

Cholera Task Force-IRAQ

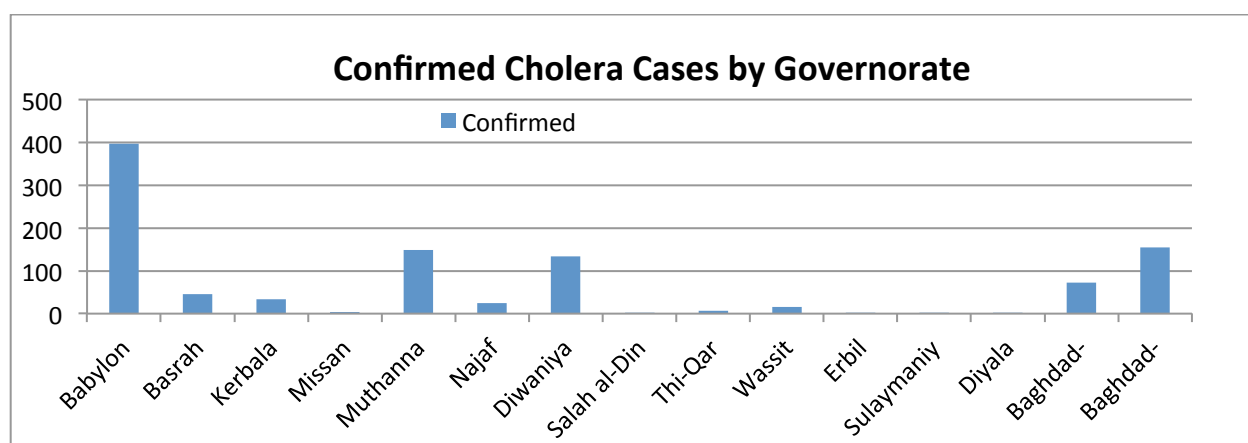
Update on Current Vibrio Cholera (VC) Outbreak in Iraq. SITREP – Situation Report – N° 12 06.10.2015 (Epi Week 41)

Today SITREP focuses on Cholera Response (Health and WASH), an overview of cholera spread as of October 6th, 2015 including geographical distribution illustrated in the attached map.

Laboratory Confirmed cases: Total of 1039 cases

The below table shows the distribution of the cholera positive cases by Governorates confirmed by the Central Public Health Laboratory by Ministry of Health – Baghdad as of 6th Oct, 2015.

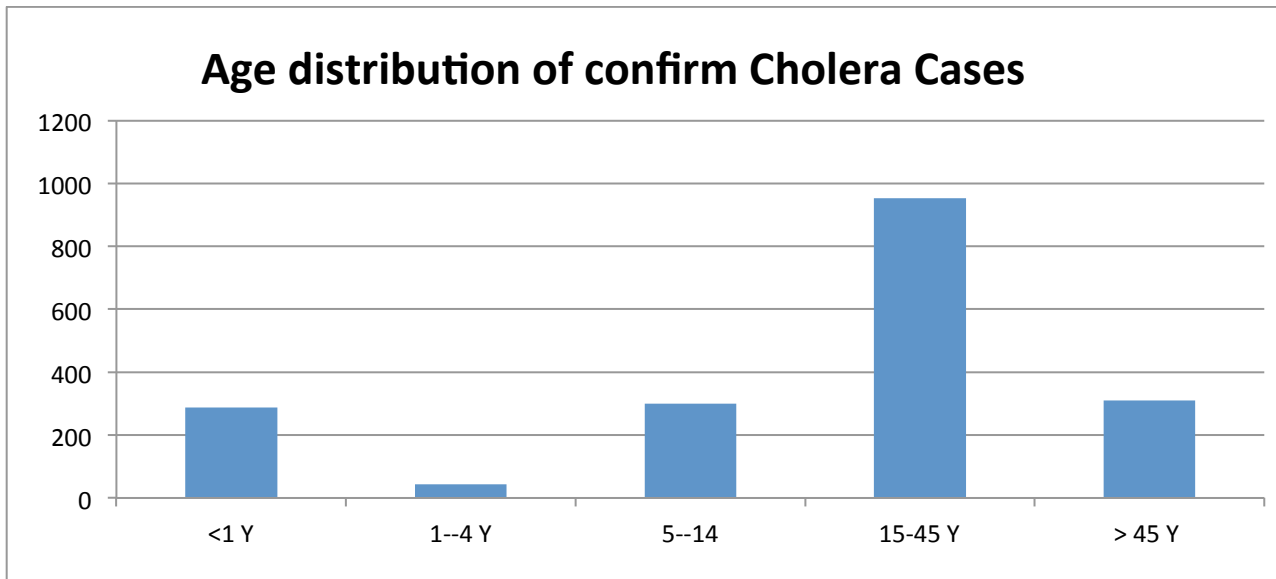
	Health Governorate	Confirmed Cases
1	Babylon	397
2	Basrah	45
3	Kerbala	33
4	Missan	4
5	Muthanna	149
6	Najaf	24
7	Diwaniya	133
8	Salah al-Din	1
9	Thi-Qar	6
10	Wassit	16
11	Erbil	1
12	Sulaymaniyah	1
13	Diyala	2
14	Baghdad-Resafa	72
15	Baghdad-Karkh	155
	Total	1039



Graph 1: Distribution of confirmed Cholera Cases by Governorate b/w weeks 36-40

Age Distribution:

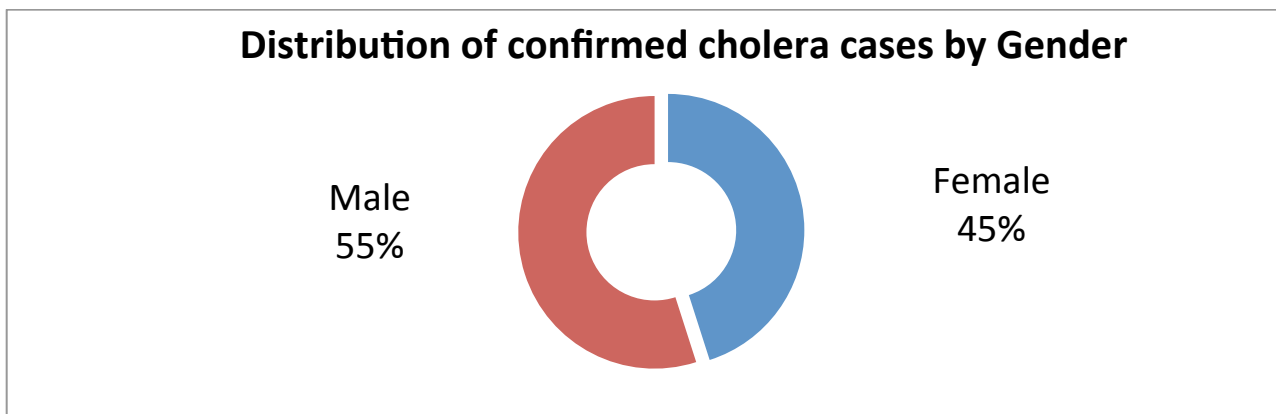
Out of the total confirmed cholera cases, 15-45 years old represent 51% of the confirmed cases whereas children under 5 years represent 2%.



Graph 2: Age distribution of confirm cholera cases till 6th October, 2015

Gender Distribution:

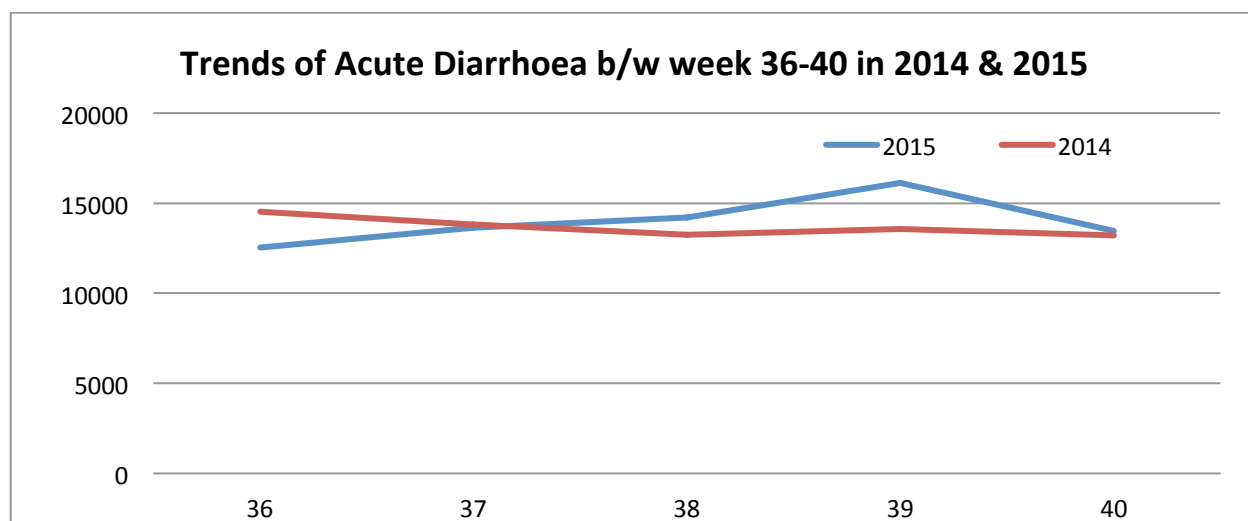
Out of the total confirmed cholera cases, 55% of the caseload is male whereas 45% are women.



Graph 3: Gender distribution of confirm cholera cases till 6th October, 2015

Trend of Acute Diarrhea Cases:

The below graph indicates the trends of acute diarrhea in week 36-40 in 2014 and 2015. The linear graph shows a spike in week 39 which can be caused by the additional caseload reported to various hospitals due to suspected cholera.



Graph 4: Comparison of trends of acute diarrhea in 2014-15 in same weeks

Cholera Taskforce Activities:

The Cholera response is based on the following eight strategies which are closely coordinated through Cholera Command and Control Centre (C4) established at MoH with an effective inter sectoral coordination mechanism established with WASH cluster.

Response Strategy: These strategies are case management; Active/Passive Surveillance; Laboratory strengthening; Health and Hygiene promotion; Coordination; water quality; Vaccination and Logistics

Governorate	Districts/Locations /City
Baghdad	Abu Ghraib District (Al-Nasir al-Salam and Al-Zaydana areas); Karkh/ Al Ghazaliya IDP camp, Sader al Yousifiya, Yousifiya, Mahmoudiya dist center Al Khadraa quarter (camp only), Al Ghazalia, Adhamia (mosques)
Al Quadissyah (Diwaniya)	Al Hamza/al Shamia; Afaq and Diwaniya districts
Najaf	Manthera (Heera sub dist and Qadissiya sub district); Najaf district (Najaf city and Hayidariya sub dist); Mishkhab dist villages (Raig Alhasoh village) and Kufa district (Abbasiya and Hurriya sub districts)
Babylon (Babil)	Hilla, Mahawil, Musayab and Hashimiya
Muthanna	Samawa City, Khidhir, al Warkaa and Rumaitha district
Basrah	Basrah dist. Center/ Abu Al-Khaseeb, al Hartha
Thi Qar	Al Nasiriyah
Kerbala	Kerbala city (camp)

Health Response:

1. Cholera Command and Control Center (C4) at MoH for technical coordination

2. For prevention from cholera, ICG request for the Oral Cholera Vaccine Campaign has been signed by the MoH and send to HQ Geneva. The campaign will target 255,000 IDP residing in camps.
3. Fifteen IDDKs shipped to MoH on 1st Oct, enough to cater 7000 moderate cases and 1500 severe cholera cases and have been distributed to the affected governorates according to the severity of the outbreak, Further 12 IDDKs are in pipeline from Dubai for replenishing the old stock.
4. To strengthen the case management, active surveillance and revitalization of ORTs with a strong M&E components in the thirteen affected governorates, MoH has been allotted 100,000USD.
5. 500,000 health and hygiene pamphlets are printed and to be distributed door-to-door during both polio campaigns, further one million are in the pipeline.
6. Water quality assurance in coordination with WASH sector has been strengthened and in ongoing.
7. ORS and aqua tablets are being distributed through Health education department and health partners in the affected communities.

WASH Response:

1: Water Supply:

- Advocacy at highest government level to ensure adequate quantity of chlorine, Aluminium Sulphate in country to cover critical/ongoing needs all affected/at risk Governorates
 - At the onset of the crisis, over 100 tons of existing chlorine gas stock in the General Directorate of Water (GDW) warehouses were distributed across the affected governorates.
 - 20 to 30 tonnes of bleaching power have also been distributed to critically affected Governorates.
 - Through the support of higher level authorities, GDW has now managed to get 85 tons of chlorine gas from Al-Dora Oil refinery and distributed it to critically affected governorates
 - 200 tons (out of an order of 5,300 tons) of Aluminium Sulphate have also now been received and distributed to critically affected governorates
 - 200 tonnes of chlorine gas (from Iraq) will reach Iraq around 8th October
 - Attempts continue to facilitate transport of 1,500 tons (out of an order of 5,000 tons) of Chlorine gas from Jordan (through Saudi and Kuwait)
 - ICRC & World Vision will facilitate delivery of 45 tons of chlorine for Kirkuk (preparedness)
 - Advocacy and follow up ongoing to open Chlorine Factory in Babylon (long term solution)
- Support to testing and monitoring of Chlorine levels and Turbidity of Water sources at all levels (source, tankers, hhld) (Cholera affected and IDP hosting areas):

- Joint monitoring, testing and chlorination of water sources (government and WASH partners) is ongoing
- Distribution of 200,000 bottled water in critical areas (Cholera affected and IDP hosting areas):
- Distribution of 1000 basic family water kits, and 50,000 jerry cans to the affected Governorates.
- Distribution of Aquatabs
 - a. Aquatabs are part of water kits that have been distributed in Najaf/Babylon, 956,000 aqua tabs has been distributed in Baghdad, Najaf, Babylon and Qadissiya governorates.
- Establishment of water distribution points/trucking of clean, chlorinated water
 - a. Baghdad: Abu Ghraib (Al-Nasir al-Salam, al Zaidan, Khan Dhari and Albo Mnesier) and Mahmoudiya (Al Radwaneyah) 100 water tanks of 5,000 litres are under installation. In Al-Zaydan: 3 tanks (10,000 litres) at water source to boost capacity and 7 water tanks (5,000 litres) capacity have been installed, with water trucked through the Directorate.
 - b. Daily trucking of 100 m3 water is ongoing in Sader al Yousifiya camp and Abu Ghraib.
 - c. 20 water tanks each of 5000 litres were delivered and will be installed within ALNaser W Al-Salam to be distribution points for water trucking
 - d. Al Quadissyah (Diwaniya): installation of 200 tanks (1,000 ltr capacity) and daily water trucking is ongoing
- Rehabilitation of Water Supply Systems (Abu Ghraib)

2. Hygiene Promotion:

- Key WASH and Health messages and FAQs defined, translated in to Arabic and shared with cluster/government partners
- Key Messages and FAQs shared with IDP call centre
- Distribution of Hygiene kits (with soap)
- In Baghdad, Kerbala, Muthanna, Qadissiya, Najaf and Thi-Qar distribution of 25,441 kits is planned and ongoing alongside hygiene promotion campaigns
- Baghdad, Babylon, Kerbala and Najaf: Door to door campaigns to disseminate key messages is ongoing
- Baghdad, Najaf, Al-Qadisiyyah: dissemination of key messages through Protection partners (volunteer groups and women's centres) is ongoing
- C4D – Country wide coverage, with a focus on disseminating of KEY cholera prevention messages. Key achievements to date:
 - Radio broadcasts through a large network of stations covering all affected Governorates from 22 September 2015, with coverage planned for 14 days.

- SMS campaigns through Zain mobile from 26 September. Regular dissemination of Cholera messages ongoing.
- National dissemination through MoH National Polio Campaign (NIDs) from 4th to 8th October. So far 500,000 pamphlets have been produced and are being handed out door to door to reach over families in all affected governorates. Target is 1 million households in South Centre Zone.
- Another 500,000 pamphlets, 100,000 stickers, 100,000 posters and 300 flex banners are being developed for dissemination through Health Promoters, Schools (when students return on 15th October) and Health Facilities across all affected governorates.
- Mobile events being planned (20 mobile vans, promoters, brochure distribution). Priority will be given for Karbala (5 vans) in anticipation of the Ashura festival where millions of people will gather. A joint awareness intervention is planned in this same area. Assessment planned through UNICEF C4D, WASH (UNICEF and Cluster partners) and Health (UNICEF and WHO).
- Baghdad, Najaf, Al-Qadisiyyah, Babylon, Muthanna: Social Media Campaign through WASH networks (Facebook, you tube, twitter) is ongoing

3. Sanitation

- Support to disinfecting Septic tanks of health facilities in outbreak areas:
 - a. Baghdad: Abu Ghraib Sewerage office have allocate a desludging truck for Abu Ghraib hospital to collect and dispose the waste in an authorized landfill
 - b. Najaf and Diwaniyah: MSF is filling gaps in case management/infection control within health facilities. Working with DoH to provide technical support to follow infection control measures (including use of chlorine to treat waste).
 - c. Support to ensuring the following actions in outbreak areas/IDP hosting areas:
 - d. Desludging of waste water, solid waste collection and disposal, cleaning of sanitation facilities in al Takia Collection Centre (Karkh) and Khaimt al Iraq camp and Akrad Zobia in Sader al Yousifiya (Mahmoudiya dist.)
 - e. Ongoing daily garbage collection and disposal in college of agriculture in Abu Ghraib.
- 2,078 garbage bags dispatched and under distribution in Baghdad and Qadissiya.

DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM:

- UNDP plan to fund the rehabilitation of the water treatment plant under their resilience programme.