

Cholera spreading in Huthi-controlled parts of Yemen: UN

April 15 2024



Scanning electron microscope image of *Vibrio cholerae*. Credit: Wikipedia

The United Nations on Monday expressed concern about the uptick in cholera cases in Yemen, especially in areas of the war-ravaged country controlled by Huthi rebels, where 75 people have died since October.

"Since October last year, we have seen an alarming resurgence of cholera across the country," UN official Edem Wosornu told the Security Council, speaking on behalf of humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths.

Noting that the last cholera epidemic in Yemen dated back to 2019, Wosornu said while the response in government-controlled areas had slowed the spread of the illness and provided treatment for those affected, Huthi-run areas were in need.

"Since March, we have seen the outbreak spread rapidly in areas controlled by the Huthi de facto authorities," the official said.

As of April 7, more than 11,000 suspected cases have been reported in those areas since October, along with the 75 deaths. In comparison, 3,200 suspected cases have been reported in government-controlled areas.

"A rapid response is absolutely critical. The United Nations and our humanitarian partners are working closely with relevant authorities to scale up the response," Wosornu said, calling on the international community to offer money and supplies.

The UN's humanitarian response plan for Yemen for 2024, estimated to cost \$2.7 billion, has only been 10 percent funded so far.

The country has seen a lull in fighting that has held in Yemen since the expiry of a six-month truce brokered in April 2022.

But against the backdrop of the war in Gaza between Israel and Hamas, the Iran-backed Huthi rebels have launched dozens of attacks against ships in the Red Sea or the Gulf of Aden which they believe have ties to Israel.

The rebels say they are acting in solidarity with the Palestinians.

The United Nations special envoy for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, told the Council that while the military situation remained "contained" as compared to before April 2022, there had been an uptick in hostilities on several front lines.

'While the conflicts in Yemen and the wider region have become undeniably interlinked, I strongly believe that we owe it to the Yemenis to ensure that resolving the conflict in Yemen is not made contingent upon the resolution of other issues,' Grundberg said.

"We cannot risk Yemen's chance for peace becoming [collateral damage](#) ," the Swedish diplomat added, warning that such an outcome "could be catastrophic—not only for Yemen, but also for the wider region."

© 2024 AFP

Citation: Cholera spreading in Huthi-controlled parts of Yemen: UN (2024, April 15) retrieved 2 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2024-04-cholera-huthi-yemen.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.