

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

COTE D'IVOIRE: POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

28 February 2005

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 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 01/2005) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

The Ministers of Health of six polio-endemic nations¹ signed the Geneva Declaration on the Eradication of Poliomyelitis on 13 January 2004. This was a historic agreement to take the final steps towards an all-out assault on the disease and to enhance immunization of their populations. Their aim is to stop polio transmission by the end of 2005. African governments have responded with increased commitment; solutions were found for the suspicions of some affected countries in the sub-region, and vaccinations have resumed.

According to UNICEF, other nations in which polio transmission has been reestablished include Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire and Sudan. In 2004, the outbreak of polio spreading from northern Nigeria hit other previously polio-free countries by mid-year. Civil unrest and population movement have contributed to a quick spreading of the virus, leading to 17 polio cases in Côte d'Ivoire in 2004.

¹ These six nations are Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Niger, Afghanistan and Egypt.

Côte d'Ivoire: Polio vaccination campaign; Information Bulletin no. 1/2005

Within the framework of the global polio eradication, Côte d'Ivoire launched its ninth synchronized National Immunization Days campaign against Polio on 25 February 2005. The event was presided over by the President of Côte d'Ivoire and in the presence of the Minister of Health. In a communiqué to humanitarian organizations, the Minister of Health requested that the entire nation be mobilized in order to guarantee a complete success of the four-day campaign for the benefit of Ivorian children.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

As with previous campaigns, the Ministry of Health solicited the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire² to take charge of social mobilization activities in Northern and West Central Côte d'Ivoire 25-28 February 2004. The Red Cross of Côte d'Ivoire has become a strong auxiliary of the government.

The Red Cross of Côte d'Ivoire has good experience in social mobilisation, having successfully done similar ones in Abidjan and in the interior parts of the country. Approximately 3,500 volunteers from the 44 local Red Cross committees have been mobilized for the polio vaccination launch in the health districts of Korhogo, Ferkessedougou, Bondoukou and Daloa in northern Côte d'Ivoire. They have been heavily involved in mobilizing and sensitizing the population on the importance of vaccinating under-fives.

The Federation office in Abidjan is providing technical and financial support to the Red Cross of Côte d'Ivoire. Federation health officers are already in North and West Central Côte d'Ivoire supporting the national society in this effort.

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org/>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's 2005 Annual Appeal for Côte d'Ivoire no. 05AA019 – http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA019.pdf.

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² Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire – <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=182>