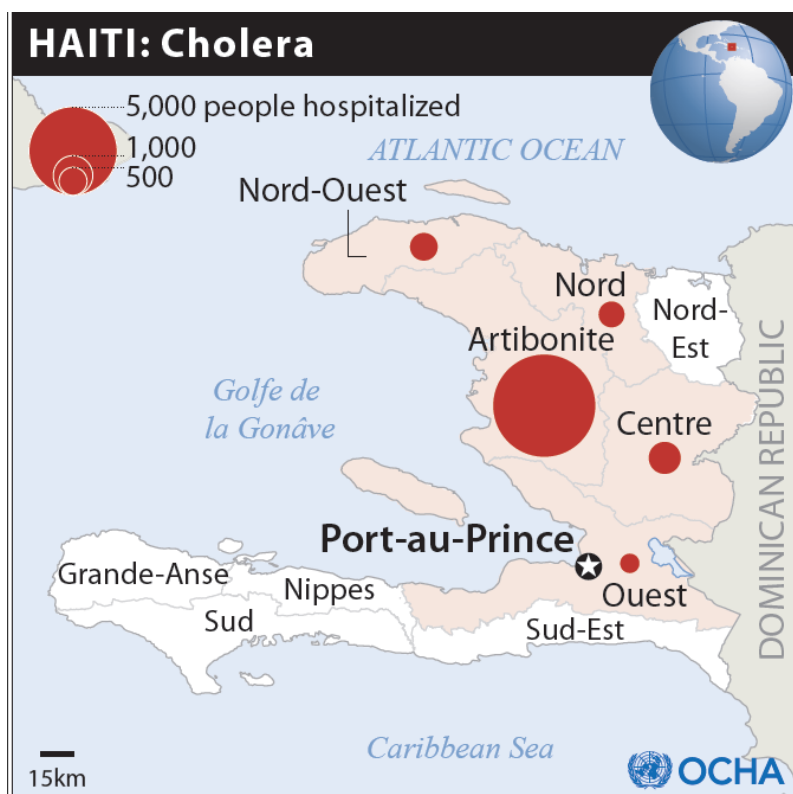


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2. BACKGROUND

Haiti is suffering the first cholera outbreak of unknown origin within almost 100 years. First detected case of **cholera**: 19 October 2010. The majority of the cases were coming from the Artibonite river basin, between Mirebalais and St. Marc. On 21 October 2010, official declaration of the Cholera as the pathologic germ and its epidemic character (PAHO, MoH, CDC). The Artibonite river is likely to be the source of the outbreak.

Almost all the country seems to be affected now, with the department of Artibonite and the city of Gonaives most hit and the disease spreading throughout the north and into Port-au-Prince. Operation Center under the President is now in charge for coordinating all activities.



OCHA 10 November 2010

3. IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES FOR HUMANITARIAN AID

- The **current capacity** of 700 **beds** in 5 Cholera Treatment Centers (CTC) in Port au Prince (planned to rise to 1.000 beds in 10 CTCs in the coming days) and less than 500 beds out of Port au Prince **is not sufficient to respond to the increasing demand**.



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- As cholera is unknown to health staff and population, there is a **lack of technical capacity and fear** is growing among affected population. Supplies, management of dead bodies and transport of patients are issues.
- There is **an urgent need for additional technical epidemiological support at the departmental level**.
- There is a **need for beds, Ringer lactate, antibiotics, intravenous catheters and body bags**.
- The urgent distribution of **water purification tablets, sachets of oral rehydration salts, chlorine powder is a priority**. Access to clean water is a major concern. Adequate water and sanitation (biological waste management) has to be ensured as a priority for CTCs. WASH human resources are needed urgently.

Mass media should be more involved in **sensitization** on key issues such as the use of chlorine to ensure safe drinking water and proper hand washing techniques.

4. MAIN CHALLENGES FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Heavy rainfall is expected to enhance the transmission of cholera in the areas affected. Dispersal of evacuees from flooded areas is expected to facilitate the diffusion of cholera into areas not previously exposed and potentially overwhelm already stressed Cholera Treatment Centres (CTCs).

5. COMMISSION'S HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO): has an office in Port-au-Prince.

DG ECHO will mobilize the 2010 remaining humanitarian funds allocated for Haiti. Already €5.8 million were allocated in new contracts and extensions of existing contracts to humanitarian NGOs in the affected areas.

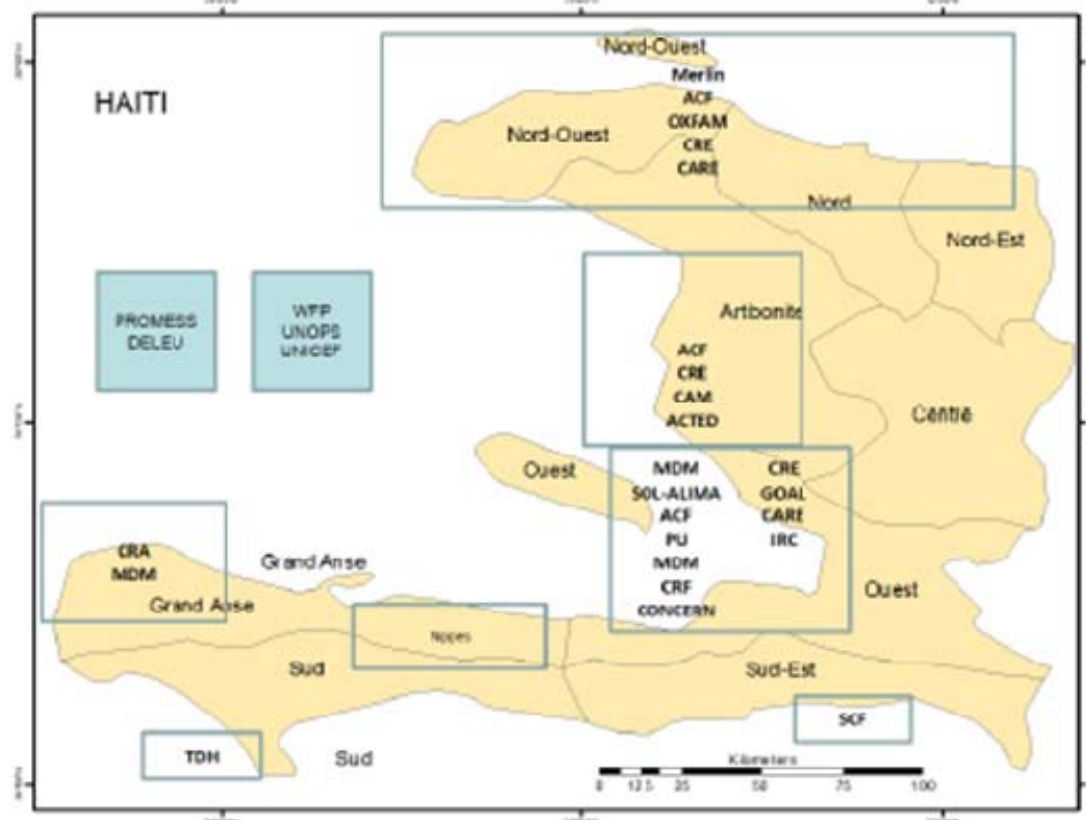
DG ECHO strategy is threefold :

- **Support of epidemiological surveillance system and health coordination** at the departmental level and in Port au Prince.
- **Preventive strategies:** Intensification of existing services through partners: hygiene promotion (targeting at chlorination at the domestic and water point level, hand washing, disinfection of latrines in camps, information and communication on cholera), distribution of soaps, aquatabs and ORS, extension of chlorinated water trucking.
- **Curative strategies:** training of health staff, support of cholera treatment centres (CTC, CTU) and Oral Rehydration Points, referral system for patients, supply chain for medical products.



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ECHO humanitarian partners' presence in Haiti



6. COMMISSION'S CIVIL PROTECTION RESPONSE

The EU CP Mechanism was activated as a consequence of a request for international assistance by the Prime Minister of Haiti. The European Commission's Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) transmitted this request to the 31 countries that participate in the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism. Following the request for assistance received by the MIC, France sent 208 rolls of tarpaulins (10 tons) and 100 foldable beds (1.3 tons).

The MIC has also requested Participating States (PS) to nominate experts for a possible deployment of an EU Civil Protection team. 3 experts and 1 MIC LO have been selected. The EU Civil Protection Team is at the moment on stand-by.

The MIC is closely working with ECHO Humanitarian Aid colleagues in order to reassess the needs and gaps on the international assistance taking into account the new situation, more focused on the epidemics of cholera. Based on this new assessment the MIC may modify the requests of assistance if needed. The MIC is also considering a new request for experts.



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7. OTHER COMMISSION'S SERVICES

Two experts from the European Center for Disease Control (ECDC) arrived on Saturday to Port-au-Prince for an exploratory mission. This agency, managed by DG Sanco, is specialised in communicable diseases and health risk assessment. They work in close collaboration with ECHO's health expert.