



## HIGHLIGHTS

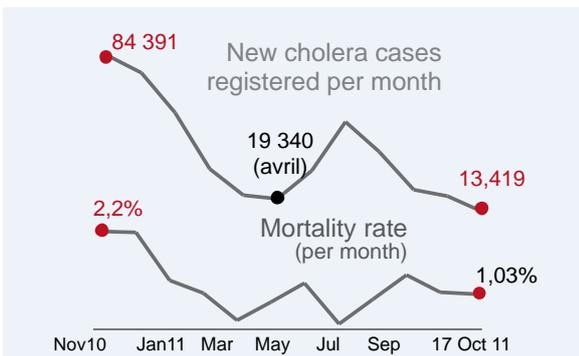
- Number of new cholera cases decline again following October outbreaks
- Pace of exit from camps remains slow
- Current harvests might reduce food security



## CHOLERA RESPONSE

### Following October peak, cholera epidemic starts to decline

The epidemiological trend is declining again following major outbreaks<sup>1</sup> caused by October heavy rains in the Sud and Nord-Ouest departments as well as in the Nord, Nord-Est and Grande Anse departments. New daily cholera cases amounts to 500, compared to 671 at the end of October, according to the MSPP. This is much lower than the peak of 1,100 daily new cholera cases observed last June. The nationwide mortality rate is still at 1.4 per cent but varies significantly at the departmental level, from 206 deaths per 100,000 people in the Grande Anse department to 37 per 100,000 people in the Sud.



With the dry season (from December to March) approaching, a continued decrease in the number of new cholera cases is expected. This would bring some relief at a time when short-term cholera funding is coming to an end while some long term funding is not yet available. PAHO reports that IMC funding to cover cholera related activities in the Sud department will end on 31 December. Intermon Oxfam has announced that it will close its programmes in Port-au-Prince, Gressier, Grand Goâve and Petit Goâve on 30 November. MDM Belgique, originally scheduled to leave the Nippes

<sup>1</sup> The Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP), reported 202 deaths and 21,797 new cholera cases for the month of October compared to 185 deaths and 14,748 new cases for the month of September.

department at the end of November, has received additional funding and will maintain its activities until 31 December.

At the same time, there are still 550,000 displaced people living in 802 camps (*see related article*) where sanitation and hygiene conditions are deteriorating due the withdrawal or humanitarian actors (*see previous bulletin 11*). The lack of drainage services, repair and maintenance of latrines provides a conducive environment for the spread of cholera.

### Launch of cholera vaccination campaign

A cholera vaccination campaign targeting 100, 000 people in urban and rural areas will be launched in January 2012 by Partners in Health, reports the Health Cluster. However, the cholera vaccine is just one additional element in the prevention and fight against cholera but does not replace prevention measures

As of 7 November 2011:

**29**

Cholera Treatment Centres

**160**

Cholera Treatment Units

Source: Health cluster, MSPP

As of 4 November 2011:

**1.4%**

Cumulative mortality rate nationwide

**492,098**

Cumulative cholera cases

**6,749**

Number of deaths

already in place, including good hygiene practices such as hand washing with soap, improved access to potable water and better sanitation conditions, according to the Cluster.

Representatives of key health organizations<sup>2</sup> working in Haiti also pledged this month to support new efforts to

<sup>2</sup> PAHO/WHO, UNICEF, the GAVI Alliance, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Ministry of Health of Brazil, the Cuban Medical Brigade, the Pediatric Society of Haiti, the American Red Cross, the Lions Club

strengthen the country's immunization program by introducing new vaccines against pneumococcal disease, rotavirus, and Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) that could save thousands of lives each year.

PAHO/WHO estimates that more than 6,000 Haitian children die each year from rotavirus, pneumococcal disease and Hib, which to date have not been part of Haiti's immunization program. In 2010, the country reported average national vaccine coverage rates of less than 70 per cent. The last cases of measles and polio in Haiti were reported in 2001, and the last rubella outbreak was reported in 2006. Sporadic cases of diphtheria continue to occur, and the country accounts for half of all neonatal tetanus cases in the Americas each year.

In March 2012, the MSPP, PAHO/WHO and other partners will also launch a country-wide vaccination catch-up polio campaign targeting children from 0 – 9 years old, and measles and rubella campaign targeting children aged 9 months to 9 years old.

### **Food market and at school highest risk factor of cholera contamination**

Eating out is the highest risk factor for cholera contamination, according to a study by Doctors Without Borders (MSF) and the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP). The report, published on 11 October, aimed at highlighting the main factors at play in the transmission of the *Vibrio cholerae* in the city of Gonaïves at a time when the epidemic was not peaking. The city of Gonaïves, home to 230,000 inhabitants, was chosen due to its vulnerability to flooding and the lack of access to potable water and sanitation by the poorest households.

The study indicates that the majority of cholera cases ate food from street market or at school, which leads to several hypotheses. The bacteria was already present in the food and was not eliminated due to inappropriate cooking, the food was contaminated during preparation or after cooking and then poorly preserved.

Sharing a latrine with a person infected with the disease has also been identified as a risk factor for infection with cholera and other diarrheal diseases. Unexpectedly, the study also showed that pigs constitute a risk factor. Although the presence of *Vibrio cholerae* in animals feces, including pigs, has already been demonstrated, it has never been directly associated with the risk of contracting cholera. This association is still not understood and requires further research, the study says.

Among protective factors, the study mentions the proper chlorination of water, but also prevention activities through television or training sessions. It also shows that individuals were less likely to contract cholera if they were members of a small household.

The study recommends deploying further efforts to improve water quality and inform the public on proper water chlorination techniques at home, latrines disinfection and maintenance. It also recommends focusing on the disinfection of latrines, rather than houses, and exploring the possibility of contamination by pigs. The study also suggests looking for the

presence of the *Vibrio cholerae* in food ready to eat and investigating preparation and storage procedures of food sold in markets and schools

### **Three hundred birth certificates delivered in October**

In October, UNHCR and its implementing partners GARR and ACAT delivered 300 new birth certificates to beneficiaries living in the commune of Carrefour. Another 600 are currently being processed by the Haitian administration. Some 5,542 beneficiaries of the project, aimed at preventing statelessness, through the provision of personal documentation have been identified in Port-au-Prince, Carrefour, Léogâne, Petit Goâve, Ganthier, Lascahobas and Belladère. UNHCR signed a tripartite agreement with local authorities and implementing partners in order to obtain birth certificates for newborns, people who lost their documentation during the earthquake and people who never received a birth certificate.



Delivery of birth certificates in Léogâne. Photo credit: MINUSTAH

One of the main focuses of UNHCR in Haiti is also to provide comprehensive assistance to women survivors of sexual abuse in IDP camp and their families. Two projects are currently being implemented through the local NGO KOFVIV in Port-au-Prince, and Espoir des femmes and the French Red Cross in Petit Goâve. To date, 52 persons, including 15 gender based violence survivors and their families, are hosted at a safe house in Port-au-Prince. They receive education grants for their children, legal, medical and psycho-social support, access to income generating activities and micro-grants.

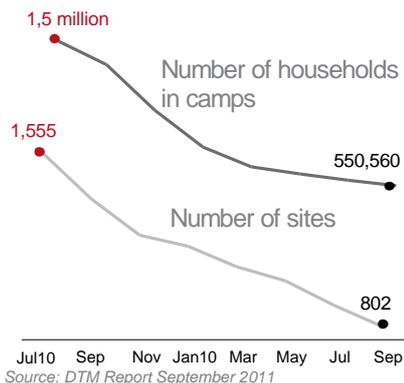
## Pace of exit from camps remains slow

An estimated 550,560 individuals are still living in 802 IDP sites across the earthquake affected area, according to the latest [IOM Displacement Tracking Matrice](#) (DTM). This is a 7 per cent decrease in the number of individuals living in camps since July last reporting period, which continues to reflect a slower pace compared to last year and the first quarter of 2011. "In the last months, the pace of exit from camps has slowed down considerably, reflecting the complexity of the urban displacement crisis, homelessness and poverty", comments Luca Dall'Oglio, IOM representative in Haiti.

The total number of open sites reduced by 92 during this reporting period: from 894 in July 2011 to 802 in September 2011. 73% of these sites (584 sites) are located on private land and 25% (203 sites) on public land. The most considerable decrease continues to be seen in small IDP sites, in particular those with 10 to 19 households.

The majority of the IDP population (60%) remains clustered in 61 "large" sites hosting over 500 households. These sites represent a mere 8 per cent of all sites, confirming the trend already observed in previous reports of increased polarization in large camps.

## IDP population in camps decreases by 63% in one year



When comparing results across all communes in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, the most notable decline in IDP households is observed in Delmas with a decrease of 4,691 households. This contrasts with the July DTM results that reported a decrease of 350 IDP households in that commune. The next notable decline is observed in the commune of Port-au-Prince, with a decline of 1,903 IDP households, followed by Carrefour with a decrease of about 1,892.

In the southern regions, Légoâne again reported the largest decrease with 827 households reported to have left between July and September. The second largest decrease was observed in Petit Goâve with 652 less IDP households in camps.

The report also shows that the remaining population in sites is composed mostly of renters (77 per cent).

It also notes that IDP sites located on private land are closing at a faster rate than those on public sites. There was a 34 per cent decrease in the number of sites on private land from November 2010 to September 2011, while sites on public land decreased by 9 per cent during the same reporting period.

## Number of camps under threat of eviction multiplied by more than three in one year

Approximately 100,557 individuals are currently under threat of eviction, which represents 18.26 per cent of the total number of IDPs currently living in camps in Haiti, reports IOM latest eviction report. IOM adds that since September 2010, a cumulative number of 371 IDP sites in 12 communes have faced threats of eviction, which is more than three times the number of cases reported a year ago. Since records began in July 2010, 58, 508 individuals have been evicted.

One out of five IDP is threatened by eviction 

Out of the 371 cases, 82 have been successfully resolved without eviction, including 40 camps through a mediation process led by IOM and land owners. In 42 other camps, return assistance was provided to IDPs. The cases resolved have benefited 51,740 IDPs.

The reports also shows that five per cent of the IDP population currently threatened with eviction are located on public land and 93 per cent on private land. Delmas continues to be the most affected commune, with current threats in 66 sites, followed by Tabarre, with 32 cases, and Carrefour with 17.

## End of free water delivery in 18 more camps

The Directorate of Water and Sanitation (DINEPA) will put an end to free water-trucking delivery in 18 camps on 30 November, in accordance with "beyond the water-trucking strategy" developed in June 2010, reports the WASH Cluster. The strategy includes the rehabilitation of public fountains and secondary water networks, well drilling, installation of hand pumps and the management by communities of paying water-trucking activities. Free water trucking in camps by tankers was originally scheduled to stop in December 2010 but had been extended due to cholera outbreaks.

## Gradual interruption of free water trucking in Tabarre

In order to provide a sustainable source of water to 12,285 beneficiaries living in seven camps of Tabarre and residents of surrounding areas, the Italian NGO COOPI completed the rehabilitation of 4 permanent boreholes equipped with hand pumps and the drilling of 6 new boreholes. This will ensure a gradual interruption of free water-trucking delivery in a context marked by a shift from a classic camp approach to a neighborhood

approach. With a \$161,253 grant from OCHA Haiti Emergency Response Fund (ERRF) out of a total cost of \$183,188 - COOPI contributes the remaining \$ 21,933 - the project also includes the training of 10 water committees on boreholes maintenance techniques, the collection and disposal of solid waste, the maintenance of 41 latrines, 92 shower rooms, 12 laundry points and 14 hand-washing facilities.

**Rebuilding with debris from the earthquake**

Fifteen parasismic and anticyclonic houses and community buildings are currently being built using some of the 10 million cubic meter of debris generated by the collapse of 80,000 buildings during the earthquake of 12 January 2010. These low-cost houses built with Haitian traditional construction techniques will enable families in Carrefour Feuilles to have access to a secure home.

Through this project, implemented by the NGO World Entrepreneurs in partnership with the Center for Research in Earthen Architecture (CRAterre) and UNDP, Haitian artisans were also trained on the building techniques that were used.

Three buildings in Camp Corail have been completed and will host local companies starting in December. These companies will be supported by teams of Entrepreneurs of the World through loans and grants and training in management techniques.



A community building built in Camp Corail with debris generated by the earthquake. Photo credit: Entrepreneurs du Monde

**CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

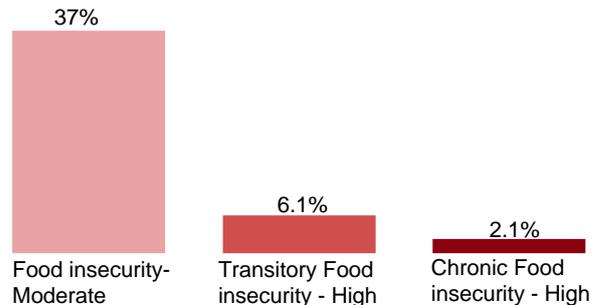
**Current harvests might reduce impact of food insecurity**

The number of food insecure people, estimated at 4.6 million nationwide, is expected to decline, reports FEWS NET Haiti in its latest report covering the period from October to March 2012. This is due to the current harvests which started last August and will continue until next January - February.

The situation is unusual, notes FEWS NET. In addition to bean and yam harvests, which usually take place between December and March in mountainous areas, sorghum, peas and beans crops are also expected in other regions of the country during that period. This phenomenon is the result of this year’s variation in rainfalls, explains FEW NET. The first rainy season, which generally takes place from March to June, started two months late this year. Reluctant at first, farmers have gradually planted their plot which explains the delay in agricultural yields.

However, some areas in Plateau Central, Sud Est, Ouest, Nippes, Nord-Ouest and Artibonite departments will remain food insecure. In the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, more than one million people with no fixed income and living in unsanitary conditions in makeshift camps and slums will continue to experience high levels of poverty and food insecurity.

Food prices are stable but high compared to 2010 due to the impact of inflation, the torrential rains of September and higher price of imported goods. Although prices may stabilize while harvests are ongoing, an increase in prices is likely toward March 2012, as food stocks begin to decline, says FEWS NET.



Source: National Coordination for food security structure – September 2011 Report

**WFP invests in local markets**

The National School Feeding Programme is aiming at providing daily meals cooked with local ingredients to all students by 2030. To assist authorities in achieving this goal, WFP has expanded its local purchase program.

Last July, WFP completed the purchase of five hundred tons of rice produced by farmers in the town of Torbeck in the Sud Department. In 2011, WFP purchased over 3,000 tons of rice produced in Haiti and signed a contract to distribute over the next three years 4.2 million bottles of milk in schools managed by the National School Feeding Programme.

Bidding processes have been simplified and training sessions took place in agricultural areas to help farmers understand each step of the bidding process, from submission to delivery.

Developing links between farmers and schools, where it distributes 1.1 million meals daily, supports the development of competitive markets, helps increase farmers' incomes and improves the food security of agricultural families, explains WFP.

#### **\$4.2 billion needed to provide free access to school for all**

The newly elected President Martelly launched a school fee abolition initiative for the October 2011 academic year opening, targeting 750,000 students (around 30% of the number children attending school) during the first year. It relies on innovative funding mechanisms such as a \$0.05/minute surtax on inbound international calls to Haiti, and a \$1.5 surtax on international wire transfers and other direct contributions from the private sector and the Haitian diaspora

The Education Cluster notes however that despite efforts to eliminate school fees, parents are still struggling to send their children to school. It is estimated that \$ 4.2 billion is needed to provide access to free education for all Haitian children.

The additional funds would principally be needed for the construction of semi-permanent schools with minimum quality standard, mainly in the most deprived and affected areas; the training of additional and higher quality teachers; the implementation of vouchers for student, which appears to be the most realistic way of lifting school fees barriers.

To support the government in reducing schooling costs for households, Education Cluster partners' distributions of basic school supplies is targeting 2,500 schools, 750,000 students and 15,000 teachers in all 10 departments by the end of the year. To date, 1,210 schools, 269,798 pupils, 8,052 teachers have benefited from these distributions.

Other Cluster members, such as World Food Program, World Vision, Save the Children, UMCOR, Plan Haiti are still implementing school feeding, teacher training, school reconstruction and WASH programmes.

## IN BRIEF

**The Economic and Social Assistance Fund (FAES)**, in cooperation with the Directorate for Civil Protection (DPC), and the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, will launch at the end of November a series of activities on the theme "Civil protection in school".

The project will take place in 11 schools of the Nippes and Sud Est department. It aims at developing a "risk culture" among students aged 5 to 12 years, their parents and teachers by increasing their knowledge and resilience in case of hurricanes, earthquakes and tsunamis. Some 4,500 information kits will be distributed; screenings followed by discussions and debates exhibitions of photographs will be organized.

In addition, 55 education professionals have received minimum educational standards training in case of an emergency in the Ouest, Sud, Nippes, and Grand Anse departments. The Education Cluster is finalizing guidelines on the management of schools used as temporary shelters to minimize disruption of school activities during emergencies and facilitate evacuation of schools once emergencies are over

#### **PAHO / WHO launches *Manman ak Timoun an santé***

PAHO / WHO, with the support from Canada, launched on October 15 its maternal and child health program *Manman ak Timoun an sante*. The project aims at reducing maternal and infant mortality over the next two years by providing free prenatal care to pregnant women and health care to children under five.

*Manman ak Timoun an sante* is a follow up to the free obstetric care program, known by the acronym SOG, which was launched in 2008, and the free health care program for children (GIS) implemented after the January 2010 earthquake.

The project also aims at strengthening the Haitian health system and developing a sustainable funding mechanism that could be the basis of a national health care system. *Manman ak Timoun an sante* will be implemented through 90 national health care facilities.

#### **More than \$230 million needed in humanitarian funding in 2012**

The humanitarian community is seeking more than US\$230 million to finance 180 projects in 2012. Haiti Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP), which will be launched on 30 November, focuses on the most critical challenges that remain to be addressed due to the increasing level of vulnerabilities of the population and the reduction of humanitarian services for the 550,000 Haitians who still live in 802 camps. It will also support activities that facilitate the implementation of durable WASH and health solutions. The response to cholera outbreaks, food insecurity and emergencies related to weather conditions are also priority issues.

**The State University of Haiti (UEH), in collaboration with the University of Geneva** and the Directorate of Civil Protection (DPC) will host from 3 to 6 December 2011 a training session on the theme "Communication and Disaster Risk Management".

**According to the results of the latest [Logistics Cluster Survey](#), 70 per cent of respondents believe that customs are the biggest hurdle in the supply chain of humanitarian goods, followed by infrastructures for 50 per cent of those surveyed.**

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