



IT'S BEEN FIFTEEN MONTHS since cholera was detected in Haiti. Today it is the largest cholera epidemic in the world. More than 7,000 people have died from cholera, and over 500,000 Haitians – roughly 5% of the country's total population – have been diagnosed with the disease. Although cholera is preventable and treatable, resources for controlling it have not kept pace with the expansion of the epidemic.

Preventing additional needless deaths and illness from cholera requires ramping up resources to strengthen water, sanitation, and health systems and provide comprehensive prevention and care to the people of Haiti. Efforts to combat cholera should be redoubled with a focus on working with the Government of Haiti and local partners to:

### **STRENGTHEN WATER AND SANITATION INFRASTRUCTURE:**

The international cholera response must prioritize major investments in Haitian-developed plans for improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation. This includes addressing the funding gap for water and sanitation infrastructure such as chlorination, filtration, and waste management systems, and supporting local government efforts to operate and maintain that infrastructure.

### **IDENTIFY AND TREAT ALL THOSE WITH CHOLERA SYMPTOMS:**

Community health workers play a critical role in educating communities on prevention measures and identifying and treating patients who live beyond the reach of cholera treatment centers. Resources are needed to train and retain public health workers and equip them with the supplies necessary for aggressive case finding and treatment including oral rehydration salts, antibiotic therapy, zinc, and vitamins.

### **ROLL OUT A SAFE, AFFORDABLE, AND EFFECTIVE CHOLERA VACCINE:**

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Health in Haiti (MSPP), Partners In Health/Zanmi Lasante and GHESKIO are rolling out a cholera vaccination campaign as part of a comprehensive approach to slowing cholera in Haiti. Approximately 100,000 individuals in Port au Prince and rural St. Marc and will receive the Shanchol Oral Cholera Vaccine in 2012. Additional resources and partners with strong community connections will be necessary to support the MSPP in scaling up a national campaign if they choose to implement one.

### **STRENGTHEN HAITI'S PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM:**

Only one third of Haiti's health services are being delivered in the public sector.<sup>1</sup> Rather than creating private, parallel service delivery systems that drain resources from the public sector, donors, and NGOs should work closely with the Government of Haiti to strengthen the provision of comprehensive, integrated health care that is affordable and accessible for all Haitians. MSPP funding needs are vast and include resources for: hiring, training, and retaining staff; providing essential supplies, medicine, and equipment; removing financial barriers for the poor; and renovating and operating dilapidated clinics and hospitals.

### **IMPROVE EFFECTIVENESS OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO HAITI:**

Foreign assistance, if rooted in human rights and aid effectiveness principles, can help save lives and strengthen local government and community approaches to breaking the cycle of disease and poverty in Haiti. Donors can contribute to a healthier and more prosperous future in Haiti by: channeling resources directly to Haitian institutions and ministerial budgets; increasing local contracting, employment, procurement, and participation; working within the auspices of national Haitian-developed plans; and fully complying with international agreements on aid effectiveness.

<sup>1</sup>Ivers L, Farmer P, Almazor CP, Léandre F. 2010. "Five complementary interventions to slow cholera: Haiti." *The Lancet*;10:2048–2051.

## CHOLERA PREVALANCE AND FATALITY RATE, BY DEPARTMENT

Department	Cumulative Cases	Total Deaths
Artibonite	106,125	1207
Centre	43,089	545
Grande Anse	21,941	923
Nippes	7,188	191
Nord	43,529	857
Nord Ouest	27,936	380
Nord Est	26,759	324
Ouest	65,396	948
Port-au-Prince	141,122	997
Sud	27,858	291
Sud Est	7,996	355
<b>Total</b>	<b>518,939</b>	<b>7,018</b>

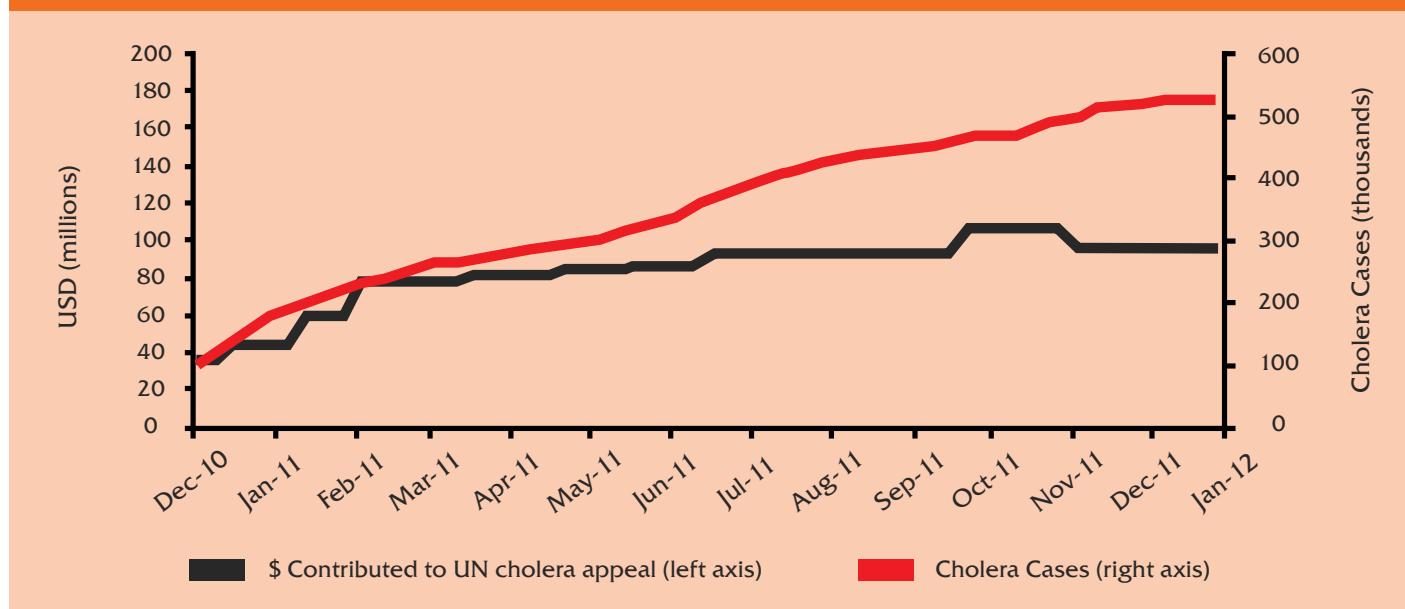
Source: MSPP (Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population). January 2012.

## HUMANITARIAN PLEDGES AND RECIPIENTS FOR THE CHOLERA RESPONSE FROM PUBLIC SECTOR DONORS AS OF DECEMBER 2011 (IN USD MILLIONS)

	Pledged	Committed	Disbursed	Committed or disbursed finds by grant recipients					
				Cash					In-kind
				Government of Haiti	Donor's own government agencies	Red Cross	Consolidated appeal: UN and NGOs	Other service providers	
<b>Total</b>	<b>180.1</b>	<b>36.6</b>	<b>139.5</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>111.1</b>	<b>5.0</b>
USA	75.6	26.1	49.5	0.0	5.3	0.0	14.0	56.4	0.0

Source: UN Office of the Special Envoy for Haiti. December 2011.

## CHOLERA FUNDING VS CHOLERA CASES



Source: Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) with data from Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and MSPP. January 2012.