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Fighting Water Borne Diseases

## Fact Sheet: UN Cholera Response in Haiti

2016

2016 (DATA FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER)



- PAHO and UNICEF supported the cholera vaccination of 876,044 persons in 2016

-The humanitarian response after the hurricane Matthew and new UN approach intensified the support to national authorities in rapid response, prevention, water and sanitation

### Current situation

From 1 January to 24 December 2016, the Ministry of Health reported 41,421 suspected cases and 447 deaths, in comparison with 33,709 suspected cases and 309 related deaths from 1st January to 31 December 2015. As of 31 December 2016, Haitian and international efforts have succeeded in reducing the cholera cases and fatalities in Haiti by almost 88% since the peak in 2011 (350,000 cases). However, the country is still extremely vulnerable to cholera, particularly in the West, Centre, Artibonite and North departments.

Several factors explain the increase in cholera cases in 2016 (in comparison to 2015), including both heavy rains and drought (which affect the availability of safe water) and the impact of the Hurricane Matthew (which left 750,000 persons without access to safe water and sanitation), and damaged 65 health facilities, as well as transportation and equipment. However, the humanitarian response to Matthew after the emergency controlled the outbreak and triggered a trend of decrease in the number of cases during the last two months of 2016. Over 281,000 people were provided with safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene in response to Hurricane Matthew and the number of teams was increased to 88, including 31 in the departments of the South and Grand'Anse. This proves once again that cholera is also vulnerable to funding and coordinated response, and that can be defeated.



Year	Suspected cholera cases	Total Deaths	Incidence rate (per 1.000)	Fatality rate in hospitals
2010 (Oct-Dec)	185,351	3,951	18.36	2.43%
2011	351,839	2,918	34.33	1.04%
2012	101,503	908	9.73	0.96%
2013	58,574	581	5.57	1.05%
2014	29,078	297	2.71	1.01%
2015	36,045	322	3.9	0.75%
2016 (1 Jan- 31 Dec)	41,421	447	-	-
<b>Total</b>	802,811	9,424		

### Midterm review of the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera for the period 2016-2018

On 30 August 2016, the Minister for Public Health and Population, Dr. Daphnee Delsoin Benoit, and the SG Special Representative, Sandra Honoré, co-chaired the 7th meeting of the High Level Committee on Cholera (HLCC). At the plenary session, the Minister of Health acknowledged the contribution of the UN and requested further support for the medium term reviewed Plan for the Elimination of Cholera in Haiti 2016-2018, presented on 18 August with an estimated budget of \$180 million.

## New UN approach to combat cholera and support the affected communities

Greater government ownership and sustained donor support are critical to the further progress of elimination efforts. Last 1st December, the UNSG Ban-Ki moon apologized at the UN General Assembly to the Haitian population and recognized the moral responsibility of the UN to the victims of the cholera epidemic. The SG also asked for financial support from the membership of the United Nations to fund a new UN approach to support Haiti in the fight against cholera, with an estimated cost of \$400 million over 2 years on two tracks. Track 1 includes moving ahead with measures to combat cholera in the short term, including vaccination, surveillance, treatment, rapid response teams and immediate water and sanitation support to affected communities (in support of the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera). Track 2 considers the need for a package of measures to give development support to the communities that are suffering from this disease. A UN Multi-Partner-Trust fund was created on 14 October by the UNSG in order to support the funding efforts for Track 1 and Track 2, a tool that complements other funding mechanisms already in place.

## Overview of the UN cholera response in 2016

-In 2016, 876,044 persons were vaccinated (769,990 in the areas most impacted by the hurricane Matthew) and the UN ensured cholera treatment to respond to 80% of cases in all the country. 12,555 rapid responses to outbreak alerts were supported by the UN benefiting about 145,000 households and responding to 20,529 cases (providing health treatment, sanitation, water and prevention kits). The Total Sanitation Campaign launched in 2014 by the UNSG and the Government of Haiti has already been implemented in 113 localities. As a result, 60,000 people gained access to improved source of drinking water and 17,500 people from 35 communities live in an open defecation free environment. In addition, the MINUSTAH implemented 22 water, health and sanitation projects reaching some 443,534 direct and indirect beneficiaries in seven of the country's ten Departments.

## Funding overview and response 2010-2016

Between October 2010 and December 2016, the UN family in Haiti has supported the Haitian authorities mobilizing more than \$330 million for both for rapid response and for longer term response (including more than 300 direct initiatives and projects). In 2016, \$28,5 million were mobilized through: (1) the humanitarian flash appeal after the hurricane Matthew -12,4 million funded for the WASH sector out of \$18 million requested and \$4 million funded for the health sector out of \$18,4 million requested-, (2) the Humanitarian Response Plan -\$9,2 million funded out of \$20,3 million requested-, (3) the Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund launched on 14 October 2016 by the SG -\$1,6 million received out of \$400 million requested for a 2 years period- and (4) MINUSTAH's QIP projects -\$1,3 million-.

## Key cholera response actions in 2016 per UN actor



-In 2016, UNICEF and partners implemented together with the Ministry of Health 12,555 rapid responses to cholera alerts in all 10 departments, benefiting about 145,000 households and responding to 20,529 cases (providing health treatment, sanitation, water and prevention kits). In addition, nearly 1 million people were sensitized to cholera risk. After Cyclone Mathew, the number of teams was increased to 88, including 31 in the departments of the South and Grand'Anse.

-As part of the National Sanitation Campaign, UNICEF continued working with Haitian authorities (DINEPA) in 16 high-priority communes.

-So far, ACAT has been implemented in 113 localities and is already producing favorable results. So far, a total of 35 communities are certified open defecation free (ODF), including 21 in the South East region.



-OCHA has activated an US\$ 8 million CERF loan to UNICEF to scale up the rapid response to cholera. Additional funds are still needed to maintain the rapid response and the long-term response, so that gains are not reversed.



-PAHO ensured that cholera treatment centers had supplies to treat 80% of cholera cases (26,668) by procuring and distributing them to pharmaceutical warehouses in all departments. PAHO also maintained 6 contingency stocks with partners on the field ready to respond to cholera outbreaks.

-876,044 people vaccinated against cholera by the Ministry of Health (MSPP) with the support of PAHO, UNICEF, IMC, and other partners in selected communes of the Grand'Anse, South and West Departments through vaccination campaigns which took place in April-May and November-December 2016.

-PAHO responded rapidly to alerts/outbreaks through case investigation and evaluations of cholera treatment centers with the MSPP and partners. Then they addressed identified gaps (ex: case management, MSPP protocols, structural issues, hygiene issues) through training, small repairs, and rehabilitations.

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-IOM health has supported the Haitian Minister of Health on cholera response through the deployment of 6 mobile teams, by supporting management of 7,000 patients in 50 Cholera facilities and by training of 600 staffs in Artibonite, West and South-East Departments.

-The IOM also promoted the use of water treatment product “AquaJif” to improve the quality of household drinking water. Overall, 120,000 bottles of AquaJif were sold out in 2016 by the network of wholesalers and retailers in vulnerable communities of Artibonite department.



-MINUSTAH's Civil Affairs section continued to work with local partners on efforts to eradicate cholera with a total of 22 water, health and sanitation QIPs (Quick-Impact Projects). These 22 projects, for a total outlay of USD 1, 320,346, reached some 443,534 direct and indirect beneficiaries in seven of the country's ten Departments. Accounting for over 30 per cent of the total QIPs budget, projects included the installation of a water system in the Carrefour commune (capital's region, K-Gato Merge), and in Chambellan, Grand-Anse Department. In line with the fight against cholera outbreak,s two projects worked directly with local hospitals and health centres, while twenty are related to water management.

-As part of Ban Ki moon's “Total Sanitation Campaign” launched in Haiti in 2014, the second and third phases of the construction and extension of a water supply system in Los Palmas has been fully completed during the period under review with a total investment of USD 260,000 and for the benefit 48,010 people. Civil Affairs also continues to monitor and report on cholera throughout the country.

The UN response to cholera in 2016 has been supported by ECHO, DFID; Norway, Canada and Japan Government; German and French UNICEF national committees and OFID, as well as by additional donors under the umbrella of the response to the Hurricane Matthew.