

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Republic of Congo: Cholera in Pointe Noire

DREF operation n° MDRCG002  
27 February 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 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.

**Summary:** CHF 38,000 was allocated from the Federation's DREF on 2 February, 2007 to respond to the needs of populations affected by the cholera outbreak in Pointe Noire (Cote d'Ivoire).

In December 2006, a cholera epidemic outbreak occurred in Pointe Noire. The epidemic spread rapidly to Kouilou and even in other divisions. Pointe Noire is located not very far from Cabinda enclave (Angola) where the epidemic is believed to have started. In response, the Congolese Red Cross mobilized its volunteers, who sensitized the populations, helped treat affected persons and carried out hygiene and sanitation activities to prevent new infections. This contributed to stopping the progression of the epidemics. However, more efforts need to be oriented towards cholera preparedness so that the communities can always be prepared in times of heavy rains that normally result to cholera outbreaks.

**Photo Right: Training of Red Cross volunteers.**



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## Background and Summary

Pointe Noire, a sea-side town in the South-East of the Republic of Congo (next to the Kouilou Division), has over 800,000 inhabitants and is the economic capital of the country. Cholera epidemic outbreak occurred in Pointe Noire in December 2006 and was immediately confirmed by divisional and national health authorities. The epidemics spread rapidly to Kouilou and even in other divisions. Pointe Noire is located not very far from Cabinda enclave (Angola) where the epidemic is believed to have started. In fact population and goods movements between Cabinda and Pointe Noire are very impressive. It is very difficult to control cross-border movements, thus the disease spread so rapidly that new cases were registered very far from Pointe Noire.

In order to respond to the situation, the Red Cross launched an appeal that was funded by the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). Within the framework of the operation, Red Cross volunteers sensitised the populations, helped treat affected persons and carried out hygiene and sanitation activities to prevent new infections. This action contributed to stopping the progression of the epidemics, but more efforts need to be made as the rainy season is just starting and there is the risk of a new outbreak. These efforts should be oriented towards cholera preparedness.

## Coordination

A crisis committee jointly presided over by the Kouilou and Pointe Noire divisional officers was set up by Government to respond to the epidemic. In the same vein, 5 technical commissions were set up to facilitate

the task of the crisis committee. These commissions included: Epidemiological surveillance, Cases management, Logistics, Hygiene and sanitation, and Social mobilisation. All the sectors likely to impact the fight against cholera were associated in the various commissions according to their respective mandates. The Red Cross was represented in the “Hygiene and sanitation” and “Social mobilisation” commissions. UNICEF was active in the cases management commission through which they made available 10 000 sachets of new formula of SRO and a good quantity of NaDCC-33 to disinfect about 162 000 litres of water. On its part, MSF Holland deployed a team of medical doctors at the Pointe-Noire reference hospital to take care of cholera patients, with the support of about 50 Red Cross volunteers.

## Analysis of the operation - objectives, achievements and impact

**Goal: Improve the health situation of the populations that are exposed to cholera.**

### Objectives:

- The populations are sensitized to the signs and symptoms of cholera; they are also encouraged to refer to the nearest health centres.
- Individual and environmental hygiene is promoted in order to breach the transmission line of the epidemic.
- The populations are initiated to water disinfection and the use of adequate latrines.

**Expected Result 1:** By the end of the operation, Congolese Red Cross volunteers have become:

- Community-based cholera watchers and agents of an early alert system;
- Liaison agents between health centres and the community/prevention ;
- Communication channels between the community, the Red Cross and authorities.



**Achievements:** In March 2007, 2 national disaster response team members were retrained and 130 Red Cross volunteers were trained on cholera management. The trained volunteers carried out sensitisation campaigns in Pointe Noire and Brazzaville, reaching about 484,145 persons. They also helped refer affected persons to the various health centres.

**Photo Left: Sanitation work in a neighbourhood of Pointe-Noire**

**Expected result 2:** By the end of the operation, 80% of the population know the signs and symptoms of cholera, and run to the nearest health centre immediately after the first alert.

**Achievements:** The Red Cross intensified sensitisation in 4 divisions and 6 districts of

Pointe Noire and Brazzaville, explaining the signs and symptoms of cholera to the populations. They also insisted on the need of affected people being taken immediately to the nearest health centre.

**Expected result 3:** By the end of the operation, 80% of the population follow simple hygiene rules, know how to disinfect water, use latrines and stop defecating in the open air.

**Achievements:** Red Cross volunteers explained simple hygiene rules to the populations, showed them how to disinfect water and did it with them, and carried out environmental hygiene activities. The following table summarizes all that was achieved by the Red Cross within the framework of this operation:

Activities	Period	Persons involved	Achievements
<b>Training and retraining Red Cross volunteers</b>	09 – 12 March 2007	2 trainers	- 2 NDRT members retrained - 130 Red Cross volunteers trained
<b>Intensified sensitization</b>	15 April – 31 May 2007	130 Red Cross volunteers	- 04 divisions and 06 districts covered - 484 145 persons

			sensitized
<b>Sanitation</b>	15 April – 31 May 2007	130 Red Cross volunteers	- 18300 water wells rehabilitated
<b>Environmental Hygiene</b>	15 April – 30 April 2007	130 Red Cross volunteers	- 2581 latrines disinfected - 4 market places cleaned up

### Impact of the operation

Red Cross volunteers' action influenced the evolution of the epidemic substantially. The number of deaths never increased since March 2007 in the various localities. In fact, the epidemic was put under control thanks to Red Cross action, with the collaboration of other actors. However, the situation needs to be closely watched to avoid any resurgence.

## 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

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

MDRCG002 - Rep Of Congo - Cholera

FINAL Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/2-2007/12
Budget Timeframe	2007/2-2007/12
Appeal	MDRCG002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**I. Consolidated Response to Appeal**

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>		38,000				38,000
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		36,120				36,120
<b>C6. Other Income</b>		36,120				36,120
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)</b>		36,120				36,120
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>		36,120				36,120

**II. Balance of Funds**

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0
<b>C. Income</b>		36,120				36,120
<b>E. Expenditure</b>		-36,120				-36,120
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>		0				0

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### III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>38,000</b>					<b>38,000</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Water & Sanitation	1,800		2,653			2,653	-853	
Medical & First Aid	900						900	
Teaching Materials	4,480		4,246			4,246	234	
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>7,180</b>		<b>6,899</b>			<b>6,899</b>	<b>281</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,800		72			72	2,728	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>2,800</b>		<b>72</b>			<b>72</b>	<b>2,728</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
Regionally Deployed Staff			2,789			2,789	-2,789	
National Staff	750		1,021			1,021	-271	
National Society Staff	16,000		15,726			15,726	274	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>16,750</b>		<b>19,535</b>			<b>19,535</b>	<b>-2,785</b>	
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	2,240		2,693			2,693	-453	
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>2,240</b>		<b>2,693</b>			<b>2,693</b>	<b>-453</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	5,070		2,944			2,944	2,126	
Information & Public Relation			663			663	-663	
Office Costs	460		402			402	58	
Communications	600		316			316	284	
Financial Charges			249			249	-249	
Other General Expenses	430						430	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>6,560</b>		<b>4,574</b>			<b>4,574</b>	<b>1,986</b>	
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	2,470		2,348			2,348	122	
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>2,470</b>		<b>2,348</b>			<b>2,348</b>	<b>122</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>38,000</b>		<b>36,120</b>			<b>36,120</b>	<b>1,881</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>1,881</b>			<b>1,881</b>		