



Cholera

Why in News?

African countries are facing **Cholera vaccine shortage**, that is a looming threat amid increasing cholera cases in the region.

- Since the beginning of 2023, there have **been 27,300 new cases of cholera including 687 deaths** in five African countries.
- The [WHO \(World Health Organization\)](#) has said [Climate Change](#) could make cholera epidemics more common, as the bacteria that causes the disease can reproduce more quickly in warmer water.

What is Cholera?

- **About:**
 - It is a life-threatening infectious **disease and a public health hazard.**
 - Cholera is an acute, diarrheal illness caused by infection of the intestine with the **bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*.**
 - The infection is often mild or without symptoms, but sometimes can be severe.
- **Symptoms:**
 - Profuse watery diarrhoea, Vomiting, Leg cramps
- **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.
- **Vaccine:**
 - Currently there are three WHO pre-qualified **Oral Cholera Vaccines (OCV), Dukoral, Shanchol, and Euvichol-Plus.**
 - All three vaccines require two doses for full protection.

What are the Initiatives to Curb Cholera?

- **A global strategy on cholera control, Ending Cholera:** a global roadmap to 2030, with a target to reduce cholera deaths by 90% was launched in 2017.
- **Global Task Force for Cholera Control (GTFCC):** WHO revitalized the Global Task Force for Cholera Control (GTFCC) to strengthen WHO's work in eradicating cholera.
 - The purpose of the GTFCC is to support increased implementation of evidence-based strategies to control cholera.

[Source: ET](#)

