Zimbabwe has reported a cholera outbreak in two Provinces North of the Country. The country has reported 403 cases and 27 deaths as of 20 November 2003. (Case fatality of 5.2%. The first cases were reported in Kariba district on the 10th of October 2003. This district has so far reported 304 cases and 11 deaths. (Case fatality of 3.6%) and the outbreak is still ongoing. (Epi-curve 1.)

The second outbreak in Binga district was linked to the Kariba outbreak. It has reported 99 cases and 16 deaths giving a case fatality rate of 16%. The index cases’ symptoms began on the 15th of October 2003. The health care system got to know of the outbreak on the 25th of October after 6 lives had been lost. The Binga outbreak has been contained, but surveillance is ongoing. (Epi-curve 2) The last case was reported on the 12th of November 2003.
A mission by WHO and the Ministry of Health to the affected region identified their needs and responded by giving the MOHCW the following items.

1. 12 Boxes of 50 infusion sets (4 to Mat North, 8 Mash West) (each set comprises 1 Litre of Ringer’s Lactate and a giving set)
2. 12 Boxes of cholera kits (4 Mat North, 8 Kariba)**
3. 4000 litres diesel (2000 litres for Mash West and 2000 litres for Mat North)
4. 4000 litres blend (2000 litres for Mash West and 2000 litres for Mat North)
5. ZWD26,000,000.00 for staff allowances.
6. 200 kg chloride of lime
7. IDSR training (7-11 July 2003 in Kariba for Mashonaland West. For Matebeleland North, June 2003 for first training and 7-11 July for 2nd training)

** Contents of a Cholera kit.

CHOLERA KIT
10 X 10 litre plastic bags
10 x 100 Doxycycline
1 x 1000 Erythromycin
30 x 10 Aqua tabs
50 pairs gloves
25 pieces 1 litre plastic containers
50 pairs gloves
20 pieces feeding tubes 5
20 pieces feeding tubes 8
20 pieces feeding tubes 10
20 pieces feeding tubes 16
WHO is at the moment purchasing

1. 800 litres Ringer’s Lactate
2. 22 tents (10 x 10 man tents and 12 by 4 man tents)
3. 5.5 tonnes – chloride of lime

**Unicef’s Support**

4 water bowsers
196 000 tabs aqua tabs
200kg sugar
902 Bars of soap
250kg chloride of lime.
Hoping to send 1000 20 litre containers.

**Save the Children (UK) Support.**

Chloramphenicol 250mg X 3000
Chloramphenicla suspension
Nalidixic acid 500mg X3000
Nalidixic acid suspension 10
Erythromycin 250mg X3000
Erythromycin suspension 125mg X10
Paracetamol 500mg X3000
Paracetamol suspension 2litres
IV infusion 72
IV giving sets 6 (Paediatric)
IV giving sets 24 (Adults)
ORS 2840

A second mission comprising Ministry of Health & Child Welfare, WHO, UNICEF and Save the Children is going assess the situation in Kariba from 2 to 4 December 2003. A number of conflicting reports about the magnitude of the epidemic and the needs of the district to enable them to contain the outbreak has necessitated this mission.