

Haiti's response against cholera has reduced the suspected cases to 0.07 per 1000 and maintains the downward trend in March



902 suspected cholera cases from 1 January to 24 March 2018



80% Downward trend in comparison to 2017



14,585 interventions supported by the UN in 2017



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 24 March 2018, the Haitian Ministry of Health (MSPP) reported 902 suspected cholera cases and 9 related deaths, which represents a 80% reduction in comparison with the 4,562 suspected cases during the same period in 2017 (as of 1 April 2017), and a 86% reduction in comparison with the 63 deaths registered –also for the same period- in 2017. These numbers confirm that the downward trend initiated in late 2016 remains consistent and, if maintained, is an opportunity to take in 2018 another big step towards the zero transmission of cholera. To this end, it will be crucial to maintain funding availability and support for the rapid response led by Haitian authorities under the umbrella of the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera.

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

Overview of cholera cases between October 2010 and 24 March 2018 (Source: MSPP)

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	41,421	447	3.74	0.91%
2017	13,747	159	1.13	0.99%
2018 (1 Jan. to 24 March)	902	9	0.07	-
Total 2010-March 2018	816,066	9,583	-	-

As of December 2017, 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 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 to the Haitian authorities' response against cholera in 2017

In line with the United Nations New Approach against Cholera, in 2018 the United Nations family (particularly through UNICEF, PAHO/OMS and UNDP) continue intensifying its support to the Haitian authorities response to win the battle against cholera under the umbrella of the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera. In 2017, among other actions, as part of the Track 1 of the UN New Approach Against Cholera, UNICEF and PAHO/WHO supported the Ministry of Health's (MSPP) alert-response mechanism allowing to respond to 13,011 suspected cases (95% of the cases), with 92 % of the responses effected in less than 48 hours after the alert. About 167,900 households, approximately 839,500 persons, benefited from a rapid response and received water treatment products. As part of this rapid response, 1,100 chlorination points were installed and 1,1 million people were sensitized to reinforce cholera prevention during 2017.

In parallel, UNICEF supported the National Sanitation Campaign, which aims at eliminating open defecation and improving access to water in key priority communes. About 65,000 persons benefited from improved access to water in the Centre and Artibonite departments, among them 8,700 children at schools, and 69 localities are now declared open defecation free.

PAHO/WHO did also support the Haitian Ministry of Health (MSPP) to vaccinate 742,569 persons against cholera in the South and the Grand' Anse departments, Mirebalais and the national prison. During these campaigns, home water chlorination was also supported. In addition, the household level water treatment product "Aquajif" was promoted by the IOM in 14 Communes in the South and the Grand Anse department. As part of this project, during 2017, more than 330,000 beneficiaries had access to potable water thanks to Aquajif, and 110,900 beneficiaries were sensitized on cholera and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). These actions were complemented by 18 quick-impact projects on water, health and sanitation in collaboration with local partners. These 18 projects, for a total outlay of \$1 million, reached some 367,576 direct and indirect beneficiaries in seven of the country's ten departments.

Under the umbrella of the Track 2 of the UN New Approach against Cholera, UNDP carried 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.

[Click on this link for more detailed information about the UN actions in support to Haiti's battle against cholera in 2017.](#)

The UN response to cholera in 2016 and 2017 has been supported, among others, by Algeria, Argentina, Bahamas, Belgium, Belize, Canada, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, France, Grenada, Guyana, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, 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 was also funded different mechanisms by other partners such as 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.