



Haiti suffers as cholera spreads

Match up these words with the numbers in the article.

nurses

United

injured

capital

earthquake

homes

spread

water

medicines

antibiotics

washing

vomiting

Haiti was hit by an outbreak of cholera in November. More than a thousand people died within the first few weeks and experts warned thousands more were at risk as the disease 1)_____ across the country.

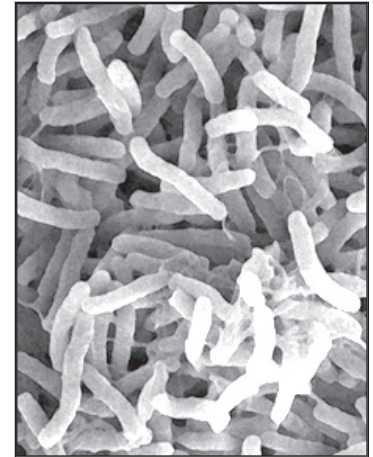
The people of Haiti have faced terrible problems in 2010. In January, the country was hit by a massive 2)_____ in which 230,000 died and many more were seriously 3)_____.

Many of the country's hospitals were destroyed as buildings collapsed and the doctors and 4)_____ who survived found it difficult to treat the injured because of a lack of 5)_____.

Housing was also hit badly. Over a million people lost their 6)_____ and many moved into temporary camps where they still live in tents. Toilet and 7)_____ facilities in the camps are very basic. Keeping clean is also a problem for the thousands of people living in slum areas of the 8)_____ city Port-au-Prince.

In such poor conditions the outbreak of cholera came as no great surprise. Cholera is an infection caused by bacteria (see picture above) which are spread through unclean 9)_____ or food. Two of the main symptoms are diarrhoea and 10)_____. Unfortunately, the disease can spread very quickly and in less than a month Haiti had almost 20,000 suspected cases.

Thankfully treatment is relatively simple. Sufferers are given 11)_____ to destroy the harmful bacteria. It is also important to give victims a lot of fluids. Unfortunately, the conditions in Haiti are so poor that even the 12)_____ Nations was unable to prevent the cholera epidemic.



cholera bacteria



United
Nations



QUESTIONS

- Which country was hit by an outbreak of cholera in November?
- What major disaster struck Haiti in January 2010 and how many people died as a result?
- Give a reason why people injured in the earthquake found it difficult to get medical help.
- How many people lost their homes and where did many of them move to?
- Give two symptoms of cholera.
- How can cholera be treated?
- Which international organisation was unable to prevent the cholera outbreak in Haiti?
- Imagine you are a nurse helping the people of Haiti. Use your imagination to write either a news report or a short story describing the many problems you face in your work.