

Cholera Task Force-IRAQ

Update on Current Cholera Outbreak in Iraq.

SITREP – Situation Report – N° 4

17.09.2015 (Epi Week 38)

OVERVIEW:

1. **The cumulative number** for the laboratory confirmed cases are fifteen (n=15) out of thirty eight (n=38) suspected samples which were sent to Central Public Health laboratory (CPHL) Baghdad and results are as following:
 - Ten (n=10) cases from Najaf governorate (including the case diagnosed in Ghammas (Dewaniya governorate) as the patient residence is Najaf.
 - Five (n=5) cases from Baghdad governorate (2 cases from Yousefia, 3 from Abu Ghareeb)
2. **For today the 16th of September 2015**, there are three new confirmed cases notified by CPHL and as follows:
 - A case in Najaf Governorate, Name; Ali Mardan, Age 29 Years old male.
 - Two cases from Baghdad /Abu Ghareeb
 - All the cases are of INABA type
3. The percentages of confirmed laboratory cases out of the total samples send are 39.5%.

Epidemiological Findings:

- All the confirm cases age are between 20 to 30 years and 80% of these cases are females belonging to Abu-Ghraib - West Baghdad and Mantheria districts of Najaf.
- According to the initial field investigation and history taking; all the females affected are housewives, living in host communities with no travel history and no family dining or gatherings outside their homes.
- With limited government water supply to the community, they have been using alternative unprotected water sources for consumption purposes along.
- Environmental sampling is pending in river sources and public water sources

Response and Prevention:

- The surrounding governorates to Najaf Governorates were requested strongly (Babil, Karbala, Dewaniya and Muthanna) to send stool samples of suspected cases in addition to the negative one and also enhancement the follow-up process within Baghdad/Rusafa specially the peripheral areas.

WASH Coordination:

- Meeting was held today with General directorate of water to identify the gaps in water supply within the epidemic governorates and to stand on their status of chlorine stock

Actions Taken:

- Focal points was nominated for GDW, to represent GDW in WASH cluster meeting.

Response:**Chlorine Stocks:**

- GDW delivered 24 tons of chlorine cylinders to Najaf and 15 tons will be delivered to Dewaniyah.
- UNICEF support delivering 6 tons of bleaching powder was delivered to Anbar
- Coordination was made with OCHA to open discussion with JCMC to facilitate transportation of 1500 tons of chlorine gas cylinders from Jordan to Iraq.

IDPs in camps and non-camps:

- Launching Flashing, disinfecting campaigns for WASH facilities within IDPs camps in Anbar & Baghdad.
- Distribution of 180 HKs,1440 bottled water sets each of 6 litres / 8 sets for each family) benefiting 180 families in (AlNaser wa AlSalam) AlAmel AlManshod and abandon caravan camps in Abo Ghriab.
- Distribution of 360 HKs, 2880 bottled water sets each of 6 litres / 8 sets for each family benefiting 360 families in AlTabadel AlTejari camp in AL-Ghazaliyah.
- Distribution of (2070 HKs,2400 cool box,1500 jerry cans) benefiting Anbar IDPs students in Agriculture & Veterinary Medicine collages in Abu Ghriab

Needs & Recommendation:**HEALTH:**

- Proper following the case definition in context to this current outbreak with strengthening of case management and active surveillance.
- Use of FELTP medical staff for field investigation and environmental sampling.
- Strengthening the coordination mechanism within the two hospitals (Abu-Ghriab and Al-Manathria), to receive the daily patients line listing.
- Replenishing of Cholera Kits to DoH Baghdad and Najaf

WASH:**Abu Ghriab:**

- Abu- Gharib main Water treatment plant and all the 35 water compact units are out of order since March 2014 due to conflict and the shortage of raw water to feed the projects.
- The only source of water supply to Abu Ghraib for the time being is Al-Khark WTP that related to BWA/MOB, in addition to water tankers.

- Al-Zedan WTP of Capacity of 2000 M3/Day, is working now as collective tank as the raw water is not available in the source.
- Al-Khark WTP is pumping only 30000 M3/Day to Abo Ghraib, while the needs is 72000 M3/Day, as BWA have shortage in several places.
- Al-Fakhryah station is working as collective tank without chlorination.
- Baghdad water directorate supply water to the district via 14 water tankers, while the need is thirty five

Najaf and Dewaniyah:

- The needs chlorine gas cylinders.

Chlorine status

- GDW has sufficient quantity of chlorine will cover the needs up to the end of Sep.
- Water projects under GDW consumed 1000 tons per month
- GDW issued contracts with three suppliers (Iran, Jordan and Turkey), each for about 5000 tons, however, the main concern they have now is the Customs problem.
- GDW requested for JCMC/ISF support to transport 1500 new filled chlorine cylinders (each of one ton) from Jordan to Iraq through Tribil border.
- Rehabilitation of Abu-Ghaib WTP / The estimated cost for the rehabilitation is one billion Iraqi Dinar, and GDW do not have allocation for that.
- Increasing the quantity of the pumped water from Al-Khark WTP.
- Increasing the number of water tankers that supply water to the area now.