Burkina Faso: Yellow Fever

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 and 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.

CHF 66,000 (USD 56,654 or EUR 43,825) has been allocated from the Federation’s Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 8 million beneficiaries. This operation is expected to be implemented over 1 month, and will therefore be completed by end December 2008; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by end March 2009). Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: A yellow fever outbreak occurred in the district of Ouahigouya with 2 confirmed cases (the threshold for yellow fever is one confirmed case). The International Coordinating Group (ICG), of which the Federation is a member, has launched an emergency vaccination campaign in the district which will be followed by a preventive campaign in 32 other districts in the country to prevent further spread of the disease.

The Burkinabe Red Cross Society (BRCS) will participate in this campaign with social mobilization and communications dissemination activities. The BRCS has been very active in previous years in epidemic prevention and response (meningitis) and has a large pool of trained supervisors and volunteers. 800 of these trained supervisors and volunteers will be mobilized in the response and preventive campaigns.

<click here for the DREF budget (if available), here for contact details, or here to view the map of the affected area>

The situation

The yellow fever outbreak, located in the district of Ouahigouya, was confirmed with 2 cases. The threshold to declare a yellow fever outbreak is one confirmed case. The ICG, of which the Federation is a member, has approved an emergency vaccination campaign in the concerned district. A preventive vaccination campaign in 32 other districts in the country to prevent the further spread of the disease will follow shortly afterwards and is planned for mid-November.

Coordination and partnerships

Coordination is led by the Government, while the Burkinabe Red Cross Society is actively involved in the coordination committees.
Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The BRCS has been very active in the previous years in epidemic prevention and response (meningitis) and has a large pool of trained supervisors and volunteers. 800 of these trained supervisors and volunteers will be mobilized in the response and preventive campaigns. The Red Cross has carried out all necessary planning steps and is ready to intervene with the DREF support.

The proposed operation

Social mobilization activities

| General Objective: Contribute to the reduction of morbidity and mortality linked to Yellow Fever. |
| Specific Objective: The target population in the 33 concerned districts has been made aware of the vaccination campaign through social mobilisation activities. |
| Activities planned: |
| • Social mobilisation activities before and during the campaigns through house to house visits and focus groups. |
| • Orientation of the population to the vaccination sites. |
| • Keeping the population in order at vaccination sites. |

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: (note: one contact per level advised)
• In Burkinabe Red Cross Society Weleti Maiga, Secretary General, ; phone: +226 76 66 56 77; email: magaweleti@yahoo.fr
• In West and Central Africa Zone, Senegal: Dr Aïssa Fall Gueye, Sahel Regional Health Manager; phone: +221 33 869 36 68; email: aissa.fall@ifrc.org
• In West and Central Africa Zone, Senegal: Youcef Aitchellouche, Disaster Management Coordinator phone:+221 33 869 36 44 ; email: youcef.aitchellouche@ifrc.org

<map below; click here to return to the title page>
The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, International Federation - MDRBF006.mxd