

DREF Bulletin Update



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

ANGOLA: CHOLERA

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 183 countries.

In Brief

Period covered by this update: 24 February to 14 March 2006.

History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 50,165.46 (USD 39,009.30 or EUR 32,272.16) was allocated from the Federation's DREF to respond to the needs of this operation and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population.
- This operation is expected to be implemented for three months; a DREF Bulletin Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (30 August 2006).

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background and current situation

As of 13 March 2006, Angola reported 231 cholera cases and 11 deaths in Luanda city, with an overall case fatality rate of 5%. The provincial government of Luanda and the Ministry of Health confirmed the outbreak after being alerted on an increase in diarrhoea cases reported at a local health centre which were confirmed after epidemiological surveys on the existence of the bacteria. Boavista neighbourhood in Ingombota municipality of Luanda city, which recorded the first case of cholera, is renowned for its poor living conditions characterized by mud huts and corrugated iron structures perched on piles of rubbish. There is no supply of potable water and only a few households have latrines.

Table 1: Number of cholera cases as at 13 March 2006

Municipality	Reported Cholera cases	Number of deaths
Cacuaco	4	-
Cazenga	8	-
Ingombota	123	9
Kilamba Kiaxi	4	2
Maianga	4	-
Rangel	7	-
Samba	-	-
Sambizanga	77	-
Viana	4	-
Total	231	11

The government of Angola established health centres in the affected local municipalities and provided medical supplies in preparation for response to a cholera outbreak. Cholera treatment centres were established for case management in Boa Vista, Ingombota, Kilamba Kiaxi and Casenga municipalities with technical support of the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Belgium. Approximately 160,000 litres of clean water is supplied on a daily basis to households in Ingombota municipality by the sub-commission of the National Water Institute. The Ingombota Municipality also distributed water purification tablets and 20 litre jerry cans to the affected households. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) supplied ten megaphones to Angola Red Cross¹ for use during social mobilization activities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

More than 30,000 information, education and communication (IEC) materials on health and hygiene promotion-including how to prevent cholera- have been distributed to households in the affected municipalities. Angola Red Cross volunteers conducted 1,677 house-to-house visits providing health and hygiene education and reached approximately 8,815 people in the municipalities of Ingombota, Kilamba Kiaxi and Sambisanga. Luanda provincial health authority trained 40 Red Cross volunteers on cholera prevention and control activities covering; hygiene, sanitation, disinfecting and use of safe water at household level, preventing dehydration, actively identifying cases as well as referring to cholera treatment centre. The national society distributed 2,569 litres of clean water disinfectants and installed 20 public toilets in Ingombotas, Kilamba Kiaxi and Sambisanga municipalities.

The Red Cross branch in Luanda has more than 60 volunteers working in collaboration with the municipality's health authority and other agencies in distributing IEC materials supplied by Angola Red Cross and UNICEF.

Coordination

The Ministry of Health, World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, MSF Belgium and other partners continue developing efforts in the field to contain the outbreak. They are engaged in daily coordination meetings, house-to-house visits, following up with contacts, disinfections, collection of specimen for bacteriology laboratory examination, distribution of drinking water and chlorine as well as dissemination of preventive measures through the local media and by social mobilization groups.

¹ Angola Red Cross- refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=18>

The Angola Red Cross is part of the National Civil Protection Commission. The provincial secretary of Luanda Red Cross branch is a member of the inter-sectoral emergency commission and participates in the coordination meetings held on a daily basis.

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