

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Kenya: Cholera Outbreak

DREF operation n° MDRKE005  
GLIDE n° EP-2007-000244-KEN  
14 May 2008

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

**CHF 94,762 (USD 91,117 or EUR 58,676) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Kenya Red Cross Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 60,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** The Kenya Ministry of Health (MoH) appealed for assistance to help control the spread of cholera which hit the Nyanza and North Eastern provinces late last year. According to the statistics from the Provincial Medical Officer of Nyanza Province, 708 cases of cholera have been recorded in the health facilities in the region and 42 deaths from the disease have been registered.

The Kenya Red Cross Society has supported the Ministry of Health in the affected districts by providing them with cholera kits and water purifiers (aqua tabs and Pur).

This operation is expected to be implemented over 2 months, and will therefore be completed by 14 July 2008. A final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 14 October 2008.).

[<click here to view the map of the affected area, and here for contact details>](#)

## The situation

Nyanza Province has had cholera outbreaks since late last year, where the first case was confirmed in Suba District on 2 December, 2007. The outbreaks have so far been reported in 10 districts: Suba, Migori, Rongo, Bondo, Kisumu East and West, South Kisii, Homa Bay, Nyando and Siaya. According to the statistics from the Provincial Medical Officer of Nyanza Province, 708 cases of cholera have been recorded in the health facilities in the region and 42 deaths from the disease have been registered.

In some districts like Rongo, Migori, Suba and Kisumu West, the outbreaks are sporadic. The common features about these outbreaks are that they are occurring in households whose main water sources are rivers and lakes. In addition, the sanitation component (latrine coverage) in the affected divisions of the above mentioned districts is as low as 1%.

Cholera is an acute diarrhoea disease characterized by a sudden onset of profuse watery diarrhoea and vomiting. If not treated immediately, it may lead to severe loss of water in the body and death. Cholera is transmitted through eating food or drinking water that is contaminated with faeces containing cholera germs (bacteria). Contamination may occur due to indiscriminate disposal of faeces and poor personal hygiene practices.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Kenya Red Cross Society health team is working with the Ministry of Health in the affected districts to sensitize the community on the measures of preventing cholera outbreaks, signs and symptoms of the disease and its mode of transmission.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Kenya Red Cross Society health team has been supporting the MoH in controlling the outbreak in various ways. A total of 25 cholera kits were supplied to the following Ministries of Health in the districts: Homabay (four kits), Migori (four kits), Kisumu East (two kits), Suba (two kits) and Busia (13 kits). In addition, the Kisumu East MoH was supported with antibiotics and infusions to assist in treatment of cholera patients.

Water purifiers (Aqua tabs and Pur) have been supplied to various districts in the region. The MoH in Suba was given 6,400 tablets of Aqua tabs and 2,400 sachets of Pur, the MoH in Migori was provided with 24,000 aqua tabs and 10,000 sachets of Pur, while the MoH in Kisumu East was supported with 10,000 sachets of Pur and 24,000 Aqua tabs. Other support provided to the MoH was transport services (vehicles) to transport staff and materials (latrine slabs) to the field in order to improve sanitation facilities in the community in order to prevent cholera.

The National Society is committed to contributing to the control of the cholera spread through social mobilization on personal hygiene and disinfecting the water surfaces in the affected areas.

## The needs

**Beneficiary selection:** The intervention will target 60,000 people in the 10 districts that are worst hit by the epidemic. The selection was done in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders who are working in Nyanza Province.

The immediate needs of the community are water treatment chemicals and medical support to the medical facilities in the affected areas. There is also the need to conduct personal hygiene awareness on cholera control to the affected communities.

## The proposed operation

**Goal: To contribute towards the reduction of cholera outbreak in Nyanza Province in Kenya, targeting 60,000 people**

### Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

**Objective 1: To reduce the spread of cholera through provision of cholera kits and social mobilization to reach 60,000 people in 10 districts within Nyanza Province**

#### Activities planned

- Distribution of 2 cholera kits to the medical facilities in the affected areas.
- Printing and distribution of 10,000 information, education and communication (IEC) materials with cholera prevention messages.
- Replenishment of cholera kits in the Eastern African Zone Office.

**Objective 2: To promote individual and environmental hygiene in order to break the transmission chain of the epidemic.**

#### Activities planned

- Conduct health education on cholera prevention and control.
- Respond to new cases through early detection, provision of oral rehydration salts (ORS) and disinfection.

## How we work

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.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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.

## Contact information

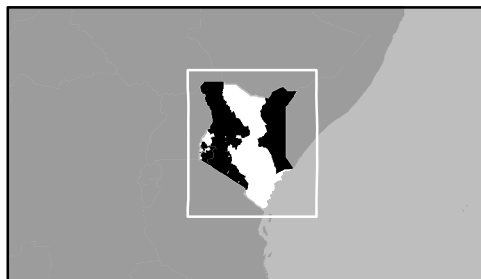
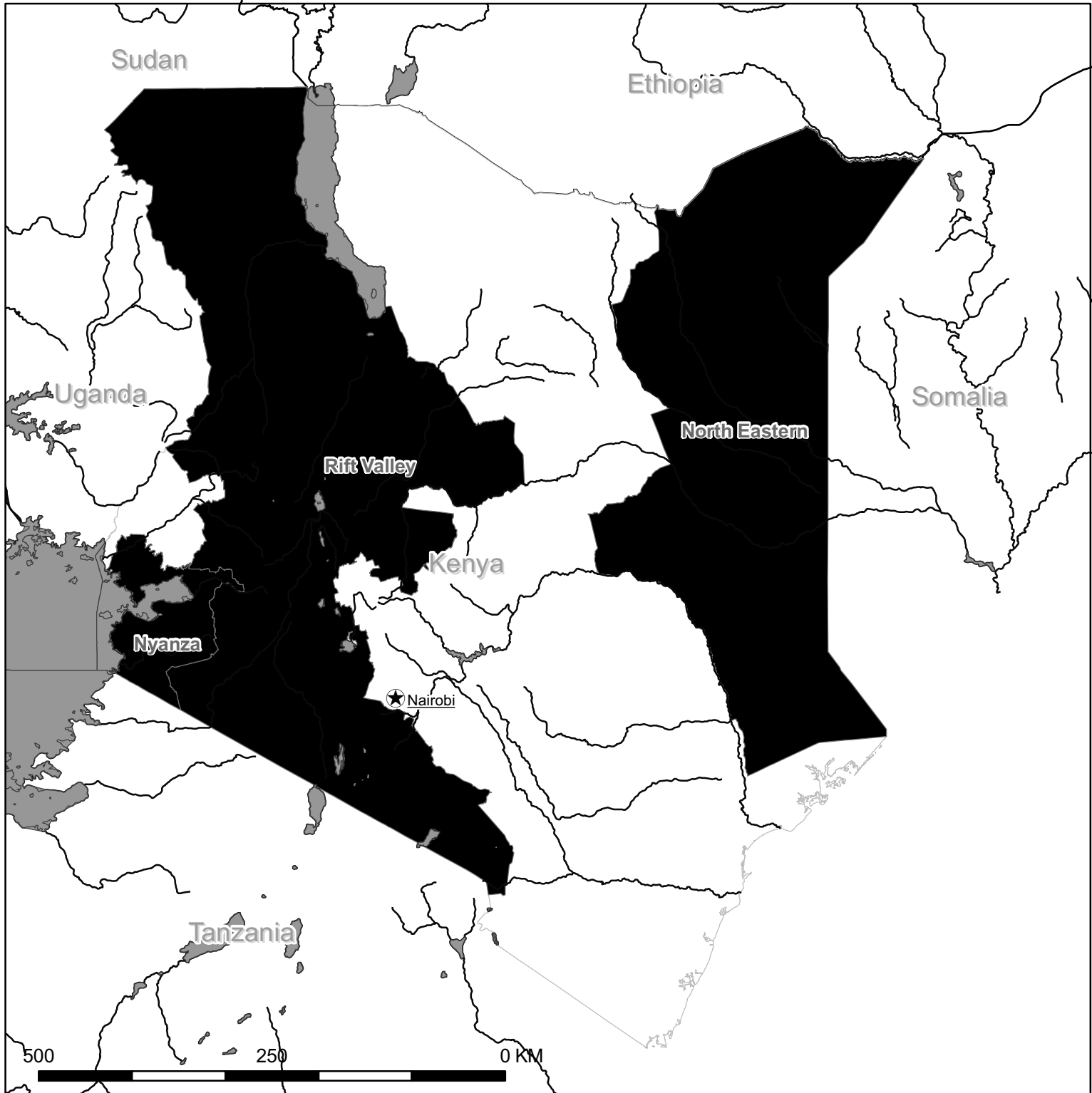
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[<Map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



# Kenya: Epidemic - Cholera



 Affected provinces