

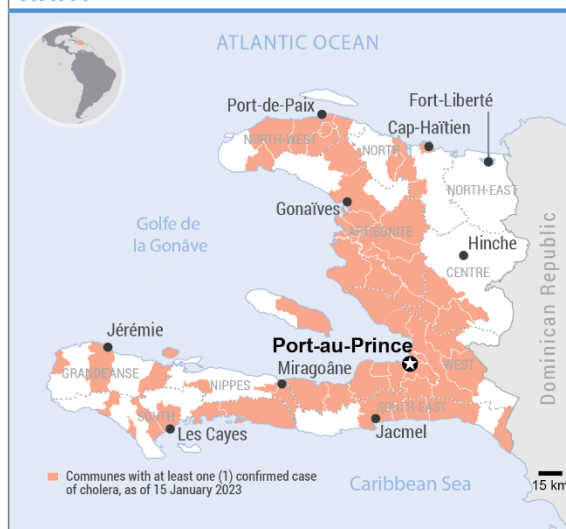
# Haiti: Humanitarian and cholera Situation Report # 7 – as of 17 January 2023

This report was prepared by OCHA Haiti with contributions from humanitarian partners. It contains the latest information available as of 17 January 2023.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- A gang truce in Martissant allowed for the reopening of National Road 2 leading to the south, although gangs still demand a fee to pass.
- Cholera continues to spread, particularly in the provinces, with a 57 percent increase in the number of suspected cases recorded in a single month.
- Humanitarian partners are supporting the operation of 94 cholera treatment centres across the country and the implementation of WASH activities to prevent the spread of the disease.
- A vaccination campaign was carried out in priority areas of the West and Centre departments following the delivery of 1.2 million doses of oral vaccine.
- Of the 155,000 displaced people in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, 75 percent are living in host communities.
- Despite the reopening of 90 percent of schools in January 2023, the number of students who have actually returned to school needs to be assessed.

**HAITI: Communes with at least one confirmed case of cholera**



Sources: DELR, MSPP  
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

## KEY FIGURES

**1,742**

Confirmed<sup>1</sup> cholera cases (MSPP)

**24,232**

Suspected<sup>2</sup> cholera cases (MSPP)

**483**

Deaths from cholera<sup>3</sup> (MSPP)

**90%**

Of schools reopened (MENFP)

**155,166**

Displaced in ZMPAP (DTM/IOM)

## BACKGROUND OVERVIEW

Gang-related insecurity remains high in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area (ZMPAP). The presence of police stations and increased patrols in many of these areas have not been enough to curb the capacity of gangs in the capital's neighbourhoods. During 2022, OHCHR recorded 2,084 murders and 1,552 injuries as a result of armed gang violence, as well as 1,114 cases of kidnapping, a record for the country.

However, it should be noted that since 5 December, the main gangs (Village-de-Dieu, Grand-Ravine and Tibwa) in Martissant observe a "truce", which allowed for the resumption of traffic, in exchange for the payment of a fee, on National Road 2 (RN2), which had been blocked since June 2021. The commune of Cité Soleil also experienced a period of calm thanks to a ceasefire respected by the main gang coalitions (Gpép and G9). However, this truce was broken on 9 January with a new escalation of violence, the effect of which is yet to be established.

In contrast to the improved access on RN2, security conditions on the other national roads in the ZMPAP, particularly RN1 leading to the northern departments, have deteriorated significantly. In addition, despite the reopening of the Varreux oil terminal, the country is still experiencing a fuel shortage. The official distribution channels appear to be idle and many oil stations remain closed, particularly in the provinces. In parallel, gasoline prices on the black market increased sharply to more than 1,500 gourdes per gallon, over 160 percent higher than the price set by the authorities. In these circumstances, humanitarian actors remain heavily dependent on alternatives to road transport, notably the UNHAS air service and the WFP barge.

<sup>1</sup> Any suspected or probable case with a positive culture for *Vibrio cholerae*.

<sup>2</sup> Anyone with acute watery, profuse diarrhoea with or without vomiting and dehydration.

<sup>3</sup> Includes institutional, community and prison deaths.

On the economic front, the Central Bank Governor of Haiti declared that the country was in an economic depression after several years of negative growth with inflation reaching 47.2 percent in October 2022. The official exchange rate reached an unprecedented level: 147 gourdes for a dollar on 14 January 2023 compared to 101.58 a year earlier, an increase of 44.75 percent. This situation has led to a significant increase in the prices of goods, including basic food products.

As of 9 January, the mandate of the remaining 10 elected senators still in office ended, with no new elections scheduled. This leaves the country with no democratically elected institutions, with no president and the absence of Parliament and Senate. Faced with this situation, numerous initiatives were launched in recent months, leading to the conclusion of a National Consensus for an inclusive transition and transparent elections, the text of which was published in the official journal on 3 January 2023. This agreement provides for the establishment of a High Council of the Transition and a body to monitor government action. It also provides for general elections to be held in 2023 with the newly elected officials taking office on 7 February 2024. However, despite a favourable response from the international community, this agreement has still not succeeded in rallying all political actors, with a large part of the opposition speaking out against it.

## HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

### Cholera

#### General situation

As of 15 January 2023, the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) reported [483 deaths, 1,742 confirmed cases](#) and [24,232 suspected cases of cholera](#) in the country; [20,505 people have been treated in hospital](#).

Over a month, the number of suspected cases increased by 57 percent compared to 25,400 suspected cases as of 15 December 2022. The geographical expansion of the epidemic continued as cases were confirmed in [nine out ten departments](#). The West remains by far the department with the most cases (over 16,000 cases, 66 percent of suspected cases), however, the departments with the most significant increase are the North-East, which is experiencing its first suspected cases, the South (63 percent increase over 7 days) and the North-West (52 percent). In general, despite the MSPP and its partners' efforts, surveillance capacity is not sufficient to obtain an accurate estimate of the number of cases.

In its November 2022 rapid risk assessment, PAHO/WHO warned of the very high risk of the disease spreading across Hispaniola Island due to the complex humanitarian crisis in the country, the limited resources to contain the epidemic and the constant migratory flow to the Dominican Republic. As of 6 January, [13 cases of cholera](#) were confirmed in [the Dominican Republic](#), 4 of which were traced back to Haiti.

#### Health

##### Care

Some [94 cholera treatment centres](#) (CTCs) have been set up throughout the country, of which 67 receive patients with acute diarrhea, as of 10 January. However, access remains difficult for the most vulnerable people, who struggle to [pay for transportation](#). Linked to the rise in fuel prices, public transport prices have increased by almost 200 percent compared to the prices set by the government in December 2021. Faced with this situation, some actors in charge of CTCs, such as Médecins Sans Frontières, are covering these costs for incoming patients.

Cases not requiring direct treatment benefited from [oral rehydration salts](#) (ORS) and [cholera kits](#). In the West department, partners distributed 11,888 ORS and 1,287 cholera kits.

##### Epidemiological surveillance

Some [900 multi-purpose community health workers](#) (ASCP) are deployed in the West and Centre departments to support the community response and ensure epidemiological surveillance in the areas most at risk.

In the Artibonite department, PRODEVA, a local NGO, is involved in the collection of community data on the spread of cholera in Haut-Artibonite in collaboration with the Toussaint Louverture Hospital in Ennery, however it lacks funding to expand the area its volunteers monitor.

##### Inputs

The provision of inputs throughout the country remains a major challenge for the cholera response in Haiti. In its November 2022 rapid risk assessment, PAHO/WHO also warned of the high demand for inputs and vaccines globally given that 29 countries are currently experiencing a cholera epidemic.

To facilitate input supply to all departments, UNHAS has acquired a new helicopter to complement its existing fleet composed of one helicopter and one aircraft. However, the UNHAS service is still facing difficulties in securing funding beyond January 2023.

In addition, USAID's Office of Humanitarian Assistance funded an [airlift via Airlink](#) in December. It will provide two flights per month at least until the end of January. In a context marked by a 160 percent increase in air charter prices, this assistance is crucial.

The first two flights from Miami enabled the delivery of [88 tonnes of essential cholera relief supplies](#) (medical supplies, intravenous fluids, water purification and filtration equipment) for Care Haiti, the Dalton Foundation, Food for the Poor, Partner in Health and PAHO/WHO, with the support of two commercial airlines, American Airlines and UPS. Care Haiti sent two water treatment units to be installed in Cayemites, an island without clean, functional running water, to increase access to potable water. About 200 tonnes of equipment could be delivered to the island in the coming weeks.

### *Vaccination*

Nearly [1.2 million oral cholera vaccines](#) arrived in Haiti on 12 December and the first phase of the vaccination campaign began on 19 December in the most affected communes and surrounding areas in the West and Centre departments, before ending on 16 January. Doses were also given to prisoners in the Port-au-Prince and Carrefour prisons. The results of this campaign are currently under evaluation.

### **Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)**

Ensuring the population has access to treated water is essential to contain the spread of the epidemic. In the West Department, Médecins du Monde (MDM) Argentina, Solidarité International, UNICEF, PAHO/WHO, and its implementing partners work closely with the Direction Nationale de l'Eau Potable et de l'Assainissement (DINEPA) and the Direction Sanitaire de l'Ouest (DSO) to coordinate WASH activities. In total, since December, [78 handwashing points](#) were installed in high-risk areas, [4,655 hygiene kits distributed](#), and [93 houses decontaminated](#).

Over the same period, partners distributed [765,000 gallons of treated and service water](#) in Cité Soleil, in addition to [538,994 aquatabs](#) across the seven communes of the ZMPAP.

In December, [IOM provided non-food items to its partners to support the cholera response](#). MSF received 10,000 bars of soap, 1,000 jerry cans and 1,000 tapped buckets and MSPP received 3,000 bars of soap and 1,000 hygiene kits. In addition, IOM donations supported the family organisations Kizito, Sourire d'enfant and Apronha in assisting 3,100 households in Cité Soleil.

### **Communication with communities**

In the ZMPAP, the ASCPs have helped [raise awareness among almost 380,000 people](#) since December, including 84 percent of Cité Soleil's population and 33 percent of Kenscoff's. MDM Argentina also distributed over 420 information, education and communication materials on cholera in high-risk communities.

According to the West Health Administration's analysis, [community response activities need to be intensified in the communes of Arcahaie and Cabaret](#), which, despite a significant number of cases, suffer from a response deficit.

In order to improve public information at the national level, UNICEF supported the establishment of a [free automated information service](#) that allows people to obtain information on cholera by texting the word "KOLERA" to 8090 anonymously and confidentially. By the end of the year, it had already recorded over 82,000 consultations.

### **Funding**

On 6 January, the Government of Japan announced an emergency allocation of [US\\$3 million](#) to support the response to the cholera epidemic. These funds will focus on WASH, health and food security activities implemented by UNICEF, WFP and IFRC.

These contributions are part of the [Cholera+ Flash Appeal](#) launched on 15 November and currently funded at 10.5 percent according to the [Financial Tracking Service](#).

## **Protection**

### **Internally displaced people**

#### *Port-au-Prince metropolitan area*

According to IOM's [assessment of the displacement situation in ZMPAP](#) (DTM: Displacement Monitoring Matrix), [over 155,100 people are displaced in ZMPAP](#), mainly due to urban violence. This is a [77 percent increase](#) compared to August 2022.

A quarter, [\(38,500 people\) live in a total of 50 spontaneous sites](#); over half are gathered in five main sites. These spaces (squares, schools, abandoned premises, etc.) are often unsuitable for hosting extremely precarious populations. They are not equipped with the hygiene, water and sanitation infrastructure needed to meet people's basic needs, who are forced to live in undignified conditions, particularly in terms of protection. Despite access difficulties due to insecurity, humanitarian partners are working to organise hot meals and drinking water distributions on the sites as well as the maintenance of latrines.

Most displaced people are hosted by their relatives in [246 host communities](#). The resilience of these communities to shocks (e.g. new waves of violence) is weakened by this increased pressure on their resources. In view of this, support for host communities is an essential part of the response to IDPs in Haiti.

During the month of December, IOM provided relocation assistance to 196 households in the ZMPAP via a cash transfer.

### *Artibonite and Centre*

According to [data collected by DTM](#) between 2 and 6 December, 1,248 households (5,475 people) were displaced between 22 September and 25 November 2022 in Petit-Rivière-de-l'Artibonite (Artibonite) and Cabaret (north of the West department), following armed attacks by local gangs. These people are in urgent need of assistance and have taken refuge in the surrounding communities. On 12 December, IOM, WFP, PAHO/WHO and UNICEF conducted a multi-sectoral rapid needs assessment mission in Artibonite, which identified priority needs in terms of food (38 percent), shelter (25 percent), livelihoods (19 percent), WASH (13 percent) and psychosocial support (6 percent).

The food security sector is working on the response modalities through emergency food distribution activities, income-generating activities (cleaning of canals, watersheds protection, etc.), and support for agricultural production for the spring season. In Artibonite, Progetto Mondo carried out livelihood support activities for 400 beneficiaries over the month of December.

## Migration

According to a [DTM report](#), between early December and 11 January, [689 people were repatriated by air and sea](#). This shows a gradual resumption of repatriations after a significant reduction between September and October due to the waves of social unrest in the country. Over this period, repatriations were mainly from the Bahamas (40 percent), Cuba (13 percent) and Turks and Caicos (7 percent).

Repatriations by land from the Dominican Republic remain the most numerous. Between early December and 11 January, the DTM recorded [15,886 forced repatriations](#) at the border posts of Ouanaminthe (70 percent), Belladère (29 percent) and Malpasse (1 percent), representing a daily average of 378 repatriations. However, this is only a partial analysis, as it does not include repatriations via the Anse-à-Pitres border post or unofficial border crossing points.

In the current context, returnees arrive in Haiti in an extremely vulnerable situation and with little to no resources. IOM is assisting them with one-off financial support to meet their most urgent needs, medical and psychosocial support if required, and hygiene kits. Most of the air and sea returnees are assisted by IOM. However, it does not have the necessary resources to assist the most vulnerable at the Dominican border given the [ever-increasing frequency and number of repatriations](#).

## Food security

[Rampant inflation](#) and the sharp depreciation of the gourde against the main foreign currencies have a direct [impact](#) on the [prices of food products](#) regularly consumed by poor and middle-income households in Haiti (rice, black beans, corn, cooking oil). Indeed, these products are mostly imported (all cooking oil, 80 percent of rice, a significant share of beans and maize). Imported food prices have increased by 60 percent year-on-year and by over 120 per cent compared to the five-year average, according to analyses by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Thus, despite a moderate respite from insecurity, the purchasing power of very poor households is deteriorating, worsening their food insecurity.

[Humanitarian actors continue to provide assistance in priority areas](#). In the department of Nippes and Ouest, 468 people benefited from Malteser's livelihood support project. Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe also provided livelihood support to 2,100 people in December.

In the commune of Cité Soleil, humanitarian actors used the truce between rival gangs to step up their activities. Although clashes broke out again in the second week of January, activities in these food-insecure neighbourhoods continue. A total of 2,906 households in 14 neighbourhoods of Cité Soleil received an electronic cash transfer equivalent to US\$95 as part of Concern Worldwide's response. In December, WFP distributed food assistance to some 93,290 people, including 43,290 in Cité Soleil, Croix-des-Bouquets and Delmas.

## Nutrition

In terms of nutrition, UNICEF, in partnership with MdM Argentina, screened over 1,500 children aged between 6 and 59 months in the commune of Cité Soleil in order to assess their nutritional status. Some 92 cases of moderate acute malnutrition and 27 cases of severe acute malnutrition were admitted for treatment.

[A SMART nutritional survey is underway](#) to obtain information on the nutritional status of children under five years of age.

## Education

After being postponed many times, the reopening of schools across the country has finally taken place. According to the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training (MENFP), as of 15 January, **over 90 percent of the country's schools had reopened**, a significant increase compared to the 17 percent of schools opened as of 21 November.

However, the number of students who have actually returned to study needs to be assessed. After more than a month of economic stagnation and with high inflation, the most vulnerable families face great difficulties paying school fees and buying educational supplies. UNICEF started distributing **over 11,000 school, hygiene, and recreation kits** in 22 schools in the ZMPAP.

## Funding

The Global Humanitarian Overview 2023 (GHO), published on 1 December 2022, warns of the unprecedented number of people in need of humanitarian assistance around the world.

In Haiti, the situation is extremely worrying. **Nearly 5.2 million people are in need, 3 million of whom are targeted by the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2023**, which requires a total of \$714.8 million in funding, almost double the amount required in 2022. This significant increase in financial needs is the consequence of the increase in operational costs due to inflation and logistical adjustments linked to access constraints.

Despite an improvement in 2022 with 46 percent of the HRP funded, on average only 30 percent of the amounts required by the HRPs have been raised over the last five years (2018-2022). Even more support from the international community is needed in 2023 to stop the deterioration of the humanitarian situation.

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