

**07– 10 – 2024**

**News: Cholera**

- Recently, Cholera, a preventable and treatable disease, has experienced a resurgence, leading to approximately 4,000 deaths in 2023, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

**Cholera**

- Cholera, a water-borne disease primarily caused by the bacteria *Vibrio cholerae*.
- It is an acute diarrheal illness caused by infection of the intestine.
- The infection is often mild or without symptoms, but sometimes can be severe.

**Symptoms**

- It includes severe watery diarrhoea, vomiting, leg cramps, and weakness, and can lead to death through dehydration if untreated.

## **Transmission**

- A person may get cholera by drinking water or eating food contaminated with the cholera bacterium.
- The disease can spread rapidly in areas with inadequate treatment of sewage and drinking water.
- Vulnerable populations, particularly malnourished children and individuals living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) are at a higher risk of mortality.

## **Vaccine**

- Currently there are 3 WHO pre-qualified Oral Cholera Vaccines (OCV)- Dukoral, Shanchol, and Euvichol-Plus. All three vaccines require two doses for full protection.

## **Global Burden**

- The global cholera burden worsened between 2022 and 2024, with the WHO reporting significant increases in both cases and deaths across various regions.
- 22 countries reported active outbreaks and 2,400 deaths had been recorded globally by August 2024.

## Global Cholera Distribution

- Cholera primarily affects countries in Africa and Asia, with occasional "imported cases" in Europe.
- WHO reported that in 2023, global cholera cases increased by 13%, and deaths rose by 17% compared to 2022, resulting in 4,000 fatalities.
- By 2024, 22 countries were experiencing ongoing cholera outbreaks.
- In 2022, cholera cases were more evenly spread across Africa compared to 2021.
- The geographic distribution of cholera has shifted, with Asia showing a decline but cases in Africa doubling, largely due to inequities in healthcare access.
- Asia also experienced a rise in cholera cases in 2022.
- As of August 2024, India reported 3,805 cases of cholera in a multi-country outbreak that also impacted Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Nepal.