

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

SUDAN: YELLOW FEVER

No. 05ME068.

Update no.1

4 May 2006

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: 28 December 2005 to 9 February 2006.

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

- CHF 200,000 has been allocated from the Federations DREF on 24 November 2005, to respond to the needs of this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population.
- This operation is expected to be implemented for 6 months, and will be completed by 24 May, 2006; a DREF Bulletin Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 24 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.

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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

A yellow fever outbreak in South Kordofan, Sudan, has been confirmed by further testing by World Health Organization (WHO). Earlier indications of Dengue Fever – including 75 deaths – were attributed to the Yellow fever. According to a WHO epidemiological update on the outbreak dated 1 December 2005, a total of 556 cases were reported in Sudan, including 142 deaths, bringing the case fatality rate to 25.5%.

On 30 November 2005 one case was reported from Abu Gebiha, the most affected region since 27 November, with 16 cases and 4 deaths. These reports were based on data collected from 17 out of 40 WHO sentinel sites, due to the communication difficulties with remote sentinel sites.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action taken so far

In response to the yellow fever outbreak, the Sudan delegation facilitated the successful application of a Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocation of CHF 200,000 on 24 November 2005 for the Sudanese Red Crescent Society's emergency operation. In addition, the Federation Secretariat deployed a health delegate to support the delegation, the national society, and particularly, the South Kordofan branch to establish and carry out this operation.

The needs

WHO and partners, including the Sudanese Red Crescent Society and the Federation, agreed that a comprehensive action package was needed to curb the outbreak as well as to quickly distinguish and treat the disease on a case-by-case basis.

Objective: To contribute towards the reduction of the Yellow fever outbreak in South Kordofan region

Expected Results

- Vector control interventions (i.e. spraying and distribution of insecticide treated mosquitoes nets (ITN)) have been implemented in South Kordofan region.
- Incidence of Yellow fever in South Kordofan region and surrounding regions is reduced.
- Good environmental hygiene standards are achieved and maintained.

Activities

- Mobilize and deploy volunteers in vector control activities including spraying and distribution of ITN.
- Conduct social mobilization and sensitization campaigns to communities for Yellow fever vaccination.
- Participate in the monitoring of the Yellow fever vaccination campaigns.
- Provide environmental health and hygiene education, and sensitization in South Kordofan region.

Progress

- 150 volunteers from the South Kordofan branch of the national society have so far carried out house-to-house visits in Kadugli and Dilling for spraying, vector control and health education.

Coordination

A plan for the rapid expansion of the national society's activities was agreed on following the daily coordination meetings with the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, NGOs and PNSs in Khartoum. As a means of prevention against further outbreaks, 1.7 million doses of Yellow fever vaccines arrived in Sudan after 28 November 2005, following a decision by the International coordinating group, of which the Federation is a member to cover the population needs in the South Kordofan region, which was worst hit by the disease.

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