

# 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

## GHANA: CHOLERA

ME no. 05ME069  
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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 38,000 (USD 29,676 OR EUR 24,588) HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF) TO RESPOND TO THIS OPERATION. UNEARMARKED FUNDS TO REPAY DREF ARE ENCOURAGED.**

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*For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

### The situation

The Ghana Health Service (GHS) and the Ministry of Health (MoH) have declared a cholera outbreak in some communities in Accra, Ashanti, Central, Eastern and Northern regions of Ghana. More than 53 people have been killed. The fact that the outbreak has spread from Accra to Ashanti within a week means that the situation calls for urgent attention.

The Head of the Ashanti Regional Health Directorate, Dr. Kyei Faried, has confirmed that the region has recorded 1,587 cases of cholera (with 27 deaths). The situation in other regions is as follows:

- Greater Accra region- 800 cases (with 11 deaths);
- Eastern region- 120 cases (with no death);
- Central region- had 12 cases (with one death);
- Western region- 27 cases (with no death);
- Northern region- 29 cases with nine deaths;
- Upper East region- six cases (with no death).

## **Ghana: Cholera; Minor Emergency no. 05ME069**

The Ghana Health Service has warned that the disease is likely to spread, though it is hoped that it will subside once the dry season starts in December.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action taken so far**

The Ghana Red Cross Society<sup>1</sup> has been collecting data on cases from the regional capitals and has developed a plan of action in collaboration with GHS. Meanwhile, the Federation's regional delegation in Dakar is coordinating with the national society to provide the necessary support to respond to this cholera outbreak.

The Ghana Red Cross Society headquarters allocated Cedi 5,000,000 to each regional branch to embark on public education campaigns in most urban communities with particular attention to the affected communities with this campaign message: "Help prevent cholera".

Ten Red Cross volunteers in the communities have been taken through a one-day training session to be well-informed about outbreaks and be able to disseminate correct messages to the affected communities. Following the training, the volunteers will implement a house-to-house educational programme in the selected communities.

The training focuses on the following:

- Mode of transmission.
- Signs and symptoms.
- Management.
- Referral to health facility.
- Prevention.
- Personal and community hygiene/environmental sanitation.

Apart from house-to-house education, the following activities are undertaken by the regional branches:

- Community talks.
- Clean-up campaigns.
- Drama and film shows.
- Awareness creation on FM stations.

The objective of these activities is to contribute to a reduction of cholera outbreak in those communities through training and rising of awareness in communities. Part of this educational programme has been successfully carried out in the following communities of Accra metropolis: Chorkor, Tuesday Market and Glefe (Ablekuma district); Bukom, James Town, Timber Market, and Agbogboloshie (Ashiedu Keteke district); Bubuashie, Kaneshie Market (Okai Kwei district); Nima Market, Mamobi (Ayawaso district).

Apart from house-to-house education, the trained volunteers disseminate cholera information to people in the market places, schools, churches and mosques.

### **The needs**

The Ghana Health Service (GHS) warned that the disease was likely to spread, though it was expected to subside once the dry season starts in December. The country's declining infrastructure helps breed not only cholera, but other WatSan related diseases. There is an urgent need to train volunteers in order to raise awareness in the communities about preventative measures to avoid future outbreaks and how to respond to a possible outbreak.

### **Coordination**

The Ghana Red Cross has been collaborating with the following agencies: the Ministry of Health/Ghana Health Service, Metropolitan Assemblies, Municipal Assemblies and the District Assemblies coordinating activities related to the cholera outbreak.

The national society will join GHS and MoH in their efforts to combat cholera by preventing it from spreading to other parts of the country.

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<sup>1</sup> Ghana Red Cross Society- refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=73>

## **Plan of action**

**Objective:** The Red Cross intervention has contributed to the reduction of cholera in the affected communities.

### **Expected result:**

1. The 60 metropolitan affected communities in Greater Accra, Ashanti, Eastern and Northern regions each have 10 trained volunteers per community to conduct health education at household level, i.e. 200 volunteers for the four regions.

### **Strategies**

The national society intends to achieve its objective by embarking on serious health education on sanitation and cleanliness through the chapters, mothers' clubs and youth links through:

- House-to-house education;
- Community talks;
- Clean-up campaigns;
- Drama and film shows.

The total number of target beneficiaries is 2,300,000.

### **Activities**

- Awareness creation on FM radio stations;
- Training of volunteers for health education;
- Distribution of leaflets on the cholera disease to the public;
- Clean-up exercises to sensitize the communities and delivering of key-messages on hygiene and sanitation;
- Using information vans to educate the public.

## **Budget outline**

Refer to the attached budget (below).

[Click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

