



NOON BRIEFINGS

10 JANUARY 2020

## Daily Press Briefing by the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General



The following is a near-verbatim transcript of today's noon briefing by Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesman for the Secretary-General.

\*\*Questions and Answers

Question: Yes. On Haiti, you noted the various events marking the anniversary of the tragic earthquake. There was another tragedy, as you know, in Haiti caused by UN peacekeepers, and that's the cholera outbreak... you know, the breakout of the cholera epidemic and many deaths that followed. What is the current status of the UN's pledges to make restitution to the communities affected and the families and individuals affected by the cholera outbreak?

Spokesman: Well, as you know, we have been extremely involved in the continuing fight against cholera. And since the outbreak of cholera in October 2010, the international community, I think, has spent about \$705 million to fight cholera in support of the Haitian Government's own national plan. That includes \$64 million raised and mobilized by UN agencies. The latest numbers I have really date back from December 2019, for nearly 11 consecutive months as of, I think, around 20 December 2019, there were no positive tests for cholera that had been reported. There has been a consistent downward trend in... in [the] number of cholera cases since late 2016, 2017 and 2018, and 2019. I mean, just in the last week of December 2019, I think there were five cholera tests in Haiti. All turned out to be negative. And that's down from a peak where there were some 18,000 cases a week. So, in a sense, there's been an extremely positive trend in... downward trend in the number of cholera cases, and that is thanks to the mobilization of the international community. We still need about \$20 million to finalize the cholera response plan through 2022 and to try to maintain a zero transmission for three... for the... we need a three-year zero benchmark to be... for the WHO [World Health Organization] to declare Haiti cholera-free. There is, as you know, Track 2, which the UN is working with communities that were most impacted by cholera to empower them to identify and implement projects that are most meaningful to them. The UN has expanded its community-led consultative process to about 25 communities throughout Haiti. That work is continuing to be led by Josette Sheeran, who continues to be very focussed on it.

Question: What about the individuals or families who were directly impacted by the outbreak?

Spokesman: That's done through Track 2, which is working with those communities.

Question: And how much money... could you tell us about how much money...?

Spokesman: No, I don't have the... let me just see if I have the Track 2 numbers. I don't have them in front of me, but, unfortunately, we've not been able to mobilize as much as we'd like on Track 2. But, I think it is very important to underscore the work that has been done with the leadership of the Haitian Government in getting to that almost zero-case number of cholera cases. [He later added that to date, we have dispersed \$7.2 million for Track 2 programming. We need an additional \$25.6 million to implement the current Track 2 approach in the remaining 109 communities identified as hardest hit.].