



HIGHLIGHTS

- Access to water and sanitation continues to deteriorate in IDP camps
- Torrential rains in September and October lead to more cholera outbreaks
- Food insecurity affects one in two Haitians

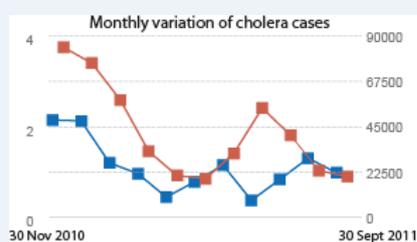


CHOLERA RESPONSE

More rain brings more cholera outbreaks

Despite an overall downward trend¹ of the cholera epidemic, abundant rains in September and October triggered important cholera outbreaks across the country, particularly in the North, Sud, and Nippes departments, and Port-au-Prince metropolitan area.

The Sud department is particularly vulnerable due to the limited number of health partners. The withdrawal of the British Red Cross, scheduled to take place at the end of October, is likely to have an impact on case management, awareness raising and WASH activities in the area.



■ Mortality
■ Cases Viewed

As of 14 Oct 2011:
30
Cholera Treatment
Centres
161
Cholera Treatment
Units

As of 2 Oct 2011:
1.4%
Cumulative mortality
rate nationwide
465,293
cumulative cholera
cases
6,559
number of deaths

Source: Health cluster,
MSPP

Following torrential rains from 7 to 11 October, the number of new cases doubled in the department, with 1,339 new patients from 1 to 11 October, compared to 562 from 25 September to 1 October.

In the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, the system of bed capacity monitoring, which was implemented during previous outbreaks, has been re-activated. Out of a total number of 854 beds, 617 beds were occupied as of 21 September, reports the Health Cluster.

The epidemiological tendency has followed the anticipated course, beginning with localized outbreaks in highly populated urban areas and then spreading to rural zones. Torrential rains are still expected in Sud, Sud-Est and Nord departments until the end of October, according to the Health Cluster, at a time when a withdrawal or downscaling of health partners due to funding gap is threatening the ability to respond to further outbreaks.

It also appears that outbreaks of cholera registered in the country since the end of the first peak in June are much more severe, though more localized. Modes of transmission may have evolved. Contamination through street markets and the pollution of drinking water sources may have become a main vector of cholera contamination.

Nationwide access to safe drinking water and sanitation reaches respectively 54 and 30 percent, reports the WASH Cluster. With the end of the emergency phase in May, the National Directorate for Water and Sanitation (DINEPA) launched the Phase 3 of its national response strategy to the cholera epidemic. It included building sustainable water and sanitation infrastructures in a context

¹. The Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) reported 185 deaths and 14,748 new cases for the month of September, compared to 324 deaths and 23,323 new cases for August. The overall mortality rate nationwide remains at 1.4 percent.

predicted to be characterized by an absence or near absence of cholera cases.

With renewed outbreaks, DINEPA revised its strategy and launched a third distribution of water purification tablets last August. This has benefitted more than 800,000 people in targeted communal sections with the highest incidence of cholera and

no previous coverage. In November 2010 DINEPA already made an initial distribution of water purification tablets to more than one million families and soap to more than 400,000 families. A second distribution to 200,000 households took place last May and June.

EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE



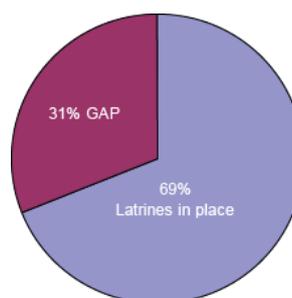
Continued deterioration of water and sanitation conditions in IDP camps

Access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services is increasingly deteriorating, according to the latest survey conducted in 626 sites hosting a total of 502,008 IDPs by the National Directorate for Water and Sanitation (DINEPA) and the WASH Cluster. Withdrawal of humanitarian actors and underfunding has resulted in a lack of drainage services, poor maintenance and repair of infrastructures and latrines.

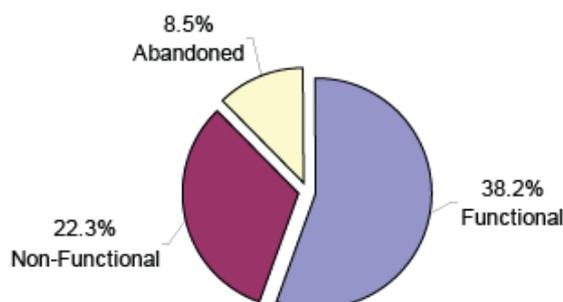
Access to drinking water has also significantly decreased following the interruption of free water trucking between May and June. In August, only 7 per cent of the people had regular access to drinking water, compared to 48 per cent in March. The quality of water lost 14 points, from 62 percent in July to 48 percent in August. In urban areas, where most of the IDPs camps are located, water is provided either through water trucking system, water kiosks or the connexion to the city networks, as opposed to rural areas where people depend on rivers and hand pumps.

Out of a total of 12,000 latrines needed, 4,579 were reported to be functional in August, down from 5,864 in July. On the other hand, the number of non-functional latrines more than doubled, from 1,303 in July to 2,681 in August. A total of 1,017 latrines have been identified as "abandoned"². This had led to increasing open air defecation, posing public health risks to camp population and surrounding areas.

Desludging activities conducted by UNOPS with DINEPA trucks stopped on 31 August due to a lack of funding. In the meantime, the WASH Cluster, in cooperation with DINEPA and UNOPS, are implementing minimal desludging activities in IDP camps and Cholera Treatment Centers (CTCs).



Percentage of latrines in camps



Status of latrines in camps based on total need of 12,000

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) started emergency drainage operations in 47 priority IDP sites and CTCs. IOM resumed drainage activities in 85 sites while UNICEF extended existing contracts with partners from the private sector for drainage activities in 105 other sites. However, existing needs are not totally covered. DINEPA, UNOPS, UNICEF and the WASH Cluster continue to look for funding to resume desludging programmes.

The percentage of camps with available hand washing stations is at its lowest, from 20% last March to 12 percent in August. Hygiene promotion activities are also declining. The percentage of sites with at least one partner conducting hygiene promotion activities for 500 people was at 29 percent in August, compared to 33 percent in July and 36 percent in May.

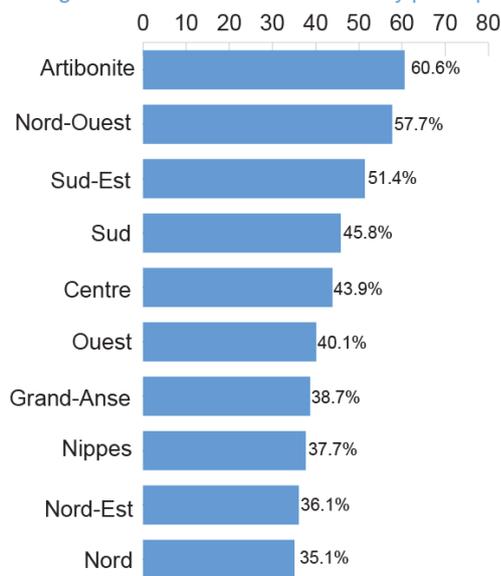
² Not functional and cannot be repaired

Almost one in two Haitians is food insecure

Nearly one in two people in Haiti is food insecure, according to the results of a national survey conducted in April and May in 297 municipalities by the National Coordination for Food Security (CNSA) in cooperation with WFP, FAO, Tulane University, the State University of Haiti and FEWSNET.

In total, 4.5 million Haitians are struggling with food insecurity and of those, 800,000 have no regular access to basic staples.

Percentage of households in food insecurity per department



"Haiti has a high poverty rate and half the population lives on less than a dollar a day. It was expected that the rate of food insecurity would equal the poverty rate", says Gary Mathieu, director of the CNSA.

At the same time last year, an emergency assessment estimated the number of Haitians living in food insecurity to be between 2.5 and 3.3 million. The increase in food prices, loss of agricultural production related to Hurricane Tomas, the drought of early 2011, the cholera epidemic and the phase out of humanitarian partners have contributed to an increase in the level of food insecurity.

"The biggest shock was the increase in food prices considering that urban-dwellers are entirely dependent on markets to feed themselves. The survey also shows that the rural population was not spared by price hikes. People living in the countryside also depend on the markets to

purchase between 60 and 70% of their food", adds Gary Mathieu.

In areas directly affected by the 2010 earthquake, food insecurity remains stable at 40 per cent and below the national average. This has been attributed to the humanitarian response. However, displaced persons living in the camps of Port-au-Prince metropolitan area have higher rates of food insecurity than the rest of the population.

The survey further showed that in Haiti, food insecurity is higher in rural and peri-urban areas where agriculture is the main activity, with the Nord-Ouest, Artibonite, Sud and Sud-Est being the most affected.

Another survey showed that the 2011 crop production will be lower than the previous year. The country does not produce enough food to meet the needs of the population and will need to import over 900,000 tons of food to do so.

North-Est department gets ready to face droughts

As the country is struggling with food insecurity, the Nord-Est department has been strengthening its ability to cope with prolonged drought periods. This was highlighted during the information and validation workshop of the Food Security and Sustainable Management of the Environment (SAGE) project organised on 11 October by FAO in the city of Fort Liberté.

Implemented by FAO with a 9, 62 million euro grant from the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, SAGE led to the creation of 120 retention basins in the department with an irrigating capacity of 50 acres during the dry season. Rehabilitation of 9.5 miles of dirt road will boost distribution of agricultural production.

SAGE, which ends at the end of November, has been implemented in response to soaring food prices observed in late 2007 and early 2008.

The SAGE project also led to the opening in Ouanaminthe of a dairy with a daily capacity of 600 litres, the creation of five compost bins and the set up of 732 water tanks for domestic use

The program also aimed at protecting Lamatry Yassa watersheds and securing agricultural production. The development of "cage fish farming" opened up prospects for production and income generation for local associations.

Schools reopen despite poor condition

In preparation for the school re-opening on 3 October, Education Cluster partners accelerated their support to schools throughout the country, with activities such as the distribution of school materials, school furniture, teacher training and provision of water and sanitation facilities.

However, debris removal activities are still needed in around 360 schools (9% of schools damaged by the earthquake) and around 500 schools (13%) operate under heavily deteriorated tents. So far, more than 710 schools have been rebuilt or rehabilitated.

Many parents cannot afford to buy learning materials, schools are overcrowded and in poor condition, often without proper water and

sanitation facilities, exposing children to the risk of cholera and other epidemics.

According to the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) report phase II, 76% of IDP children aged 6-11 are in school. However significant regional imbalances have been observed. While enrolment rate in many communes hovers around 90%, it only reaches 48% in the commune of Port-au-Prince, and 69% in Léogâne. Handicapped children's enrolment rate is at 48%.

Solutions to integrate vulnerable children require a comprehensive programme that goes beyond school fees subsidies and school material provision, such as the implementation of accelerated education programmes, according to the Education Cluster.



IN BRIEF

Death toll following torrential rains from 7 to 10 October in the Sud département amounted to five, according to the Departmental Emergency Operation Center (COUD). A total 1,266 families in five communes of the Sud département-Les Cayes, Camp Perrin, Chantal, Roche à Bateau et Les Anglais- were evacuated to emergency shelters by the Directorate of Civil Protection (DPC) with the support of MINUSTAH. Some 997 houses were flooded, damaged or totally destroyed. Damages to rice paddies, beans, yam, and eggplant crops were reported as well.

Since July, the decentralization of the humanitarian coordination system at the departmental level has been strengthened with the appointment of Departmental Focal Points (DFPs). This aims to ensure better synergy, and effectiveness of humanitarian actors in the departments where the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is not present.

A training session was conducted by OCHA on 30 September. The DFPs represent the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) and provide support to departmental and communal authorities. They are also responsible for managing information on the evolution of the humanitarian situation and prepare regular reports to the HC through OCHA.

DFPs will receive daily support from OCHA and the MINUSTAH's Section for the Coordination of

Humanitarian Affairs and Development of (HDCS).

As part of activities related to emergency response preparedness, a series of training sessions will be organized from 10 October to 17 December by the Directorate for Civil Protection (DPC), UNDP and OCHA. The aim is to strengthen DPC field officers response capacity in case of a natural disaster. Sessions include training on information management techniques and tools for collection, analysis, data entry, processing and dissemination of information, rapid mapping, basic monitoring and evaluation.

In coordination with PAHO/WHO, Internews humanitarian radio show ENDK (Enfomasyon Nou Dwe Konnen) recently broadcasted a 30 minute special show on mental health on more than 45 partner radios in Haiti. This was part of larger WHO/PAHO communication campaign on Mental Health Day. IOM, as part of its community outreach programs, conducted community discussions on mental health in camps.

Communicating with Disaster affected Communities (CDAC) Haiti is setting up a repertoire of local organisations trained in cholera communication which will be shared with the MSPP, DINEPA and the DPC.

World Hand Washing Day was celebrated on 15 October with the distribution of 300,000 bars of soap in schools, communities and health centers by Health Cluster partners.

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For more information on the response in Haiti, please visit:

<http://haiti.humanitarianresponse.info>