



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

5 July 2013

Dear Congresswoman

I would like to thank you for your letter of 30 May 2013, regarding the cholera situation in Haiti.

I fully share your concern about the devastating impact of the epidemic. I am personally committed to ensuring that the United Nations and the international community spare no effort to help Haiti in this time of need.

The 2010 outbreak of cholera in Haiti further exacerbated the humanitarian crisis triggered by the earthquake in January of that year. While concerted international and Haitian efforts have alleviated much of the suffering and damage, the cholera epidemic continues to take a terrible toll.

Since the outbreak of the disease, the United Nations, in cooperation with other partners, has taken several steps to contain and combat the epidemic and prevent future outbreaks.

Through the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes present in Haiti and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), the United Nations has established and upgraded cholera treatment facilities and oral rehydration points across Haiti, and has provided sewage management in nearly 1,500 sites and sanitary facilities in 240 schools. Over 9 million critical items, such as water purification tablets, soap and medical equipment, have been supplied to the Haitian Ministry of Health.

The United Nations has constructed wastewater treatment plants in the municipalities of Croix-des-Bouquets and Morne-à-Cabrit and helped to establish nearly 700 water and temporary chlorination points. It has improved the water supply in the most vulnerable areas of Port-au-Prince and Petit Goave, as well as remote rural areas, and has worked with the *Direction Nationale de L'Eau Potable et de l'Assainissement* (DINEPA) to develop a water quality monitoring system for all 140 communes of Haiti.

United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.