

## Haiti's response against cholera maintains the trend towards the reduction of suspected cases with a rate of 0,24 per 1000



**2,986** suspected cholera cases from 1 January to 16 August 2018



**65%** Downward trend in comparison to 2017



**6,200** rapid interventions supported by the UN in six months



Vaccination campaign led by the Ministry of Health MSPP and supported by the UN in Haiti.

L. Abassi/UN

### Current situation

From 1 January to 16 August 2018, the Haitian Ministry of Health (MSPP) reported 2,986 suspected cholera cases and 34 related deaths, which represents a 65% reduction in comparison with the 8,611 suspected cases registered during the same period in 2017, and a 68% reduction in comparison with the 104 deaths reported also for the same period. This downward trend, if maintained, represents an opportunity to take in 2018 another big step towards the zero transmission of cholera, in case funding is available and support for the rapid response led by Haitian authorities is accordingly intensified under the umbrella of the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera. However, the country remains extremely vulnerable to cholera, particularly in the West, Centre and

Maintaining the support to the response led by Haitian authorities remains crucial to seize the opportunity to take a big step towards zero transmission

### Overview of cholera cases between October 2010 and 16 August 2018 (Source: MSPP)

Year	Suspected cholera cases	Total Deaths	Incidence rate per 1,000	Fatality rate in hospitals
2010 (Oct-Dec)	185,351	4,101	18.38	2.43%
2011	352,033	2,927	34.35	1.04%
2012	101,503	908	9.75	0.96%
2013	58,574	587	5.54	1.05%
2014	27,392	297	2.55	1.01%
2015	36,045	322	3.30	0.75%
2016	41,421	447	3.74	0.91%
2017	13,681	159	1.12	0.99%
2018 (1 Jan. to 16 August)	2,986	34	0.24	-
Total 2010-Juin 2018	818,986	9,782	-	-

Artibonite departments. Therefore, maintaining the support to the surveillance and rapid response led by national authorities is crucial to preserve the hard-fought gains in the battle against cholera and all water-borne diseases.

As of 30 August 2018, the Haitian authorities (with the support of international and national partners) have succeeded in reducing the suspected cholera cases and fatalities in Haiti by 99% since the highest peak in 2010 (185,351 cases in three months) thanks to a massive community response, improved surveillance, and timely clinical care. For the first time after 2010, in 2017, the disease was kept under control during the second semester of the year, despite the higher than average rainfall. However, the country remains extremely vulnerable to cholera, particularly in the West, Centre and Artibonite departments. Therefore, maintaining the support to the surveillance and rapid response led by national authorities is still crucial to preserve the hard-fought gains in the battle against cholera and all water-borne diseases.

In the medium and longer term, improving access to water, sanitation and health care is key to address the root causes of all water borne diseases, among them cholera. This will be crucial to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and Haiti's vision of becoming an emergent country by 2030, since the access to water and sanitation is essential to advance in all aspects of development.

### Summary of key UN actions in support of the Haitian authorities' response against cholera in 2018

From 1 January to 30 June 2018, the United Nations Family (particularly through UNICEF, PAHO/OMS and UNDP) continued supporting the Haitian authorities' response to win the battle against cholera under the umbrella of the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera. Among other actions, as part of the Track 1 of the UN New Approach Against Cholera, the UN family supported the Ministry of Health's (MSPP) alert-response mechanism allowing to implement 6,207 rapid interventions and to respond to 2,284 suspected cases (85% of the cases), with 95 % of the responses effected in less than 48 hours after the alert. About 228,400 persons benefited directly from a rapid response and received water treatment products. As part of this rapid response, 282 chlorination points were installed, and 670,000 people were sensitized to reinforce cholera prevention. During the same period, the UN did also support the Haitian Ministry of Health (MSPP) to vaccinate 64,184 persons against cholera with two doses in Saint Michel de l'Attalaye (Artibonite department).

Under the umbrella of the Track 2 of the UN New Approach against Cholera, the UN continued carrying out local consultations in four communal sections of Mirebalais in order to provide material assistance and support to the communities most directly affected by cholera. As part of this process, UNDP implemented in collaboration with local authorities the construction of the Mina Market, in Crête Brulée, launched on April 18, which aims at benefiting the community by reducing the risk of cholera contamination. In addition, UNDP constructed a water supply equipment in the Sarazin section in Wany, which was launched at the end of June.

The UN response to cholera in 2016, 2017 and 2018 (as of June) has been supported through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund by Algeria, Argentina, Bahamas, Belgium, Belize, Canada, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, France, Grenada, Guyana, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, the Netherlands, Norway, Palau, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Senegal, Republic of Korea, Slovak Republic, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Sudan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay and Venezuela. The cholera response for this period was also funded through different mechanisms by other partners such as the World Bank ECHO, DFID; USAID, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Japan, and the German and French UNICEF national committees. In terms of implementation of programs in support to the Haitian authorities, the UN has collaborated with many implementing partners, including the Red Cross, CEDUCC, Foundation Zanmi Timoun, Acted, Action contre la Faim, Oxfam and Solidarités International, among others.