

Scanning electron microscope image of cholera bacteria. Source: <http://publicdomainclip-art.blogspot.com>



A child suffering from cholera receives treatment at St-Catherine hospital in the slum of Cite-Soleil in Port-au-Prince November 12, 2010. Credit: Reuters/St-Felix Evens

**"...what is unfolding here in Haiti is difficult to capture in words."**

Fighting it [cholera] is not rocket science - it is a very preventable disease and most people will make a full recovery if given quick, simple rehydration and treatment in critical situations.

However, the protests, weak health systems, a limited infrastructure that crumpled during the earthquake and other disasters, and a lack of understanding are making it very complicated to get help to those in need.

**Violence and disease make a deadly combination.**

Cramped, squalid conditions in the sprawling city camps are perfect breeding grounds, but equally it is very difficult to reach people in isolated rural areas, such as in the north. And people who contract cholera can die within hours if untreated.

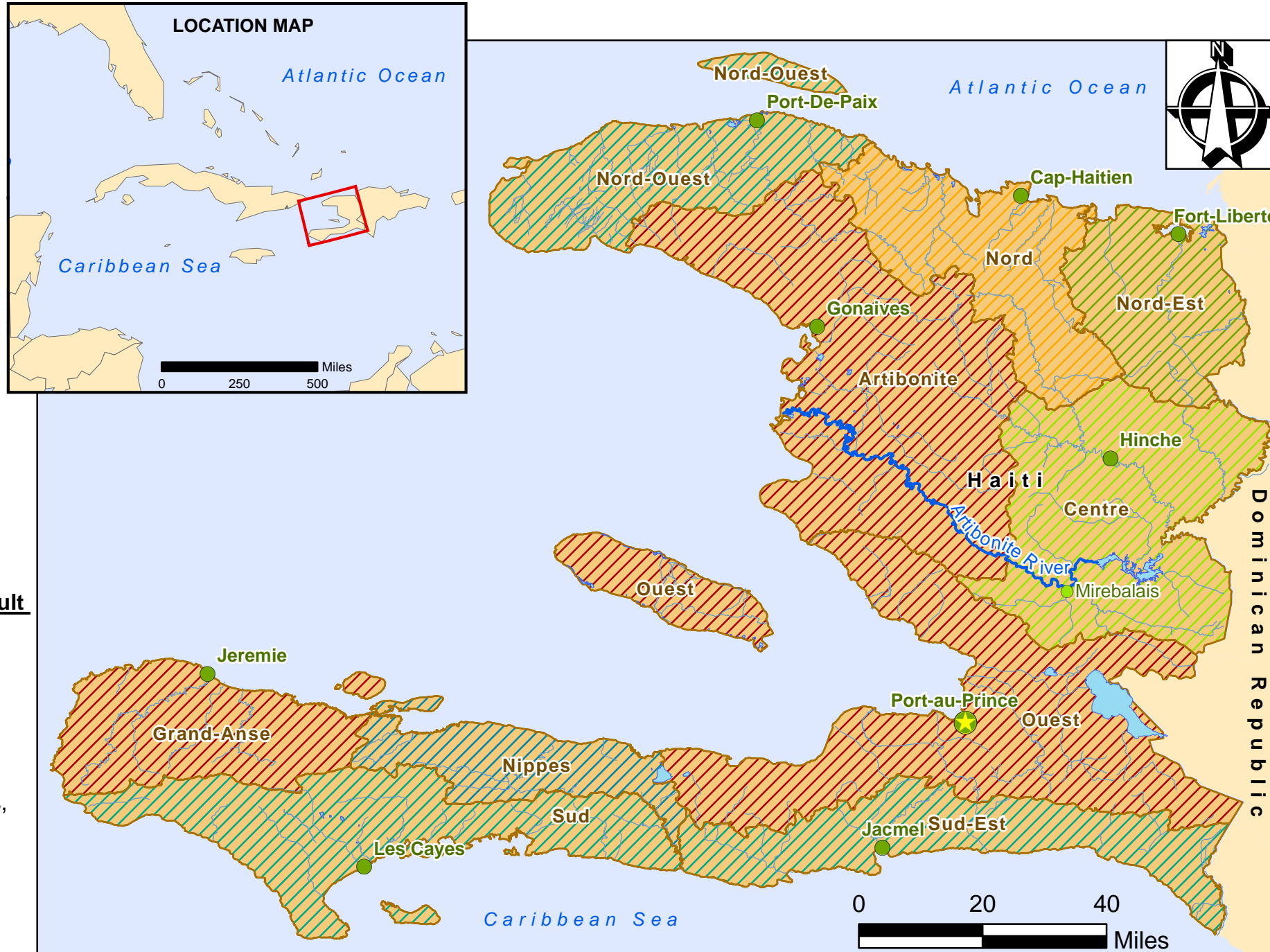


**InRelief.org**

- Dr. Unni Krishnan  
Coordinator with Plan International  
For BBC News

**Haiti's Ministry of Health reports 142,870 have been hospitalized with cholera and 4,749 confirmed fatalities in Haiti. (3/22/2011)**

The UN forecasts up to 400,000 cases over the next 6 to 12 months.



**HAITI CHOLERA OUTBREAK WITH FATALITIES THROUGH 3/22/2011**

- National and provincial capital
- Provincial capital
- Mirebalais
- Artibonite River
- River
- Lake
- Haiti Province

Confirmed Cholera Death as of 3/22/2011*	
155 in Nippes	375 in Centre
236 in Sud**; 240 in Sud-Est; 246 in Nord-Ouest	631 in Nord**
261 in Nord-Est	832 in Grand Anse**; 886 in Ouest**; 887 in Artibonite

\* Data from Haiti Ministry of Health <http://www.mspp.gouv.ht>  
\*\* Known to be incomplete.

Data regarding the number of cholera cases and fatalities from Haiti's Ministry of Health and the United Nations represent clinically confirmed cases only. Non-governmental organizations estimate the number of cholera cases and fatalities to be much higher than the number of clinically confirmed cases.

Haiti Operational Biosurveillance reports that the conservative estimate of the number of cholera cases in Haiti is 300,000, including subclinical cases. The same organization further reports that in-patient statistics (hospitalizations) are under-reported by 400%. ([http://biosurveillance.typepad.com/haiti\\_operational\\_biosurv/](http://biosurveillance.typepad.com/haiti_operational_biosurv/))

The UN has increased its forecast to 400,000 cholera cases in the coming year. The estimate is based, in part, on 4% of Haiti's population becoming infected. Since the strain of cholera causing the current outbreak appears to be from Southeast Asia and novel to Haiti, the percentage of the population that becomes infected may be much higher.



Children receiving hydration treatment in Haiti. Associated Press. Source: [www.news.com.au/world](http://www.news.com.au/world)



People with cholera lie on mats on the floor of the overcrowded St. Nicholas Hospital in St. Marc. AFP Photo.

