

Cholera prevention and control

The Seventy-first World Health Assembly,

Recalling resolution WHA64.15 (2011) on cholera: mechanism for control and prevention, which led to the revitalization of the Global Task Force on Cholera Control to support Member States to reduce the public health, social and economic consequences of cholera by strengthening WHO's work in this area, and improving collaboration and coordination among stakeholders;

Recognizing the report by the Director-General on WHO's work in health emergencies¹ and the Global Task Force on Cholera Control's recently launched strategy, Ending Cholera: A Global Roadmap to 2030,² large-scale outbreaks of cholera continue to cause significant morbidity and mortality among vulnerable populations in both emergency and endemic settings. With an estimated disease burden of 2.9 million cases and 95 000 deaths every year worldwide, the disease still affects at least 47 countries around the globe, with a potential to spread where water, sanitation and hygiene conditions are inadequate;

Acknowledging that the prevention and control of cholera require a coordinated and multisectoral approach that includes access to appropriate health care, early case management, access to safe water, sanitation, education, health literacy and improved hygiene behaviours, with adjunct use of oral cholera vaccines, strengthened surveillance and information sharing, strengthened laboratory capacity and community involvement, including action on the social determinants of health;

Acknowledging also that cholera control is both a matter of emergency response in the case of outbreaks, and a matter of development when the disease is endemic in high-risk contexts, such as in camps for refugees and internally displaced people;

Affirming that progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including commitment to Goal 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages); Goal 6 (Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all); and Goal 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable), would reduce the prevalence and spread of cholera, along with other diarrhoeal diseases and enteric infections;

Recalling that all States Parties must comply with the International Health Regulations (2005);

Acknowledging that cholera, as a disease of epidemic potential, has to be recognized in itself and reported separately from other diarrhoeal diseases, within national surveillance systems, as not doing so hampers effective control measures,

¹ Document A71/6.

² Ending cholera: a global roadmap to 2030 (<http://www.who.int/cholera/publications/global-roadmap.pdf?ua=1>, accessed 21 May 2018).

1. URGES Member States:¹

- (1) to foster the identification by governments of cholera epidemics and to elevate cholera as a State priority in affected countries through its inclusion in national policies and plans, either as a stand-alone plan or embedded within broader diarrhoeal disease control initiatives, or within national health, health security, water, sanitation and hygiene, development and Sustainable Development Goal implementation plans, where relevant, and national disaster and/or emergency management agencies;
- (2) to develop and implement, in affected countries, a multisectoral package of selected effective prevention and control measures, including long-term water, sanitation and hygiene services, access to appropriate health care, access to safe water, sanitation and improved hygiene behaviours, as well as infrastructure development along with associated capacity-building activities for operations, maintenance and repairs and sustainable financing models adapted to the local transmission pattern for long-term control or elimination;
- (3) to ensure that national policies and plans regarding the prevention and management of cholera comprise all areas with high-risk of cholera transmission;
- (4) to establish national multisectoral cholera and acute diarrhoea prevention and surveillance mechanisms in affected countries to coordinate the implementation of the control or elimination plan, ensuring representation of the different ministries, agencies, partners and communities involved in cholera control efforts;
- (5) to strengthen capacity for: preparedness in compliance with the International Health Regulations (2005), early detection and treatment, laboratory confirmation, case management and immediate and effective response to outbreaks in order to reduce the public health, social and economic impact;
- (6) to strengthen surveillance and early reporting of cholera in line with the International Health Regulations (2005), and build capacity for data collection and analysis, including information on critical determinants including water and sanitation coverage;
- (7) to strengthen community involvement, social mobilization in cholera prevention, early detection, household water treatment and storage, and other related water, sanitation and hygiene response activities;
- (8) to support, including through international cooperation, research for better prevention and control, including research for improved vaccines and better rapid diagnostics and treatment; and to support monitoring of antimicrobial resistance;
- (9) to refrain from implementing health measures that are more restrictive of international traffic and more invasive or intrusive to persons than reasonably available alternatives that would achieve the appropriate level of health protection, in line with the International Health Regulations (2005);

¹ And, where applicable, regional economic integration organizations.

(10) to establish national targets, when applicable, and make financial and political commitments to cholera control with national Sustainable Development Goal implementation plans;

2. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to strengthen surveillance and reporting of cholera in line with the International Health Regulations (2005) and to further reinforce advocacy, strategic leadership and coordination with partners at all levels via the Global Task Force on Cholera Control secretariat and working groups, including by providing technical support and operational guidance to countries for cholera prevention and control;

(2) to increase capacity to support countries to scale up their ability to implement and monitor multisectoral, integrated interventions for long-term cholera prevention, control and elimination; interventions for preparedness and response to cholera epidemics in accordance with the global initiatives of Ending Cholera: A Global Roadmap to 2030 and aligned with national plans to encourage reporting, monitor progress and disease burden in order to inform country and global strategies; and interventions for control or elimination;

(3) to support countries, upon request, in the assessment of cholera risk factors and capacity for multisectoral engagement within existing technical resources;

(4) to continue leading the management of the oral cholera vaccine stockpile to enable a sufficient global supply, including the support to and monitoring and evaluation of oral cholera vaccine use, and where appropriate vaccine campaigns, in cooperation with relevant organizations and partners, including UNICEF and the GAVI Alliance;

(5) to monitor and support long-term cholera prevention and control and elimination programmes at country and regional levels;

(6) to develop and promote an outcome-oriented research and evaluation agenda for cholera, targeted to address important knowledge gaps, to the improvement of implementation of existing interventions, including for water sanitation and hygiene, and to the development of improved vaccines for better and more durable prevention and outbreak control covering all aspects of cholera control;

(7) to raise the profile of cholera at the highest levels on the global public health agenda, and to strengthen coordination and engagement of multiple sectors, particularly water, sanitation and hygiene, and other non-health sectors such as finance and infrastructure development;

(8) to report to the Seventy-third World Health Assembly, through the Executive Board at its 146th session, on the global cholera situation and evaluate efforts made in cholera prevention and control.

Seventh plenary meeting, 26 May 2018
A71/VR/7

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