



**UN Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund
PROJECT NARRATIVE REPORT
Year: 2019**

Project Number and Title: CLH05 Operational and Technical Support to the OSE for a UN response to cholera in Haiti	PROJECT START DATE¹: 4 April 2018	AMOUNT ALLOCATED by MPTF 04 April 2018 - \$70,000 30 July 2018 - \$ 267,300 xx November 2019 - \$117,122 Other Sources: N/A Government Input: N/A	RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION Department of Operational Support (DOS) - Office of the Special Envoy for Haiti (OSEH)
Project ID: 00109990			
Project Focal Point: Names: Ramsey Ben-Achour E-mail: ramsey.ben-achour@un.org	EXTENSION DATE: 31 December 2020		
Proposal Location (Departments): UNHQ, Office of the Special Envoy for Haiti	PROJECTED END DATE: 31 December 2020	EXPENDITURES as at 31 December 2019 \$...283,227	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER(S): OSE/ Haiti

Strategic Objective TRACKS		Beneficiaries: <i>Please, indicate the number of beneficiaries and provide disaggregated data, if available</i>																									
<input type="checkbox"/>	TRACK 1a: Intensifying efforts to cut transmission of cholera and improve access to care and treatment	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">No. of Beneficiaries</th> <th colspan="2">No. of Beneficiaries</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Communities</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>Women</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>Girls</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Men</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Boys</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Total expected cases</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		No. of Beneficiaries		No. of Beneficiaries		Communities	N/A	Women	N/A	Total	N/A	Girls	N/A			Men	N/A			Boys	N/A			Total expected cases	N/A
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<input type="checkbox"/>	TRACK 1b: Addressing the medium/longer term issues of water, sanitation and health systems																										
<input type="checkbox"/>	TRACK 2: Assistance and Support																										
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Global Strategic engagement in support of the new approach to cholera in Haiti and organizational learning																										

Report Submitted by:	Report Cleared by:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Name: Dianne Fairweather ○ Date of Submission: 31 March 2020 ○ Participating Organization (Lead): Office of the Special Envoy for Haiti 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Name: Ramsey Ben-Achour ○ Date of Submission: 31 March 2020 ○ Participating Organization (Lead): Office of the Special Envoy for Haiti

OUTPUT INDICATORS

Indicator	Geographic Area	Projected Target (as per results matrix)	Quantitative results for this current reporting period	Cumulative results since project commencement (quantitative)	Delivery Rate (cumulative % of projected total) as of date
<i>Description of the quantifiable indicator as set out in the approved project proposal</i>					
Development of an actionable strategy and support key stakeholders to ensure	International	Action plan developed for support to	Listed below in the section of		

¹ The date project funds were first transferred.



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communities most affected by cholera receive support		affected communities	Key achievements		
EFFECT INDICATORS (if available for the reporting period)					
N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

Current Situation and Trend:

- The Office of the Special Envoy for Haiti (OSE) has supported the implementation of the new United Nations (UN) approach to cholera in Haiti towards bringing the cholera issue to a dignified close and raising awareness. The activities and outreach led by the Special Envoy, in close coordination with the Government of Haiti, the UN Country Team and other stakeholders, have been instrumental to help reduce the impact of cholera in Haiti so that elimination now appears within reach. In 2019, the number of suspected cases decreased to a total of 720 and three deaths according to the Ministry of Health statistics. This is a 57.2% reduction compared to 1,257 suspected cases and 12 deaths in 2018. Most importantly, since the first week February 2019, there has been zero laboratory-confirmed cases, a major milestone. The World Health Organization (WHO) standards state that for cholera to be considered eradicated, zero transmission must be maintained for three consecutive years, while maintaining an effective surveillance system that can detect potential cases. As such, the Office of the Special Envoy will continue to work with partners to ensure the three-year benchmark is reached and that surveillance mechanisms continue to be prioritized.
- The mandate of the Special Envoy has been extended to the end of December 2020. This is in line with the UN’s commitment to the New Approach to Cholera and ending this chapter with dignity. Additionally, through close coordination between the OSE, the new Special Political Mission in Haiti (BINUH) and UNICEF, funding was secured to allow for the continuation of the Representative of the Special Envoy—this position comes at zero cost to the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) and is covered entirely by BINUH, following the departure of the Director for Cholera Response and Innovative Financing in Haiti.
- While positive developments on the ground have been ongoing, international and national audiences have been unaware of the significant progress. As such, the OSE has begun engaging with media to more effectively communicate the positive developments. This includes the publishing of an Op-ed by the Special Envoy in the Miami Herald on 8 November 2019 (see op-ed here). OSE worked with the Department of Global Communications to translate the op-ed into multiple languages, post it on their global portal, and spread the messages contained therein via social media. Similar engagement was done with UNICEF, which transmitted the op-ed and key messages through their own networks.



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Narrative section:

- **Key Achievements:**

- **Items supported**

- In 2019, the Special Envoy for Haiti has focused on supporting: 1) the full implementation of the United Nations' new approach to reducing the transmission of cholera in Haiti; 2) the expansion of Track 2 activities for communities and victims of cholera; 3) supporting the Government to integrate cholera response and long-term “water, sanitation and hygiene” (WASH) in the 2030 Agenda, in line with the applicable Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)—specifically No.3, good health and well-being for all, and No.6, and clean water and sanitation.

- **Oversight**

- Oversight from the Office of the Special Envoy (OSE) continues to be provided to the UN presence in Haiti to ensure a comprehensive and integrated approach, bridging humanitarian and development interventions to enable long-term progress and sustainability through a coherent and integrated response from the UN system. With the transition to the Special Political Mission in Haiti (BINUH) from the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) on 16 October 2019 and the departure of the Director for Cholera Response and Innovative Financing in Haiti in September 2019, the Representative for the Office of the Special Envoy is continuing this function.

- **Resource mobilization**

- The Special Envoy for Haiti has invested significant energy in resource mobilization. This includes through traditional resource mobilization efforts, bilateral efforts with governments, innovative finance approaches, as well as efforts to engage with foundations. Notably, in the final days of the fourth quarter of 2019, OSE with the support of the MPTF Office, secured written commitment from the Government of the United States to make a \$10 million contribution to the Haiti cholera MPTF. The contribution is expected to be transferred in the first quarter of 2020. OSE is actively engaging with implementing partners on the ground to develop proposals and implementation plans to address the most urgent needs of the response.
- Additionally, the Office was able to raise funds with the Gates Foundation, \$2.2 million of which was disbursed for work on cholera surveillance efforts.
- Resulting from quicker than anticipated progress in the fight against cholera in Haiti, the funding required to eliminate cholera by 2022 has been reduced. Nevertheless, the UN still requires approximately \$21 million to finalize the cholera response through 2022 and maintain zero transmission to achieve the WHO three-year eradication benchmark. Separately, to cover all of the remaining 109 communities under Track 2, approximately \$26 million is required. In the fourth



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quarter of 2019, the Office of the Special Envoy began planning a resource mobilization effort, spearheaded by the Secretary-General, to gain the final resources, a total of \$47 million, required to eliminate cholera and provide support to the most affected communities. This will entail sending letters to all heads of state, signed by the Secretary-General, requesting urgent financial support. The campaign is expected to be launched in the first quarter of 2020.

Innovative Financing and the Development Impact Bond (DIB)

- The Special Envoy has been advocating for an innovative financing mechanism in Haiti to end the transmission of cholera while addressing the long-term issues of water, sanitation and health systems. It was hoped that the development of a financial mechanism for Haiti, possibly through the launch of a “Development Impact Bond” (DIB), would open up new opportunities to build an investment-ready economy and pave the way for longer-term development to achieve the applicable SDGs [good health and well-being for all (No.3) and clean water and sanitation (No.6)]. The blended finance approach, where traditional financing would cover interventions in 2019 while the proposed mechanism of a pay-for-success model of the DIB would tentatively finance unfunded activities until the end of the Long-Term Plan in 2022, did not materialize but may be revisited. The bond was structured, and private investors identified. However, the lack of sufficient bond backers has prevented a formal launch of the bond mechanism.

Programmed activities facilitated by OSE addressing Track 1a, Track 1 b and Track 2

Track 1

- Reviews to existing surveillance strategies have been conducted by UNICEF, PAHO and the Haitian Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP) with political support from OSE. These reviews will lead to a revised strategy on surveillance that is adapted to the new context of zero laboratory-confirmed cases, and will be launched in 2020.
- The Alert Response mechanism has also been adapted to the current realities of the epidemic, including through the gradual reduction of emergency response teams. Work is ongoing with UNICEF and the MSPP towards integrating the emergency response teams into a more community health-worker model, allowing for a more integrated response.

Track 2

- The Office of the Special Envoy has allocated total contributions of US \$7.2 million to the Track 2 activities via the MPTF. This has allowed for the expansion of community-based consultations and community-support programs to a total of 25 communities. OSE and the DSRSG/RC/HC’s office coordinated development of a proposal based on the plan developed by the Office of the Special Envoy to expand the consultations and support to victims to an additional 20 communities. UNDP, UNOPS and UNICEF are co-implementing, with UNOPS in charge of the construction work and UNDP leading on the community consultations.



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• **Delays or Deviations –**

- Ongoing political unrest has had a negative impact on the work of OSE and implementing partners. In particular, 2019 saw multiple multi-week periods of lockdown—preventing mobility and program implementation. In some cases, this has caused programming delays that will have to be accounted for in the future—likely with program extensions. However, contingency plans were made by the partners to ensure progress continues, despite sporadic violence.

• **Best Practices and Summary Evaluation**

Efficient coordination and partnerships

- OSE is the keystone of the multi-pronged effort to eliminate cholera in Haiti. Through its advocacy work, resource mobilization and consultation efforts with various actors, OSE has created a cohesive network of partners that contributes to the shared goal of a continued reduction of confirmed cholera cases across the country. OSE comprises a small office working in New York and in Port-au-Prince that is uniquely positioned to bring together international and national partners in organizing their strategic long-term plans in the last leg of cholera elimination efforts. More specifically, OSE seeks to help the national government build its capacity to respond to current and future epidemics, address financial gaps and make Haiti a more ‘investment-ready’ destination. In this context, the transparent and efficient work of both the Special Envoy and the Representative of the Special Envoy has facilitated the work of various agencies and the building of a trusted work partnership with the national government. OSE coordination has also identified the way forward and implementing partners in the context of expanding Track 2 projects to 20 affected communities.
- OSE also continued to engage with important members of civil society, facilitating technical briefings for the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti and Partners in Health on the details of the UN’s response methodology and strategy. Briefings for Lawyers Without Borders Canada were also held on the UN’s methodology for Track 2 programming.

Business continuity and document management.

- A new and improved document management platform is being launched by the UN to replace the previous one, allowing for business continuity and institutional knowledge retention in accordance with the UN Archives and Records Management policy.
- **Lessons learned –**
- OSE is now a small office comprising two staff members. Following the implementation of the Secretary-General’s reform in January, it was able to oversee its own administrative functions (Delegation of Authority), with the expert support of the new Department of Operational Support (DOS). While OSE is able to implement basic mandate requirements, additional staff are required to broaden the capacities of the office.