

MINOR EMERGENCY



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

SENEGAL: CHOLERA

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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

CHF 25,000 (USD 21,500 or EUR 16,200) HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF) TO RESPOND TO THIS OPERATION. UNEARMARKED FUNDS TO REPAY DREF ARE ENCOURAGED.

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>

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For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's 2005 Annual Appeal for Senegal no. 05AA032 – http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA032.pdf.

The Situation

Cholera epidemic was declared late February in Touba (about 200 km from Dakar) in a large religious district of Senegal with a population of more than a million. According to the Ministry of Health, 30 cases are recorded daily. The situation is suspected to be caused by high population migration and shortage of clean water caused by continuous power cuts leading to water supply breakdowns. According to the epidemiological surveillance group of the Senegalese Ministry of Health and Prevention, more than 1, 728 cases have been recorded with a death toll of 16 in the Diourbel region.¹ The epidemic started in Dakar and its outskirts as well as in some departments such as Bambey in Diourbel region and Darou Mousty in the Louga region, where more than 861 cases were registered and 6 dead.

¹ Source: Ministry of Health; Statistics for 23 March 2005

Following an earlier declaration in October and November 2004, this upsurge incases has occurred despite the efforts of the existing surveillance mechanism for epidemiological diseases within the Ministry of Health. There is a high risk of its rapid spread given the upcoming pilgrimage of “Grand Magal de Touba”, during which over 2 million pilgrims are expected to travel to Touba and will have to stay in very poor hygienic conditions.

The Government of Senegal has been engaged in the fight against diarrhoeal diseases by setting up a national programme fighting against diarrhoeal diseases, which has been strengthened through the integrated management for child illnesses (IMCI).

Red Cross Red Crescent action

The Senegalese Red-Cross, as auxiliary to the government, in conjunction with the Federation would like to support the action of the Ministry of Health and Disease Prevention in strengthening its actions in fighting against the epidemic in this religious district. Volunteers of the Senegalese Red-Cross, women and the youth, have been engaged in an awareness campaign against the disease in public places such as markets, schools, mosques and churches. This was done through distribution of sanitary materials and dissemination of good hygienic practices such as washing of hands and water chlorination. Under the initiative of the Ministry of Health Prevention, other teams of Senegalese Red Cross volunteers were deployed in the railway stations to conduct the campaign in trains travelling up-country from Dakar. Recommendations have been made to maintain diarrhoeal disease awareness campaigns in the high risk zones.

The operation

The operation will mostly concentrate on strengthening the actions of the volunteers who have been involved in the campaign since October 2004. This operation will take place during and after the pilgrimage.

Objective: Contribute to the fight against the propagation of cholera in Touba and the rest of Diourbel region.

Specific Objectives:

1. Provide practical advice for the prevention of cholera through the promotion of best practices in hygiene.
 - a. washing of hands with clean water and soap
 - b. food cleanness
 - c. water treatment : chlorination
 - d. environmental hygiene
2. Disseminate information on cholera (signs and danger).

Strategy:

- Social mobilisation by door-to-door campaign to include discussions and awareness sessions.
- Advocacy on Water sanitation programme
- Community mobilisation
- Dissemination of key messages

H Activities	Area of intervention	Tagets	Actors
Distribution of awareness cards	Touba quarters and its surroundings in the Diourbel region	Schools	Volunteers network
Demonstration of washing hands	Daaras, Mosques, water points	Students, daaras, housewives	Volunteers network
Demonstration of water chlorination and vegetables cleaning	Water points and markets	Housewives	Volunteers network
Demonstration of latrines cleaning and environmental hygiene	Touba quarters and its surroundings Public places	Housewives	Women volunteers network Women Promotion Groups
Distribution of sanitation materials	Touba quarters and its surroundings	Housewives, public places	Women volunteers network Women Promotion Groups

Coordination

After a rapid assessment on 16 March 2005, the Head of state called on the Ministries of Health, Public Hygiene and Sanitation in a consultation meeting with the local community in Touba to find a durable solution. Measures have been taken in this regard with the reestablishment of water supply and treatment as well as provision of water tanks. Generators have been provided by the Ministry of Hydraulic for water drilling and the hygienic brigade of Touba has been reinforced.

The Federation is working hand in hand with the Senegalese Red Cross which is already in partnership with the Ministries of Health and Public Hygiene and Sanitation for the coordination of activities. According to the Director of Medical Prevention, Dr. Fave, “the Red-Cross, already on the ground, is the major partner of the Ministry in this fight. All the partners should work towards a synergy in the action and a rational utilization of resources.” (Source: AllAfrica.com)

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