



GUINEA: CHOLERA

FINAL REPORT

DREF Bulletin No. MDRGN001

23 August 2007

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 185 countries.

In Brief

Period covered by this Final Report: 14 June to 13 July 2006.

History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 20,000 was allocated from the Federation's DREF on 14 June 2006 to respond to the needs of this operation. For the DREF Bulletin, refer to: <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/06/MDRGN001.pdf>

[<Click here to go directly to the attached financial report >](#)

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

Background and summary

Starting January 2006, the Guinea Forestière region of Guinea (Conakry) was hard hit by a cholera epidemic. The first eight cholera cases, with three deaths, were registered in the prefecture of Lola; other affected prefectures were Gueckedou, Kissidougou and N'Zerekoré. By the end of May 2006, more than 100 people had succumbed to the disease, with 68 deaths recorded in Gueckedou locality alone. Sporadic cases were also reported in other regions, including the capital, Conakry.

Table 1: Number of cholera cases and deaths in Guinea Forestière region as at the end of May 2006*

Locality	Number of cases	Number of deaths	Mortality rate (%)
Gueckedou	583	68	11.6
Kissidougou	147	13	8.84
N'Zerekoré	49	5	10.2
Lola	66	20	30.3
Total	845	106	12.5

*Source: Ministry of Public Health

The Government of Guinea requested the Red Cross Society of Guinea (RCSG), as a long time partner and as its auxiliary, to support the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in containing the epidemic, particularly by sensitizing members of the community on basic facts about cholera and how to prevent it. To enable the RCSG to effectively carry out the sensitization activities, the International Federation allocated the National Society CHF 20,000 from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). With Federation support, RCSG volunteers conducted sensitization campaigns in Gueckedou, Kissidougou and N'Zerekoré prefectures of Guinea Forestière.

Prior to the 2006 outbreak, cholera outbreaks in Guinea were recorded in 1978, 1986, 1994, 1995 and 1998. The cumulative number of cases during that period – including 2006 – is estimated to be 72,359, with 2,254 deaths and a case fatality rate ranging from 0.38 to 18 per cent.

Analysis of the operation - objectives, achievements and impact

Objective: The Red Cross Society of Guinea contributes to the reduction of cholera cases in the most affected regions of Kissidougou and Guekedou.

Achievements

A hundred and thirty five Red Cross volunteers were trained in interpersonal communication techniques through the prefecture health departments of Kissidougou (50 volunteers), Gueckedou (40 volunteers) and N'Zerekoré (45 volunteers). The trained volunteers were then deployed to conduct door-to-door sensitization sessions in the three prefectures, including in public places such as markets, mosques, churches and bus stations. During the sensitization sessions, 6,000 leaflets bearing basic information on cholera were distributed while 1,200 posters were put up in public places. The key health messages promoted adoption of basic hygiene practices as the best strategy to prevent cholera. Upon authorization from district heads, sector heads worked closely with the volunteers to facilitate sensitization activities. Religious leaders were also informed and were supported in disseminating messages in mosques. As a result of the sensitization efforts of the Red Cross, 86 per cent of the population in areas reached learned basic facts about cholera and how to prevent it.

With assistance from the local population, the RCSG carried out clean-up activities in health facilities and public places such as markets and water points. Thirty volunteers also carried out household disinfection in Kissidougou, Gueckedou and N'Zerekoré prefectures. By the end of the exercise, ten districts, six market places, six mosques, four water fountains and three hospitals had been cleaned up to the benefit of 70 per cent of the affected families.

Impact

Due to the sensitization efforts of the RCSG, 22,017 households in Kissidougou, Gueckedou and N'Zerekoré adopted favourable hygiene practises thus contributing to winning the fight against cholera. In addition, 75 per cent of female traders adopted basic hygiene practices. The sensitization activities conducted by the Red Cross contributed positively to the reduction of the effects of cholera. Though seven cholera cases were reported in Gueckedou after the end of the operation, no new cases have been registered in Lola and Kissidougou.

Partnership between RCSG and government health authorities in Guinea has been strengthened through collaboration in the operation; health directors participated in the training of volunteers. The partnership between the RCSG and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Belgium was also reinforced through the coordination maintained throughout the operation. At the request of the National Society, MSF-Belgium worked with local Red Cross committees in Lola and Gueckedou to respond to the cholera epidemic.

Recommendations

The RCSG needs to lay emphasis on preparedness to respond to future potential epidemics. The preparedness could take the form of community-based first aid (CBFA) training; with a particular focus on the deployment of regional first aid response teams because epidemics usually tend to become a cross-border issue.

The National Society also needs to strengthen local partnerships in order to increase its resource base. A strong resource base would enable it to respond timely during future emergency situations. Furthermore, a mobile clean-up team should be formed to disinfect places contaminated with human excreta. Such places include hospitals and houses.

It is also recommended that cholera kits be pre-positioned in key offices of the National Society, both headquarters and branch, to ensure timely response to future potential cholera outbreaks. Additionally, regional plans for epidemic disease surveillance should be put in place, especially for diseases which are recurrent in the region, including cholera.

A regional health team should be set up to monitor epidemics at a regional level. Members of such a team should have basic knowledge of epidemiology and computer applications so that they can develop and maintain a database of epidemic diseases that affect the region. The database would contain information on what has already been done by National Societies as well as the available human resources. Finally, appropriate tools for managing cholera outbreaks in the region need to be developed.

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.

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 Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a 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:

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[<Financial report below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRGN001 - GUINEA - CHOLERA OUTBREAK

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2005/1-2007/12
Budget Timeframe	2005/1-2007/12
Appeal	MDRGN001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		20,000				20,000
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
DREF		-1,438				-1,438
C1. Cash contributions		-1,438				-1,438
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
DREF		20,000				20,000
C3. Reallocations (within appeal or		20,000				20,000
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		18,562				18,562
D. Total Funding = B + C		18,562				18,562

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		18,562				18,562
E. Expenditure		-18,562				-18,562
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		0				0

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		20,000					20,000	
Supplies								
Water & Sanitation			322			322	-322	
Medical & First Aid	420		130			130	290	
Utensils & Tools			126			126	-126	
Total Supplies	420		578			578	-158	
Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,167		2,330			2,330	-1,163	
Total Transport & Storage	1,167		2,330			2,330	-1,163	
Personnel Expenditures								
National Staff			333			333	-333	
National Society Staff	579		9,865			9,865	-9,286	
Total Personnel Expenditures	579		10,198			10,198	-9,619	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	375		308			308	67	
Total Workshops & Training	375		308			308	67	
General Expenditure								
Travel			429			429	-429	
Information & Public Relation	10,768		2,979			2,979	7,789	
Office Costs	5,391		134			134	5,257	
Financial Charges			-117			-117	117	
Other General Expenses			516			516	-516	
Total General Expenditure	16,159		3,941			3,941	12,218	
Program Support								
Program Support	1,300		1,207			1,207	93	
Total Program Support	1,300		1,207			1,207	93	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	20,000		18,562			18,562	1,438	
VARIANCE (C - D)			1,438			1,438		