

Cholera Task Force-IRAQ

Update on Current Cholera Outbreak in Iraq. SITREP – Situation Report – N° 19

12.11.2015 (Epi Week 46)

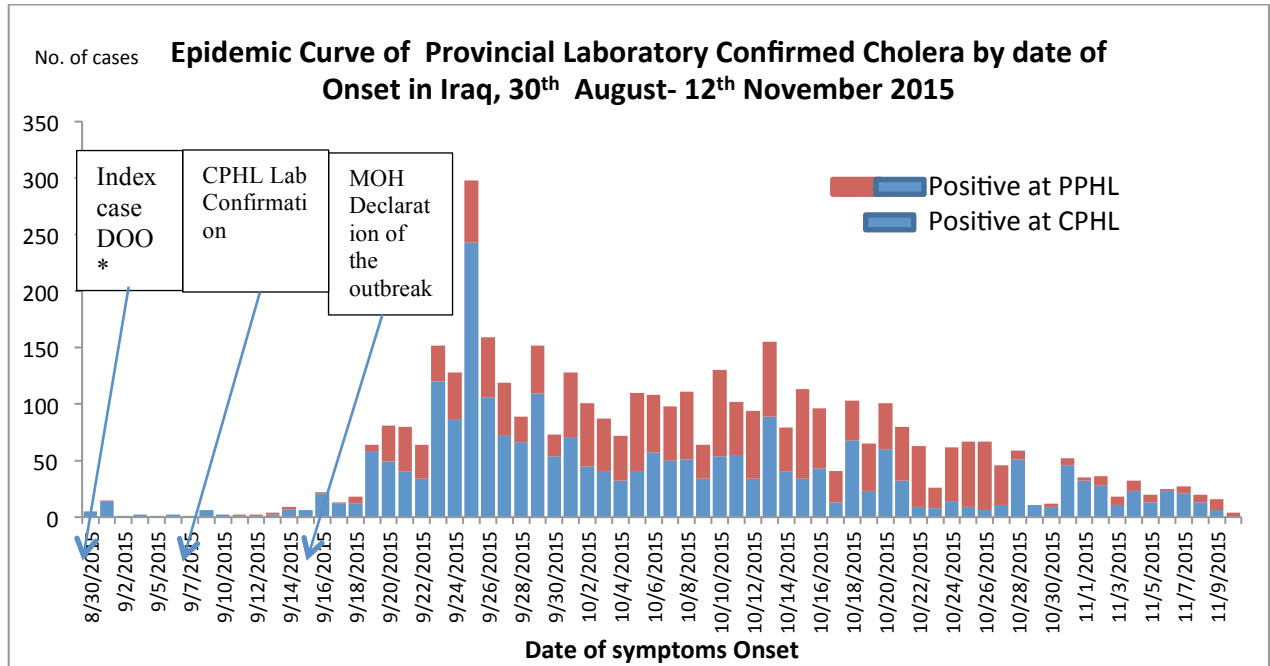
Highlight:

- As of 12 November 2015 a cumulative total of 4,634 cases of cholera have been confirmed at provincial Public Health labs (PHL), of these confirmed cases, 2,724 were reconfirmed at the Central Public Health Laboratory (CPHL).
- A total of 283 new cases have been confirmed at the PPHL, while 290 new cases were reconfirmed at the CPHL.
- Most of the new confirmed cases were reported from Baghdad, Babylon, Diwaniya, Kerbala and Muthanna governorates. Meanwhile, Kirkuk (2) and Dahuk (4) of Northern governorates reported new confirmed cases this week. In addition, Ninewa governorate reported one confirmed case for the first time this week.
- The overall trends for cholera outbreak in most of the governorates showed a decline suggesting improvement in detection, testing and response to the outbreak by health authorities and partners.

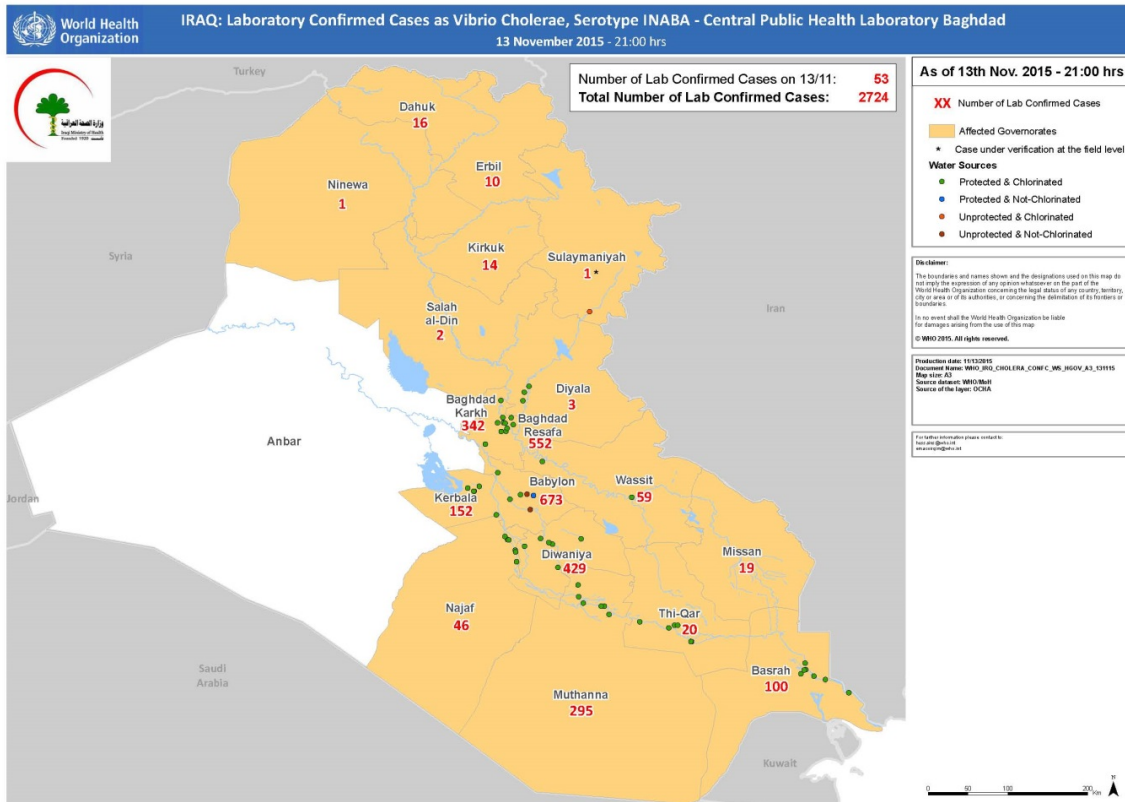
Table 1: CPHL confirmed cholera cases by governorate and outcomes

Serial #	Governorate	Cumulative cases and deaths			Cases and deaths week 44		
		Cases	Deaths	CFR	Cases	Deaths	CFR
1	Baghdad-Karkh	342	0	0	6	0	0
	Baghdad-Resafa	551	1	0.3	77	0	0
2	Babylon (Babil)	674	1	0.2	61	0	0
3	Kerbala	152	0	0	40	0	0
4	Najaf	46	0	0	5	0	0
5	Diwaniya	429	0	0	56	0	0
6	Muthanna	285	0	0	27	0	0
7	Basrah	100	0	0	7	0	0
8	Missan	19	0	0	1	0	0
9	Wassit	59	0	0	0	0	0
10	Thi-Qar	20	0	0	2	0	0
11	Diyala	3	0	0	0	0	0
12	Erbil	10	0	0	0	0	0
13	Salah El-Din	2	0	0	0	0	0
14	Kirkuk	14	0	0	3	0	0
15	Dahuk	16	0	0	4	0	0
16	Sulaimaniya	1	0	0	0	0	0
17	Ninewa	1	0	0	1	0	0
Total		2,724	2	0.07%	290	0	0%

Figure 1: Epidemic Curve of Provincial Laboratory Confirmed Cholera Cases by Date of Onset



Map 1: Cumulative CPHL confirmed cases by district in each affected governorate



Updates on Health Response:

Surveillance:

- Daily report of the cholera outbreak current situation released from the MOH by the cholera confirmed cases from the CPHL
- Surveillance training activities are ongoing at provincial levels
- Active case search for suspected cholera cases has been stepped up across all districts affected by the cholera outbreak
- Process of genotyping the V. cholera strains isolated in Iraq has begun at Pasteur Institute

Case management:

- Cholera treatment centers at the referral hospitals in Babil, Muthanna, Kerbala, Basrah, Missan, and Baghdad are still receiving and managing cholera cases.
- Advocacy campaign to promote the usage of ORS for mild and moderate cholera cases is ongoing across all cholera affected districts, and ORS supplies were distributed to key health facilities

Coordination:

- Bilateral meeting have been conducted between the technical departments at the MOH (DG of PH, EPI, CDC, CPHL) and WHO during the week to discuss the progress of the cholera response and key challenges.
- Monthly health cluster meeting was held this week in Baghdad and most of the partners involved the cholera response and other health services in Iraq participated the meeting.

Mass immunization campaign:

- 229,216 (93%) of the 247,319 target populations vaccinated during the first round of the OCV campaign in most of the target camps. This coverage is not including Kirkuk, which postponed the OCV campaign round one to be after the Oral Polio Campaign this month.
- The second round of the OCV campaign is planned 7-11 December 2015

Updates on WASH Response:

Water and Sanitation

- Baghdad has received 1,200 tons of Chlorine gas supplies from Iran. 200 tons have been distributed and 1,000 tons are being kept for immediate use in the coming two months
- General Directorate of Water has 356 tons of Chlorine gas in Basra and ready for distribution
- In Babylon, Salah El-Din, Baghdad, Kerbala and Diyala UNICEF and the implementing partners continue to support the governorates by availing safe water supplies and waste management supplies
- Following heavy rains in Sulaimaniyah, DoSW has extended routine water quality analysis in camps, working with WASH committees to enhance water quality surveillance. WASH partners reinforced water supply in camps with high risk of AWD and Cholera (Alyawa and Qoratu) and covered gaps in water supply until February for all camps.

Communication

- During the Oral Polio vaccination campaigns conducted between 8 to 12 November, the vaccinators disseminated cholera prevention messages during ongoing door to door vaccination campaign across the country.
- MoH, UNICEF and WHO continued to prepare for the upcoming Arbaeen pilgrimage in Kerbala. A cholera communication plan for the upcoming Arbaeen period was agreed between UNICEF and the MoH.
- MoH, UNICEF and WHO continues to advocate with all health partners for a community-level approach to cholera prevention and awareness-raising activities, encouraging door-to-door communication on cholera.