A cholera outbreak was confirmed in Haiti in October 2010, a century after cholera had last been documented there. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other U.S. government and international organizations intervened, working with the Haitian government to contain the outbreak. The CDC used Palantir Disease Response to monitor the situation and inform their response efforts.

**THE PROBLEM**

As the crisis unfolded, CDC epidemiologists relied on open source data for situational awareness due to the limited availability of official data from the field. The CDC required a platform to analyze open source information, including Twitter, blog posts, websites, and SMS messages. In addition, the CDC required the capability to combine official epidemiological data from the field with open source intelligence to investigate all the data in one common environment. The solution had to be up and running in a matter of days so that analysts could quickly begin supporting CDC epidemiologists and others on the ground trying to contain the outbreak.

**PALANTIR’S SOLUTION**

Palantir’s forward deployed engineers had Palantir Disease Response up and running less than one week after the CDC made the request. Analysts identified the NGOs and government agencies responding to the initial need for help and were able to integrate the relevant real-time open source information for search and analysis from within a single workspace. Analysts were also able to explore text messages published by Noula (www.noula.ht) from Haitians affected by the outbreak and drill down on those messages related solely to health. These unvarnished, direct-from-the-field data gave epidemiologists in the CDC Emergency Operations Center a vastly improved understanding of the operating picture on the ground.

As the crisis continued, CDC epidemiologists were able to collect survey data from the field and send this data back to the emergency operations center in Atlanta. From there, analysts used Palantir Disease Response to provide daily updates on survey analysis, enabling the epidemiologists to analyze their data in multiple ways and inform decisions on the ground. For example, epidemiologists were able to investigate how distance from treatment facilities influenced Haitian citizens’ decisions to seek care. Analysts drilled down on subjects living in close proximity to the Artibonite River and determined that the most common water sources cited were nearby rivers or streams, which are primary cholera transmission agents. Analysts also used the Map Trends capability to explore surveillance data and inform decision-making about the next region in which to conduct an epidemic study.

**PALANTIR’S IMPACT & RESULTS**

- The CDC was able to combine open source information with epidemiological data from the field to gain improved situational awareness about the cholera outbreak.

- Epidemiologists in Haiti received daily reports from analysts in Atlanta and used the analysis to inform decisions on the ground.

- Geospatial exploration of survey data provided an additional layer of analysis to support epidemiological studies, examine Haitian behavioral patterns related to cholera, and evaluate NGO and U.S. government efforts in-country.

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