Cholera is an infection of the intestine, that causes copious watery diarrhoea, vomiting and leg cramps, and can quickly result in dehydration and death. Cholera is most common where there is poor sanitation and no access to clean water.

In 2004, 70% of all cholera cases identified were in the regions of Southeastern Africa, Northern Africa and Central Africa. Mozambique had the highest count of cholera cases, at 20 thousand. An epidemic in 1978 in the small population of the Maldives affected 3.8 people in every 100. The Maldives are barely visible on this map.

“Cholera is a disease of the poor, born of too many people living cheek by jowl without the infrastructure of a sewer system or clean drinking water.”

Pascale Harter, 2005