

HIGHLIGHTS

- After the heavy rains of October and November, a resurgence of the epidemic was noted particularly in the departments of Artibonite, North, Northwest, the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince and South-East;
- Some people returned from the Dominican Republic are affected by a wave of acute diarrhea and cases of cholera;
- Almost 61,000 displaced from the earthquake still live in extremely difficult conditions. Access to drinking water infrastructure, sanitation and hygiene are their main concern;
- About 3 million Haitians have difficulty in meeting their basic food needs.

KEY FIGURES

Number of IDPs in camps	60,801
Source: DTM, June 2015	
Cumulative cholera cases (1st Jan. to 28 Nov. 2015)	31,396
Source: MSPP	
Fatality cases (1st Jan. to 28 Nov. 2015)	297
Source: MSPP	



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Cholera Epidemic: the emergency response level must be maintained and strengthened

The trend is on the rise in the last two months

Despite numerous efforts by the Haitian government and its international partners, the health authorities reported an increase in the number of cholera cases for the month of November. Indeed, from November 22 to 28 (48th week), 1093 new cases and 13 institutional deaths were reported against only 268 new cases and 1 death in the 38th week (from Sept. 13 to 19). The Artibonite, North, North West, South East and the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince are the most affected, recording 227, 164, 152, 101 and 149 new cases, respectively.

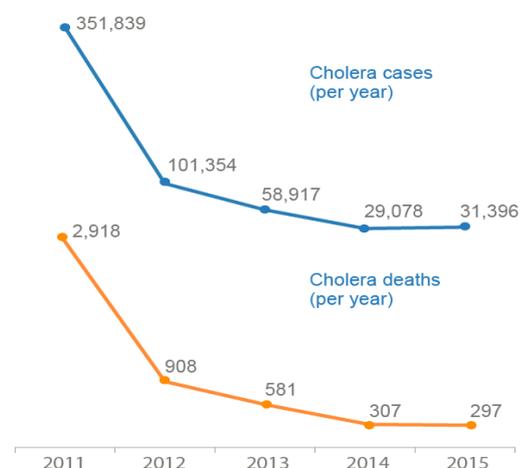
This situation is due to many factors, including heavy rains in October and November that allowed disease transmission and recurrent difficulties of access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in the vulnerable communities. This affects particularly the IDP camps from the earthquake, the remote municipalities and temporary sites of returnees from the Dominican Republic.

In support to national health authorities, international organizations have strengthened response activities, including improving the capacity of cholera treatment units, distributing WASH (Water and sanitation) materials and decontaminating affected houses. Furthermore, the mobile teams (EMIRAs) of the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) continue to ensure the community response in the most affected areas.

It is necessary to reinforce the mobilization to continue the fight against the epidemic

Since 2011, health officials have noted a gradual decrease in the cholera epidemic from 351,839 new cases to 29,078 in 2014. However, despite the satisfactory results at the beginning of the year, 2015 is about to end with an increase in the number of new cases compared to 2014. Indeed, the MSPP reports that 31,396 cases were registered until 28 November against 29,078 for the whole year of 2014. This reinforces the concerns of health authorities and international partners.

Number of cholera cases and deaths registered since 2011



Data registered until the 48th epidemiological week of 2015. Source: MSPP.

Strengthening the fight against cholera, especially in high-risk areas, is a continuous engagement of the United Nations and its partners

Therefore, the response to the cholera epidemic continues to be a humanitarian priority. The country must continue to mobilize the necessary resources for the continued implementation plan for the elimination of the disease. The humanitarian actors involved in the response to cholera estimate that 19, 8 million dollars will be required in 2016 to support the efforts of the Haitian government and its partners to reduce cholera-related death rate and control the annual incidence by preventing the transmission of the epidemic.

Bi-national situation: cholera spreads in Anse a Pitres

Returnees and deported from the Dominican Republic are the most affected

The cholera outbreak raging in Anse a Pitres since the end of October worries the humanitarian actors of this border town receiving waves of people from the Dominican Republic. Official data are not yet provided by the national health authorities on this situation. However, the municipal doctor of Anse a Pitres, Dr. Pierre Lamartine Fils, reports that more than 200 cases of acute diarrhea, including cholera cases and dozens of deaths, were recorded between 20 October and 23 November. Cholera cases were also recorded on the other side of the border, in the Dominican Republic, leading to an increase of border control. The majority of the cases happened in spontaneous sites hosting nearly 3,000 persons arrived from Dominican Republic, living in very difficult conditions.

The humanitarian community continues to mobilize resources to support the government's efforts to provide emergency assistance to returnees from the Dominican Republic



Children returned from the Dominican Republic are playing in a camp at Anse a Pitres. Photo: OCHA Haiti

Humanitarian actors in the municipality alert on the challenging sanitary conditions in which the residents of these sites live. Health facilities in the area are largely insufficient to meet the needs of local families and residents of these sites. Moreover, Anse a Pitres is one of the towns in the South East hit by the drought that is exacerbating the chronic situation of food insecurity.

The people settled in temporary sites near the border live in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, in particular, the determination of their legal status in Haiti. The High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) already started the registration process of people in risk of statelessness in Parc Cadeau.

The response of the humanitarian community to support local authorities

Faced with this situation, many humanitarian actors, including IOM and OCHA, accompanied the Humanitarian Coordinator on a mission to the town of Anse à Pitres on 23, November. The objective of the mission was to assess the humanitarian situation in the area and, particularly, that of the cholera epidemic. The humanitarian community is working to provide a coordinated response to the situation.

Since the beginning of the epidemic in the area, two cholera treatment units were installed in Anse-à-Pitres and in the village of Banane. Humanitarian actors have conducted WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) interventions, including sensitization activities on good hygiene practices and the distribution of hygiene and water treatment kits in affected communities. These initiatives support the efforts of health authorities of the municipality in order to reduce the spread of the disease.

The Cholera Treatment Units (UTC) in the town continue to provide care to patients with acute diarrhea or cholera. However, the transport of the patients to the UTC is difficult due to poor road conditions, some affected communities are accessible only by sea and it takes a long time to reach the population there.

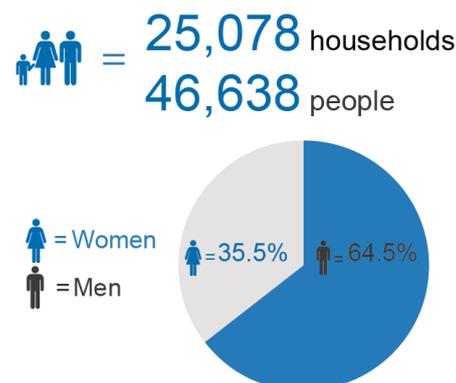
Therefore, there are needs to be covered in terms of logistics (transport of patients, opening oral rehydration points, etc.), support for training of police officers present at temporary sites, reinforcement of epidemiological surveillance and community response and implementation of WASH facilities on the sites.

The confluence of repatriations, drought and cholera reinforce humanitarian concerns

While many municipalities in the South East department affected by drought must face this recrudescing cholera epidemic, the repatriations from the Dominican Republic continue to reinforce the concerns of humanitarian actors in the country. Indeed, many towns in this department are currently in food crisis status according to CNSA and FEWS Net. This combination of humanitarian factors increases the vulnerability of the region.

According to the latest situation report published by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on 27 November, 25,078 households representing 46,638 people interviewed on a voluntary basis reported having returned from Dominican Republic since June 2015. This constitutes only a portion of the returned population. Among them, 691 are presumed unaccompanied minors and 9340 people were officially deported through the official border crossing of Ouanaminthe, Malpasse and Belladères.

Global information on people arrived:



IDP camps: The sanitation conditions are deteriorating

Until the final closure of the IDP camps, it is also significant to maintain a minimum of basic services in the remaining 45 camps

A monitoring visit led by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on 12 November reported a further deterioration of sanitation conditions in IDP camps. Conducted in the Camp Mega 4, the visit allowed a diagnosis on WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) infrastructures and exposure to possible risks in terms of protection of displaced people.



The Regional Director of OCHA, Wendy Cue, accompanied by Justine Dédé, Humanitarian Affairs Officer at OCHA Haiti, during the visit of the Mega Camp 4, November 12, 2015. Photo: OCHA Haiti

In this camp, which hosts about 4,250 extremely vulnerable people, WASH infrastructures (sanitary blocks, wash hands facilities, water tanks) are in very poor condition for lack of maintenance and degradation for the rain. Installed in the middle of the camps, the 6 sanitary facilities (showers and toilets) are excessively dirty and the toilets have not been emptied for more than eight months, making them almost unusable. In addition to their poor condition, the sanitary facilities are largely inadequate for

all the families living on the site and far below international standards which recommend an attendance of 50 people per latrine. This has forced people in the camp to practice open defecation.

Functional hand washing stations are rare in the site, while there is no longer an organization that assists with the distribution of soap and water treatment products. All these factors contribute to an unhealthy environment, very favorable to the spread of waterborne diseases. This worrying situation is partially due to the gradual withdrawal of humanitarian organizations and the overall strategy of closing IDP sites.



A child walking in the middle of an IDP camp. Photo Credit: OCHA Haiti

Besides poor hygiene conditions, many IDP camps are located in areas at high risk of flooding. A situation that could facilitate the spread of a cholera epidemic. At camp Mega 4, health authorities used to record twenty cases of cholera per month before the outbreaks observed during the month of November 2015.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is calling for urgent action in the following three areas: 1) access to safe drinking water and sanitation, 2) the implementation of socio-economic resilience activities for the benefit of families, 3) access to medical treatment for the people affected by cholera. OCHA estimates that only in camp Mega 4, nearly a million dollars would be necessary to conduct these activities.

Approximately 60,000 people are still living in 45 IDP sites in extremely difficult living conditions; the humanitarian community strives to find adequate financial resources to finalize the relocation process of these people. An amount of 20,000,000 dollars has been granted by Canada to the International Organization for Migration to implement the relocation project for the existing camps.

Food Security: Poor families need immediate assistance

30% of the population in Haiti continues to have difficulty meeting their basic food needs

The most vulnerable families could fall in food crisis if response initiatives are not implemented at the beginning of next year before the next harvest and the continued impact of El Niño

The situation of food insecurity in Haiti has worsened in recent months due to the convergence of multiple factors combined with structural causes that characterize the Haitian agriculture (land issues, lack of effective and maintained irrigation systems, erosion, etc.). Indeed, the effects of drought and rising prices of basic food products have particularly affected the poorest households. The latest estimates of the CNSA (National Coordination for Food Security) reported that about 3 million Haitians have difficulty in meeting their basic food needs.



Mothers with malnourished children in a treatment center. Photo: OCHA Haiti

Thus, with the upward trend in prices of basic foods, combined with the depreciation of the local currency (1 US dollar is traded now at about 56 gourdes), families tend to resort to coping strategies such as: selling immature livestock, cutting trees in fragile areas and often to reduce the number of daily meals.

The CNSA estimates that about 820,000 people currently live in severe food insecurity. This is an increase compared to 2014 when 600,000 people were in this

category. The situation could worsen if urgent initiatives and structural recovery measures are not implemented at the beginning of 2016 before the next harvest season starts. Indeed, there are risks for these 820,000 people to drift from IPC phase 3/Crisis (Value indicating the scale of food insecurity phases) to phase 4/Emergency if no appropriate measures are taken in time

In 2015, irregular rains exacerbated the already dire conditions in many parts of the country, especially in the North West, Artibonite, Centre, South and South East

<http://haiti.humanitarianresponse.info/> | www.unocha.org

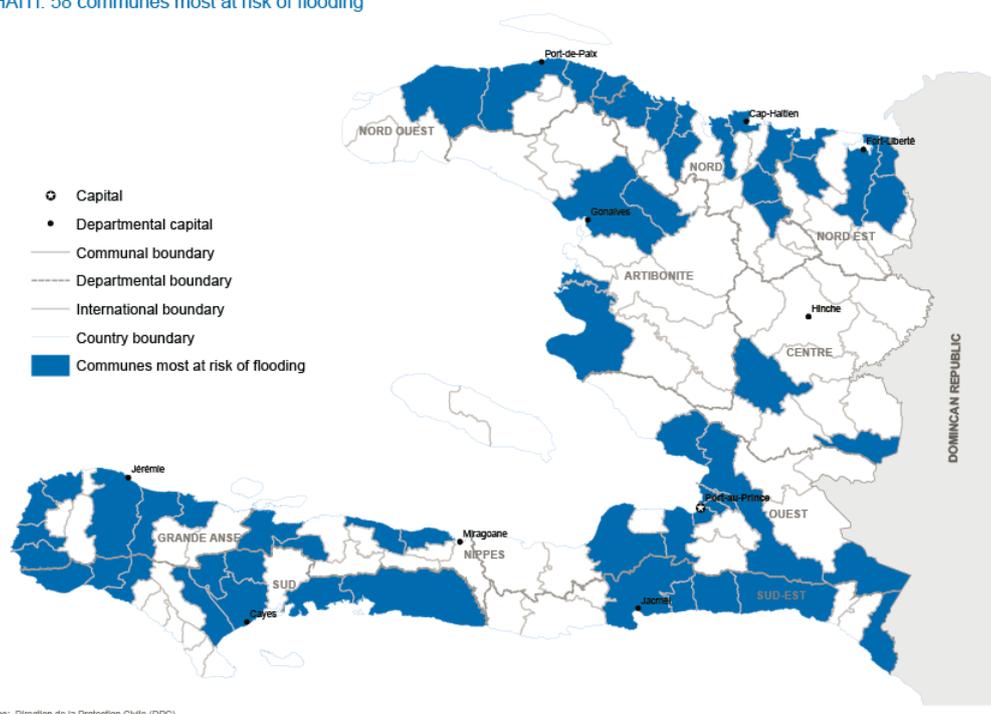
departments. According to the National Coordination for Food Security (CNSA), the spring crop, which represents more than 50 percent of the national annual production, has fell down below average, with losses up to 60 percent.

Humanitarian partners are responding by providing emergency food aid, including by strengthening nutritional surveillance at community level, managing acute and severe malnutrition programs, as well as improving access to food aid and school feeding. Besides initiatives to address structural challenges, the 820,000 most vulnerable people must benefit from relief initiatives, such as: targeted food distributions; distribution of seeds, livestock, tools and other agricultural supplies; implementation of Cash-for-Food activities and Cash-for-Work; access to food stamps systems in the most affected areas among others.

Haiti remains highly vulnerable to meteorological phenomenon of El Niño

Almost half of the Haitian population is considered vulnerable and exposed to hydro meteorological hazards. From these, 2.8 million people living in 58 communes are considered the most at risk of flooding.

HAITI: 58 communes most at risk of flooding



El Niño phenomenon in 2015 has been assessed as the strongest ever recorded, exceeding that of 1997 to 1998, which triggered a global humanitarian crisis that has killed some 23,000 people and cost the world economy between 35 and 45 billion dollars. According to several studies, Haiti is the most affected in country in Latin America, as it is exposed to recurrent food security crises associated with major structural challenges, weak agricultural production, high environmental degradation and mismanagement of water resources.

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