

**Daily Situation Report on Diarrhoea and Cholera in Iraq
Sitrep no. 102 up to 13- October 2008**

1. Highlights

- In line with the implementation of International Health Regulation (IHR 2005), Iraq is actively involved in surveillance and care for the Cholera cases. A robust diarrhea surveillance system already exists countrywide.
- The Public Health and hospital laboratories are actively engaged in surveillance system for Acute Watery Diarrhea and Cholera.

2. Current Status

- The recent report of Ministry of Health indicates 462 laboratories confirmed Cholera cases have been detected and registered up to 13 October 2008.
- 60% of the cases are below 5 years of age.
- Death cases are 8, Males 6 and females 2. 50% of the death is among children below 5 years of age
- Epidemiological findings have clearly indicated contaminated water as the most probable source of the outbreak.
- 461 cases have been identified as Inaba and 1 case as Ogawa serotypes.

3. Health Response

- The comprehensive surveillance system is very sensitive for detection and response to any suspected case of Cholera. There are good indications that, the Ministry of Health has made excellent progress in containing the outbreak by early detection of cases, prompt response and effective communication.
- In general, Inter-sectoral coordination and collaboration was weak before the Cholera outbreak but it started and is gaining momentum every day.
- Rapid Response teams are active throughout the country.
- Daily reporting system -including zero reporting- is in place.
- Constant public information and education through mass media is ongoing.

4. Summary

- **Table (1) Suspect, confirmed cholera cases, death and dates of the first, most recent reported case by province, Iraq, no change in the situation during the past 2 days**

Province	No. districts affected	Date first case	Date most recent case	Deaths	Under investigation	Laboratory confirmed
Diala	1	09-09-08	09-09-08	0	0	1
Wasit	1	30-09-08	30-09-08	0	0	1
Missan	1	07-08-08	28-08-08	1	0	3
Najaf	2	07-09-08	01-10-08	0	0	8
Anbar	1	17-09-08	27-09-08	0	0	9
Kerbala	3	05-09-08	08-10-08	0	2	34
Basra	5	14-09-08	06-10-08	1	4	49
Diwanyia	4	20-09-08	08-10-08	2	5	54
Baghdad	8	18-08-08	09-10-08	1	0	73
Babil	4	28-08-08	06-10-08	3	15	230
Total	30	07-08-08	09-10-08	8	26	462

- Confirmed cholera cases, remained as 462 with no additional cases in the last 48 hours.
- **There have been 7 deaths due to Acute Watery Diarrhea;** however, either stool specimens were not collected (3 deaths) or stool on examination were negative for cholera organism (4 deaths).

5. Distribution of confirmed cholera by province:

Fig. 1, below shows that the majority (49%) of **confirmed cholera** were reported from Babil province followed by Baghdad province that reported (16%) of cases, Diwaniya (12%) Basra (11%), Karbala (7%), and (Missan, Diala +Najaf, + Anbar+ wasit) reported (5%) of the total cases.

Fig. 1 Confirmed cholera cases by province up to 13 October 2008

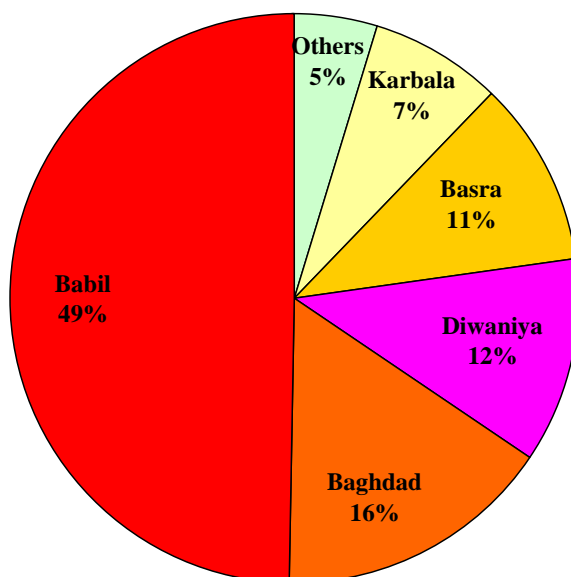
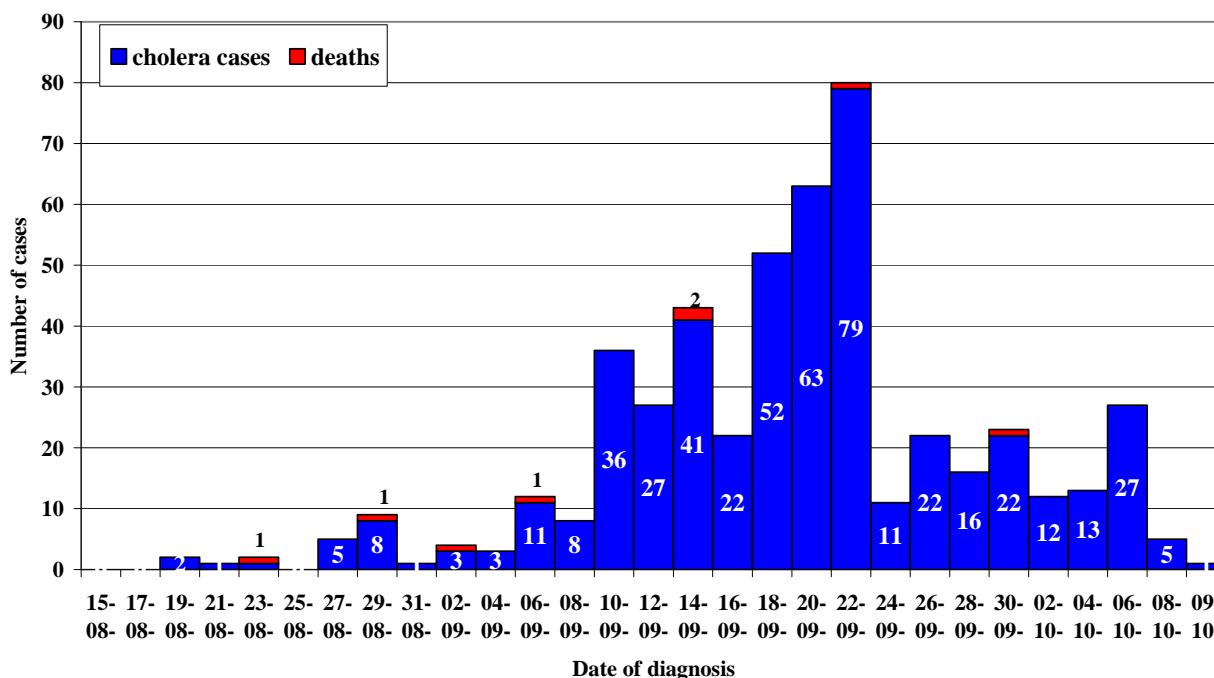


Fig. 2 Reported cholera cases and deaths by date of diagnosis, Iraq, 14/08-13/10/2008



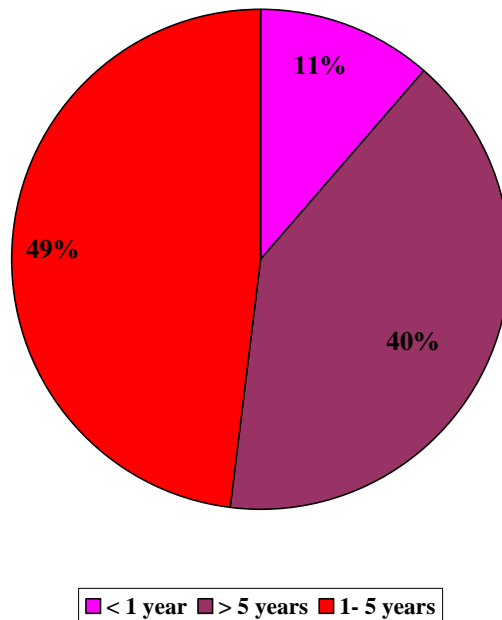
6. Epidemic curve:

Fig. 2, shows that unlike last year's explosive out break this year out break is gradually building up; it seems to have started mid August, peaked on 22/09 at 79 cases and then started to fade out during the period 24/9 to 10/10 /2008; However, it is very early to reach any solid conclusion about the trend of the out break since, 26 cases are still under investigation and a new wave of cases might occur.

7. Distribution of cases by age group:

Fig. 3, below shows that 60% of confirmed cholera were among children below 5 years of age, a feature seen in endemic countries where adults' previous exposure to the cholera organism left them with some immunity against the disease.

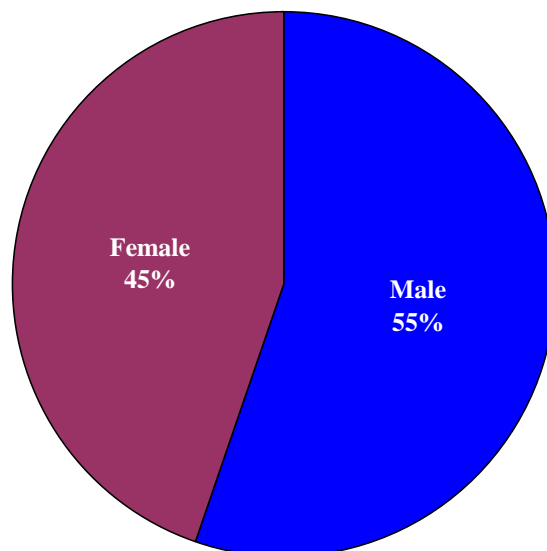
Fig 3. Distribution of confirmed cholera cases by age group



8. Distribution of cases by sex:

Fig. 4, below shows that cases were almost equally distributed between the two sexes.

Fig. 4 Cholera cases by sex, up to 13/10/ 2008



9. Central Public Health laboratory activities up to 10/10 /2008

Province	Total samples tested	No. Positive	No. Negative	under processing
DAHUK	0	0	0	0
SULAYMANIA	0	0	0	0
ERBIL	40	0		40
KIRKUK	52	0	52	
Medical city	7	0	7	
SALAHDIN	16	0	16	
WASSIT	12	1	11	
THI-QAR	30	0	30	
ANBAR	45	8	37	
DIYALA	36	0	36	
DIWANIYA	84	52	32	
KERBALA	44	36	8	
MUTHANNA	53	0	53	
NAJAF	87	10	77	
BASRAH	97	49	40	8
NINEWA	100	0	100	
MISSAN	221	3	218	
B-RESAFA	372	6	366	
B-KARKH	430	66	364	
BABYLON	565	231	334	0
Total	2291	462	1781	48

The most important development today is that Erbil governorate has sent 40 negative specimens to the CPHL for QC, this will pave the way for Sulaymanya and Dahuk to forward negative isolates for QC. The CPHL is urged to send 10% of negative isolates and new positive isolates to NAMRU3 for QC. It is important that all isolates from cases that ended in death and a representative sample from DoHs from where cholera was not isolated to be sent for further confirmation.

