

Operations update

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Africa: Polio Outbreak

Emergency appeal n°
MDR61004 (West & Central Africa);
MDR64005 (East Africa);
MDR63002 (Southern Africa)
Operations update n° 4
28 December 2009

Period covered by this Ops Update: 3 August to 14 December, 2009

Appeal target (current): CHF 2,475,768
(USD 2.2m or EUR 1.7)

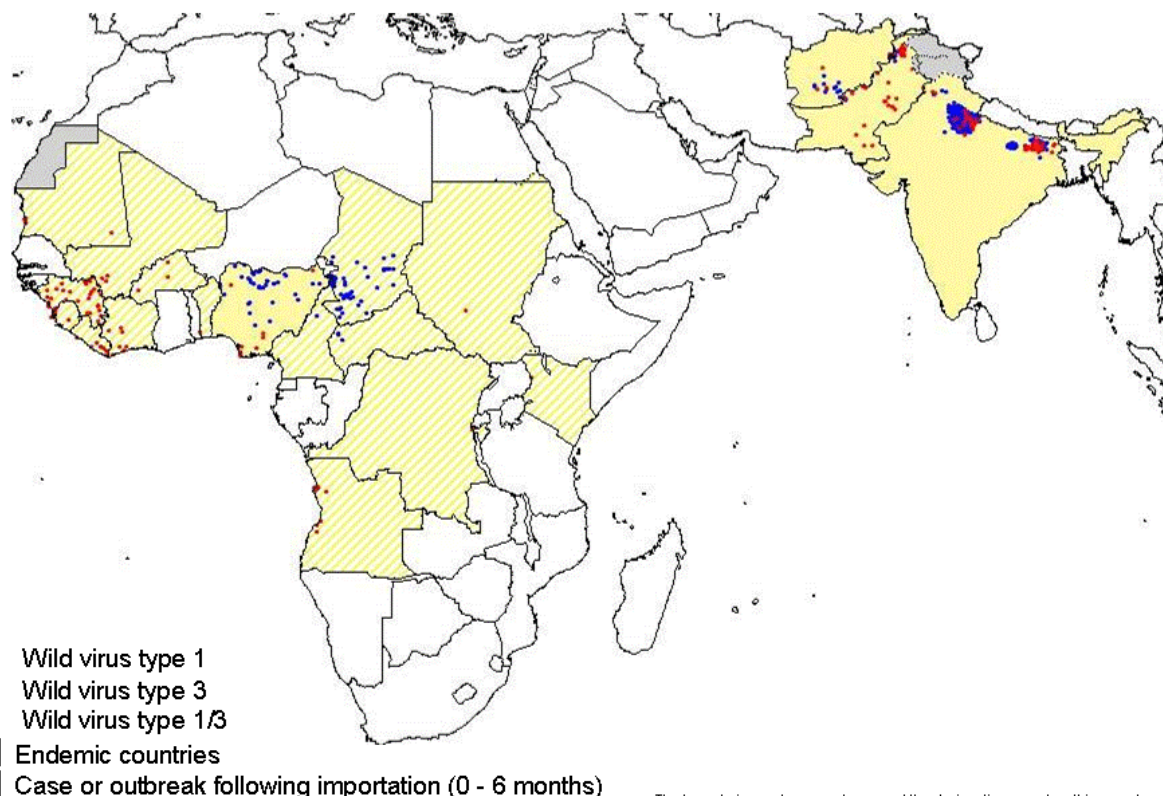
Appeal coverage: 56% [<click here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on 7 April 2009 to assist approximately 25 million children under 5 years of age in 14 countries affected by the polio outbreak for four months.
- Operations Update (no. 1) issued 14 May 2009 added emergency campaigns in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone to the Appeal, and the budget was provisionally revised to just over CHF 2.4m.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF 357,842 was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support emergency response campaigns in March (Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Mali) and April (Central African Republic and Democratic Republic of the Congo). CHF 235,888 was allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the emergency response campaign in April in Kenya.
- Global Measles & Polio Initiative: CHF 160,000 was initially allocated from the Health and Care Department's Global Measles & Polio Initiative to support activities in four countries during February and March (Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Togo).
- Operations Update (no. 2) issued 24 June 2009 focussed specifically on the action in Togo carried out from 27-29 March 2009.
- Operations Update (no. 3) issued 3 August 2009 provided details of 13 National Society campaign activities occurring since the first Operations Update (no. 1) issued in May 2009.
- This Operations Update (no. 4) serves to extend the Appeal timeframe on an exceptional basis due to unanticipated challenges in rolling out activities in South Sudan as well efforts to clear outstanding financial balances so that consolidated preliminary Final Reports (narrative and financial) can be issued as soon as possible. This update therefore conveys a no cost extension with a revised timeline (for each appeal) of 29 February 2010. The final Appeal report will therefore be available at the end of February 2009, reflecting the implementation of all planned activities.



Wild Poliovirus*, 09 Jun 2009 – 08 Dec 2009



*Excludes viruses detected from environmental surveillance and vaccine derived polioviruses

Data in WHO HQ as of 08 Dec 2009.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.
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Source: Global Polio Eradication Initiative (<http://www.polioeradication.org/content/general/casemap.shtml>). Retrieved 14 December 2009)

Summary: As of 9 December 2009, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) reported 1,483 cases of wild polio virus (WPV) globally; 711 of these cases were in Africa. In response to outbreaks, Ministries of Health with support of the GPEI organized multiple synchronized polio national immunization days (NIDs) in regional blocks throughout the year. National Societies to date have participated in vaccination rounds in Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic (CAR), Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Togo and Uganda, mobilizing a total (for all rounds) of approximately 25,000 Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers to ensure that a minimum of 95% of children aged 0 – 59 months (5 years) are reached with oral polio vaccination (OPV). Additionally, outside of Appeal-funded activity, National Societies participated in other emergency response activities as they were scheduled, including in countries such as Rwanda and Burundi, and in campaigns integrated with other antigens, such as national yellow fever campaigns held in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The Emergency Appeal response has been made possible by generous pledges to the Appeal from the American, British, Canadian, Icelandic, Irish, Japanese, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies, and private donors.

The situation

As of 9 December, twenty African countries had reported cases of polio in 2009, a number of which had not had wild polio virus in a number of years, such as Mauritania, Burundi, and Uganda. Most of these cases are linked to importations from ongoing circulation in Nigeria, the only endemic country in Africa, and from pockets of uninterrupted transmission in countries such as Angola, the Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. At the end of 2009 there were 23 countries around the world reporting polio cases, the highest number since 2000.

The expansion of wild poliovirus outbreaks in West and Central Africa, and the Horn of Africa, poses a high risk of further international spread and threatens progress towards global polio eradication unless stopped immediately. In order to assist in the international response, on 7 April 2009 the Federation launched a tri-zonal Africa Emergency Appeal to support National Societies as partners in emergency response campaigns in fourteen countries across Africa.¹ The Appeal aimed to assist approximately 25 million children under 5 years of age through *synchronized supplementary immunization activities* (SIAs) from 20 March to 31 July 2009. Fourteen countries were originally covered in the Appeal, namely in Central Africa (Angola, Central African Republic, and Democratic Republic of Congo), West Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, and Togo) and the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan - north and south). However, taking into account the traced spread of polio westward in Côte d'Ivoire, three additional countries (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone) were added to the end-May West Africa synchronized round. The Appeal was revised to include these three countries in the first Operations Update on 14 May 2009. The third Operations Update, issued on 05 August, outlined the extensive activities undertaken by National Societies in support of their emergency responses, including the mobilization of 12,640 volunteers to support mass polio campaigns. This Operations Update seeks to outline the reasons behind a request for no-cost extension of the Appeal until 29 February 2010.

Coordination and partnerships

The seventeen National Societies within the Appeal, and the Federation (Africa Zones and Geneva) have coordinated with Ministries of Health, WHO and other Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) partners (particularly UNICEF and Rotary International) to ensure that our response is harmonized and aligned with national and international response plans. All National Society plans funded by the Appeal were developed within the inter-agency coordinating committee (ICC), the body responsible for national vaccination efforts, and thus delineated a clear role and geographical area of responsibility for each National Society. National Society social mobilization activities were undertaken in coordination with other civil society partners working at the community level, such as Rotary International, World Vision, and CORE.

The Geneva Health and Care Department is facilitating planning across the three Federation Africa Zones to ensure a coordinated continental approach. Technical support is provided by the Health Coordinators within each Zone and Geneva, and is based upon frequent updates and WPV surveillance data made available by WHO. Where limited financial resources are available, prioritization for NS support was determined in consultation with the polio eradication team at WHO Headquarters.

¹ Chad, an outbreak country, is not included in this Appeal.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Summary

In order to appropriately respond to Ministry of Health requests to their National Societies for intensified and scaled-up support for national polio outbreak response campaigns, and a call from the GPEI partners for increased involvement in polio eradication in the context of recent outbreaks, the Federation launched this Africa Polio Outbreak Emergency Appeal.

WHO and partner agencies' overall objectives for these supplementary vaccination activities are to reach some 80 million children in the 17 countries to:

- Prevent the further spread of WPV through high quality vaccination rounds that reach all eligible children (under 5 years) with oral polio vaccine.
- Maximize vaccination coverage of emergency campaigns so as to prevent polio infection and possible polio paralysis.
- Increase immunity against polio across the targeted 18 affected countries.

Ministries of Health in the affected countries will procure the vaccine and organize the emergency campaigns, however, achieving optimal coverage will require reaching the most remote and hard-to-reach communities. This is the vital role that respective National Societies will play in delivering vaccination messages to communities and linking vaccination teams with beneficiaries. The Federation's strategy is to supplement these actions by leveraging the Movement's expertise in social mobilization, experience in mass immunization campaigns (as long time partners of the GPEI and Measles Initiative, as well as Child Health Days, etc.), and proven capability to increase quality of planning and preparedness efforts. The Movement's potential access to difficult or inaccessible areas may also be of assistance in particular countries (for example, DRC, Sudan, etc.). Funds generated by the Appeal have enabled National Societies to mobilize approximately 25,000 volunteers to help reach more than 2.5 million people with vaccination messages. More than 1.5 million households received a visit by a Red Cross Red Crescent volunteer to promote vaccination against polio.

A challenge has been the timely receipt of un-earmarked funds to ensure that all 17 National Societies in the Appeal can be active members of their national response. Additionally, and the reason for this request for Appeal extension, was the unanticipated length of time that it would take to finalize pledges with certain restrictions and effectively transfer funds to National Societies in good time for their required preparations.

Progress towards objectives

Emergency health and care

Overall objective: To assist in ending the spread of wild polio virus (WPV) by supporting national polio vaccination campaigns in designated areas of the affected countries through social mobilization and door-to-door campaign sensitization by National Societies and their Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers.

Specific objectives:

- 1. Conduct social mobilization and communications activities via Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers in the 17 countries affected by the polio outbreak.**
- 2. Conduct effective capacity building within the implicated Red Cross Red and Crescent National Societies.**
- 3. Reinforce relationship building between National Societies and their Ministries of Health, and other polio eradication partners.**

Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximize coverage of the emergency response supplementary immunization activities (SIAs) of oral polio vaccine (OPV) in targeted populations. • Cessation of the wild polio virus (WPV) outbreaks in re-infected countries. • Completion of social 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with Ministries of Health and campaign partners (within inter-agency coordinating committees and social mobilization subcommittees) to determine geographic and social mobilization role of Red Cross Red Crescent National Society. • Training of supervisors and volunteer leaders/coaches on key messages for the specific campaign, management of volunteers pre-, during- and post-campaign, assignment of volunteer activities as outlined in microplans, etc. • Training of volunteers on key messages for polio prevention (including promotion of routine immunization), specifics of vaccination campaign,

<p>mobilization and health education activities by Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers to raise awareness and acceptance of polio vaccination during campaigns, and for future routine immunization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of non-compliant households. • Reinforcement of Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies as a key partner in polio eradication and new partnerships developed. • Raised public awareness of the role of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in health activities. 	<p>and possible symptoms of polio infection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilization of volunteers in assigned districts of affected countries. • Mobilization of other Red Cross Red Crescent National Society resources as requested by coordinating partners (including physical resources, such as vehicles, human resources, supervision services, etc.) • Mobilization of vaccinators, where requested by the Ministry of Health and properly trained and supervised. • Dissemination of key messages at household and community level before and during campaign. • Promotion of vaccination acceptance to reduce non-compliant households by dispelling vaccine-related myths, and reducing social and cultural resistance. • Promotion of other health and hygiene education, early case detection and referral to health facilities. • Mobilization of volunteers for active surveillance as requested by coordinating partners. • Mobilization of volunteers for any relevant post-campaign activities, including necessary mop-up rounds or evaluations.
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Country campaign updates

WHO regional blocks	Activities completed and forthcoming campaign plans
	<p>Sudan: Please note that there have been no Appeal-funded activities that have taken place since Operations Update No. 3, issued on 05 August 2009. At that Update, request was made to extend the Appeal timeframe for outstanding activities in Sudan, which were already financed but required additional time for completion. It was anticipated that South Sudan activities would be completed during the 27-29 October NID.</p> <p>Unfortunately, due to unanticipated complications in transferring funds because of pledge restrictions and providing appropriate support for planning, funds were not expended during the Sudan October NID. The pledge timeframe was thus renegotiated with the donor and extended to 29 February 2010. In order to consolidate all reporting, this Emergency Appeal thus requests extension to 29 February 2010, at which time a full narrative report on all polio activities conducted under the Appeal will be available.</p>

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The Africa Polio Outbreak Emergency Appeal has received much media attention, particularly at the time of its launch and has helped to establish the Federation as a serious contributing partner to eradication efforts. Information on the Appeal has been posted on the GPEI website (www.polioeradication.org) and recognition of the Federation's contribution to the outbreak response has been made through high level communications.

Frequent updates on National Society activities are being shared with GPEI partners at the global level. At the national level, Red Cross Red Crescent National Society participation in campaigns has been commended through campaign bulletins and communications materials. The most meaningful recognition of the important social mobilization work conducted by National Societies, however, has come in repeated requests by Ministries of Health for additional and scaled up involvement in subsequent vaccination rounds. In order to meet these requests, and cease the spread of WPV in re-infected countries, the International Federation must remain a key social mobilization partner in the area of polio eradication.

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: In the Federation's Secretariat:

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