

# Information bulletin



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Chad: Epidemic - Meningitis, Measles, & Cholera

Information bulletin n° 1

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30 March, 2011

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation. The Red Cross of Chad will, however, accept direct assistance to provide support to the affected population.

[<click here to view the map of the affected area, or here for detailed contact information>](#)

**Summary:** Since 18 March, 2011, 28 out of the 61 districts of Chad have been facing measles, meningitis, and cholera epidemics, with cases reaching alarming levels. A total of 2,236 cases have been registered, of which 131 deaths were confirmed according to preliminary reports sent by volunteers from the regional Red Cross committees. Despite their limited financial resources, volunteers were mobilized to assess, sensitize, and refer suspected cases to health centres. Local Red Cross committees in the affected areas are planning to provide support to the affected communities through the rapid training of their volunteers to enable them to carry out mass sensitization campaigns, distribution of hygiene kits and support to local health centres. A joint assessment mission was carried out by the Red Cross national office and the Ministry of Health. Findings showed that the situation verges on catastrophe and is in need of urgent intervention.

## The Situation

Meningitis outbreak was confirmed by Chadian authorities and humanitarian partners as early as 18 March, 2011. The evolution of the situation is particularly alarming: 28 out of the 61 districts are currently affected. There are also measles and cholera outbreaks in the same regions resulting in a multi-dimensional emergency situation. According to government sources, five epidemics are currently affecting the southern part of the country, with the most serious being meningitis, cholera and measles. The total number of people affected is 2,236 with 131 deaths so far. The most affected areas are the towns of Sarh, Moundou, Gounougaya, Bikin, and Koumra. Urgent intervention is also needed in Djoumane, Eré, Bahili, and Bousso cities. Meningitis and cholera epidemics are very common in March and the situation will worsen by April, when the weather can sometimes reach 50°C.

The Chadian government through its Ministry of health appealed for international assistance to help curb the epidemics.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the early hours of the disaster, volunteers from the different regional Red Cross committees in affected areas were mobilized to carry out sensitization campaigns and refer the suspected cases to health centres. A joint mission composed of the Red Cross of Chad vice-president and the Chadian Minister of Health carried out a field assessment mission to assess the scale of the disaster in the affected areas. National Society's office and the IFRC Chadian representation members actively participate in information meetings.

### 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

### Contact information

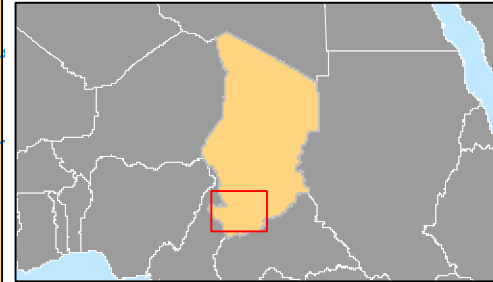
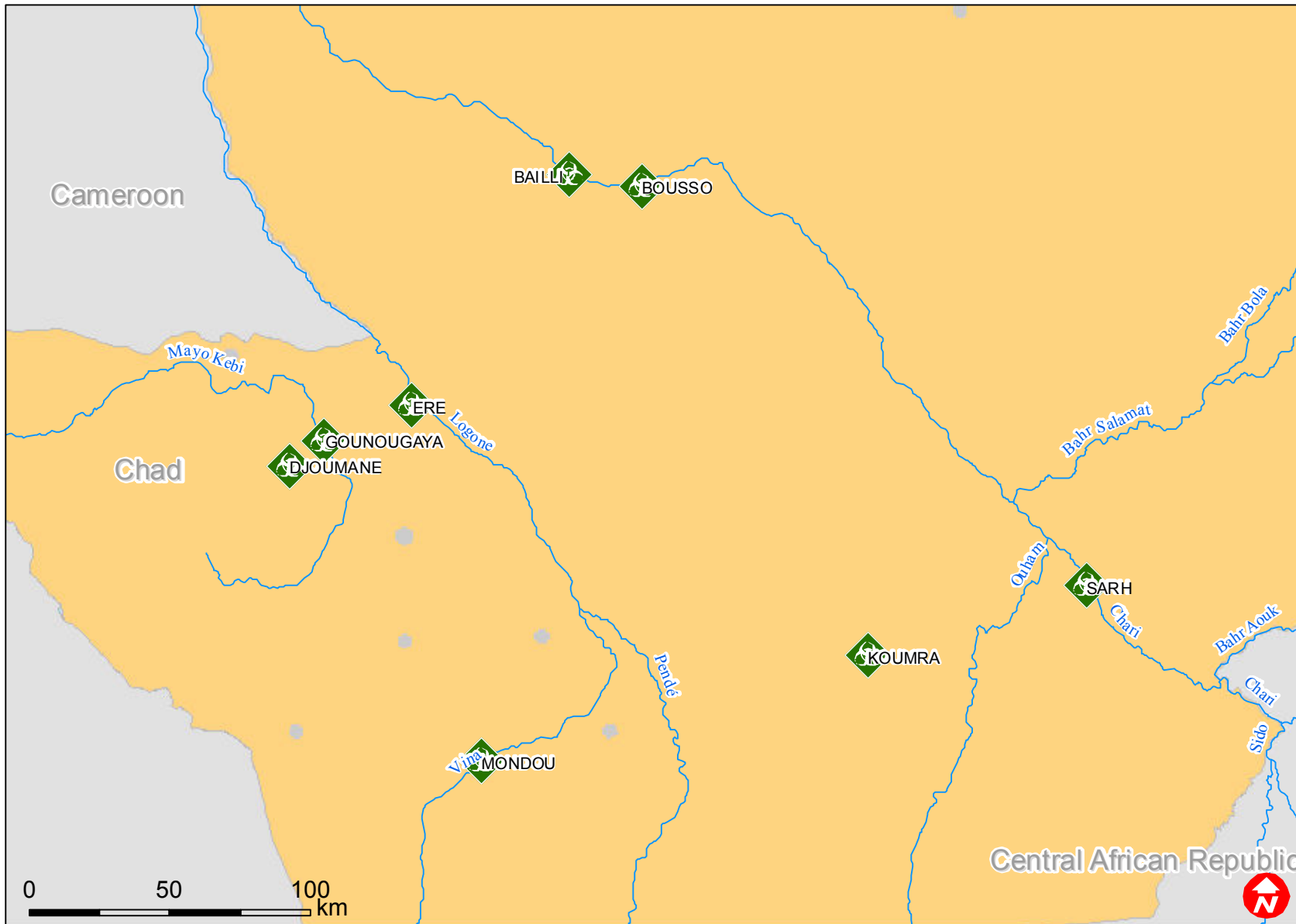
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[<map below; click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)



# Chad: Epidemic



 Affected places