

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND CHOLERA OUTBREAK

Report #1



HAITI

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- **Country/Location:** HAITI (Nippes, Artibonite)
- **Title of the emergency:** Haiti Humanitarian Situation and cholera outbreak
- **Dates covered by the Report:** October 1-21, 2022
- **Situation Report No.:** 1

General overview

Two cholera cases were first confirmed at the beginning of October in the capital city of Port au Prince prompting the Haitian Health Authorities to declare an **outbreak of cholera**.

In two weeks (October 20th) the number of confirmed cases increased up to 142 with 39 fatalities, while more than 1,000 are the suspected cases reported in various areas of Artibonite, Centre, Nippes and Ouest departments.

More than 40% of suspected cholera cases affects children under age 9. The impact of the outbreak on the already very fragile food security and nutritional status of children is raising concern (UNICEF). Today, **1 out of 5 children are at risk**, especially in the most vulnerable regions of the country.

According to the latest figures from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC 19 October), **nearly one in two people in Haiti is now acutely food insecure**, for a total of 4,7 million Haitians, among which 420.000 are under the age of 5 and 1,4 million are between 5 and 17 years old.

Since the beginning of the year, the cost of rice is 26 percent higher, beans are over 30 percent more expensive and cooking oil increased by 44 percent. **The basic food basket is out of reach for many Haitians.** Year-on-year inflation stands at a staggering 63 percent and the cost of petrol has doubled. The situation is being further exacerbated by the recent cholera outbreak and the lack of potable water, which is likely to push more people to the brink of survival (FAO).

The dramatic humanitarian situation is exacerbated by the **growing violence** around the country. In recent weeks, a series of protests, violence and looting have shaken the country, plunging Haiti into chaos. On September 11th, Prime Minister Ariel Henry announced an increase in fuel prices. In the following days, the protests escalated: gangs took control of the main coastal infrastructure and the Varreux oil terminal, the largest in the country, blocking fuel and water distribution. Additionally, barricades along the roads and the armed control of the territory are a further obstacle for the supply of food and clean water, as well as to access basic services.

Overview of ChildFund response

Two ChildFund Alliance members - **WeWorld** (IT) and **UEPLM** (FR) - are active in the country mainly in **Water and sanitation, Food Security and Education sectors**, with humanitarian projects in regions highly affected by the current multifaced crisis like Nippes and Artibonite regions.

In the Nippes department, WeWorld and UEPLM are jointly implementing a project co-funded by the French cooperation (AFD) that foresees the construction of 5 drinking water systems for 5 communities. The project also aims at raising awareness on hygiene in 7 schools, including Menstrual Hygiene Management and the distribution of dignity kits to around 500 girls. **Nippes is a very vulnerable region where cholera cases are spreading** and that is still suffering from the effects of last year's earthquake along with all the other problems that are currently hitting the country.

In addition, UEPLM is currently building cisterns for 10 families in this region that will be added to the 2,000 built in the past (which had made it possible to eradicate typhoid fever in the area). Reinforcing access to water is indeed fundamental to fight against the spread of waterborne diseases. In a situation of epidemic resumption, adding purification processes to the rainwater collected in the cisterns (filters or chlorox) would also be important.

Moreover, WeWorld is implementing a UNICEF funded project targeting more than 18,000 people in the **Municipality of Gros Morne, where some cases of cholera have already been reported**. The action

aims at promoting hygiene and fighting against open-air defecation, which is among the main causes of the cholera infection. It is why such intervention is now more necessary than ever.

With reference to the Food Security emergency, WeWorld is responding through an initiative funded by ECHO in the Nippes region covering the needs of 927 food insecure households (IPC4). WeWorld will be able to support 2,264 additional households in the Artibonite region thanks to additional resources from ECHO. At the same time, UEPLM strengthens food security in the region by working with 1,100 farmers on the experimentation of complex crop associations requiring less inputs, by supporting the development of agroforestry and in crisis situations such as this, by distributing short-cycles seeds varieties (beans and market gardening).

With the funds secured until now, **we are able to serve more than 50.000 people (19.000 children)** to improve their food security, water access and hygiene conditions mitigating the risk of contracting cholera. The additional ECHO funds would increase the total number of beneficiaries up to more than 60.000 people.

Next steps

WeWorld and UEPLM team are in the field to adapt a response plan to the new needs and priorities. Currently, both organizations are working at **new proposals and concept notes** for institutional donors in order to expand its intervention in the country and respond to the increasing needs

Additional 150.000 USD would be urgently needed to scale up and adapt the ongoing activities to prevent the cholera outbreak especially among children.