

Cholera and conflict- the international community's response to the cholera epidemic in Yemen from 2016 to 2019: A systematic literature review.

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INTRODUCTION

There is a strong relationship between cholera and conflict. In situations of humanitarian emergencies where public infrastructure is destroyed and there is mass displacement of individuals- cholera becomes an increasing threat (Charnley, 2022). In the case of Yemen, the first case of cholera was detected in September 2016 and has been present since (Camacho, 2018). The main responders on the field included International Organisations (Lindsay, 2021). The most common responses to control cholera include water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) practices, oral cholera vaccinations, medical aid delivery and implementing surveillance systems.

OBJECTIVES

The aim of this paper is to critically assess the interventions implemented by International Organisations to manage the cholera epidemic in Yemen from the years 2016 to 2019 and identify the strengths and areas of improvement in their approach.

METHODS

A systematic review was conducted using the data bases: PubMed, ProQuest and VHL as well as selected grey literature. A thematic analysis was conducted following Braun and Clarke's guide (Braun, 2008).

RESULTS

Nine papers were included as they fit the eligibility criteria- there were a mixture of methods utilised in these and were written by various stakeholders. The categories identified from the thematic analysis includes: 1) coordination 2) oral cholera vaccination delivery 3) surveillance systems 4) WASH facilities 5) funding and 6) advocacy from IOs.

CONCLUSION

Overall, the response in cholera was characterised by a delay in interventions by IOs due to confusion, lack of coordination and absence of a unified system. The main recommendation set out by the studies and identified in this dissertation is the need to prepare a cholera response plan which is clear, detailed, contains accountability measures, lays out key responsibilities and roles and is written in advance, rather than waiting for the situation to worsen.

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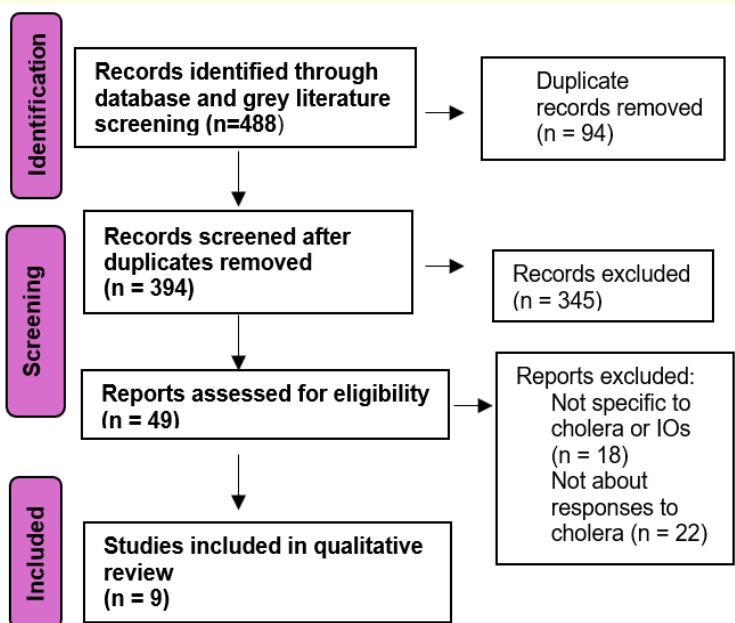


Figure 1: PRISMA flowchart for this study