

# Cholera Task Force-IRAQ

## Update on Current Cholera Outbreak in Iraq.

### SITREP – Situation Report – N° 2

14.09.2015 (Epi Week 38)

#### OVERVIEW:

Specific measures for control and prevention of epidemic diarrhea are continuous and include;

- The Response Component of the Cholera Contingency Plan has been initiated; first meeting of the joint cholera taskforce (inter-agency) consisting of WHO, UNICEF and OCHA) meeting was conducted at UN compound in Baghdad chaired by WHO today. (agenda attached)
- Health situation update resulting from epidemiological investigation was provided based on the situation report # 1 dated 13<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2015 (see attached).
- WASH Situation update and response for Abu-Ghraib (Baghdad) , Najaf and Quadissiya (Diwaniya) was provided (see below)



Map: Najaf, Qadissiya and Baghdad Governorates.

## I. Summary :

### Health response and Cholera epidemiological situation \*:

#### 1. The confirmed cases

- 12 confirmed cases, 9 of them in Najaf governorates, one of them is a citizen from Najaf but he is working in Ghamas and center of Dewaniya governorate, 3 cases are from Baghdad (two in Yousefia and one in Abu Ghraib).

#### 2. Age Groups:

- The age group of cases is between 8-65 years.
- All cases are of genetic type INABA.
- Number of females is nine representing 75% of cases and the male 3 (25%).
- One of these cases is an IDP residing in Ya- Hussein representing 0.8% of the total cases

#### 3. The distribution of cases are as follows;

- The number of cases less than 15 years of age is three representing 25% of the caseload.
- The number of cases between 15-35 years of age is five representing 42%
- The number of cases between 35-60 years of age are two representing 17%
- The cases of more than 60 years age group are two representing 16%

#### 4. All the cases of cholera are stable and treatment was given; contacts are under investigation and no death was reported so far till 1400hrs.

**\*Please refer to Sit-rep 1 (attached dated 13<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2015)**

## II. Health Response:

### Coordination:

- The Response Component of the Cholera Contingency Plan has been initiated; first meeting of the joint cholera taskforce (inter-agency) consisting of WHO, UNICEF and OCHA was conducted at UN compound chaired by WHO today. (Agenda attached)
- Cholera taskforce will be meeting the focal points from Ministry of Health at MoH premise on Tuesday at 11am on 15th September to discuss the cholera outbreak response, prevention and control of epidemic diarrhea under the MoH leadership with members representing all relevant ministries and bodies along with DGs of the affected governorates.

### Response:

- WHO is in the process of logistically shifting three Cholera kits (each serving between 250 - 500 diarrheal cases, depending on severity) from Erbil to replenish the existing stocks at Baghdad level.
- WHO Cholera response team has reached Baghdad for providing technically and logistic support to cholera outbreak investigation and containment in addition to supporting health interventions currently ongoing in Baghdad (Abu Ghairb), Najaf and Qadissiya (Diwaniya Governorate).
- Plans to provide additional support to the Central Public Health Lab (CPHL) to increase laboratory capacity are being developed
- Training of about 30 health professionals from different governorates that are dealing with communicable diseases on case definitions and cholera management has been completed today 14<sup>th</sup> September in Erbil

### **III. WASH Response:**

#### **Coordination:**

- WASH response plan will focus on following areas:
  - Enhance capacity of the local authorities that are dealing with water service delivery.
  - Advocate and prompt GDW to ensure increase of affordable chlorine percentage to keep it at 4 ppm at source and not less than 0.5 ppm at tap/end user, and support the delivery of purification materials to water project within the epidemic area.
  - Initiate water trucking service to the most vulnerable community.
  - Coordinate with relevant authorities so as to activate water quality monitoring.

#### **Response:**

- It's has distributed 20,000 sets (6 liter each) of bottled drinking water and 50,000 packs of aqua tab have been prepositioned from Erbil to Baghdad warehouse and will be delivered to PHCs in most vulnerable affected areas.
- 2,000 simplified hygiene kits and 2,000 Jerry cans (20L) are being delivered to Abu Ghraib district.
- 40,000 jerry cans (10 and 20 L) and 150,000 set of bottled water in addition to 300 mobile latrine and bathing facilities were prepositioned from UNICEF Baghdad warehouse to partner warehouse in Yousifiya to be distributed to the vulnerable people in Abu Ghraib district and Yousifiya (Mahmoudiya district) IDP camps.
- Prepositioning has been done for 450 basic family water kits (each kit covers 10 families), 63 boxes of water purification tablets, and 15,000 hygiene kits to be distributed to the vulnerable affected/epidemic areas.
- Awareness campaign: training on water borne disease and acute diarrhea will be held for Qadissiya, Abu Ghraib district and Najaf IDPs and host community.
- UNICEF is planning to conduct awareness campaign at community level and dissemination of IEC materials within affected areas.
- Ongoing efforts to improve WASH services in IDP Camps and Collective centers in affected areas.
- Ensuring more durable safe water supply for IDPs.
- Ensuring sanitary facilities (latrines and baths) to be replenished with disinfectants along with needed disinfection process.
- Enhancing hygiene awareness among IDP and community in affected areas.
- WASH cluster now plans to invite its partners to the Humanitarian Need Overview and Response Plan where 30 minutes will be allocated for discussion on preparedness and response of cholera with other actors.
- Finally, activating the Cholera preparedness plan particularly for the governorates that have Euphrates River as their main water source.

### **IV. Way Forward:**

- Ministry of Health has requested a joint cholera taskforce meeting at MoH premise on Tuesday on 15th September. Meeting minutes will be shared accordingly.