



## MOZAMBIQUE: CHOLERA

No. MDRMZ001

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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 183 countries.*

### In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 50,000 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will be completed by 10 July 2006; further updates will be available shortly and a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 11 October 2006). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's 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.

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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 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>

## **Background and current situation**

A cholera<sup>1</sup> epidemic, which since its outbreak in early 2006 was restricted to Mozambique's central provinces of Sofala, Manica and Zambezia, has now spread to the northern parts of the country. Beginning April 2006, Nampula province reported some cholera cases in the districts of Malema, Monapo, Meconta and the Isle of Mozambique. As of 5 April 2006, a total of 453 cholera cases and eight deaths were reported in Nampula with the mortality rate of 2.1%, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH). Epidemiological tests conducted by the MoH following increases in diarrhoeal cases reported at health centres confirmed the outbreak of cholera. Analysis of the cholera epidemic patterns during the last two years demonstrates that rapid progression is common, thus there is a high risk for the outbreak to spread to neighbouring provinces such as Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Tete.

Heavy rains since the beginning of the rainy season in November 2005 leading to the contamination of wells with faecal matter from surrounding bushes are one of the causes for the spread of cholera. Nampula province is at the crossroads between the main highway to Nacala Port and the road to the northern province of Cabo Delgado and is characterised by high traffic, trade and movement of people.

In total, the country has reported 3,723 cholera cases and eight deaths since the beginning of 2006 (with a mortality rate of 0.5%). The following districts are the most affected:

- Sofala province- Marromeu, Caia, Dondo and Beira city;
- Manica province- Chimoio City and Manica;
- Zambézia province- Maganja da Costa and Quelimane city;
- Nampula province- Monapo, Malema, Meconta and Isle of Mozambique.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

As the situation worsened, the Ministry of Health formally requested Cruz Vermelha de Mocambique (Mozambique Red Cross Society<sup>2</sup>) to scale up health and hygiene promotion activities in response to the cholera outbreak. The national society has been conducting the following activities in response to the outbreak and has put in place a three-month plan of action:

- Health, hygiene education and community mobilization for the prevention and control of cholera;
- Distributing information, education and communication (IEC) material in nine provinces namely Nampula, Zambézia, Sofala, Manica, Cabo Delgado, Niassa, Tete, Gaza and Maputo;
- Conducting house-to-house campaigns, identifying cholera cases and monitoring hygiene practices;
- Chlorinating drinking water;
- Participating at coordinating meetings facilitated by the MoH at national, provincial and district levels;
- Distributing relief items— oral rehydration solution (ORS) sachets, chlorine and buckets;
- Supporting health workers at cholera treatment centres (CTCs) through the participation of Red Cross volunteers;
- Providing First Aid services, such as ORS administration, and referral to the nearest CTCs.

## **The needs**

The International Federation has provided a DREF allocation of CHF 50,000 to the Mozambique Red Cross Society in support of the national society's contribution to the control and prevention of cholera. The national society plans to concentrate on water and sanitation (WatSan) activities in Nampula province, where cholera has recently spread, and is targeting to reach 19,500 people in the next three months.

Mozambique Red Cross Society requires support to mobilize resources and volunteers to enable scaling up of response activities. Nampula province— the most affected— requires 55 volunteers to assist with social mobilization as well as health and hygiene promotion activities. The following materials are required for the planned operation:

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<sup>1</sup> Cholera is an acute intestinal infection caused by ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*. It has a short incubation period, from less than one day to five days, and produces an enterotoxin that causes a copious, painless, watery diarrhoea that can quickly lead to severe dehydration and death if treatment is not promptly given. Vomiting also occurs in most patients. (Source: WHO website).

<sup>2</sup> Mozambique Red Cross Society- refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=120>

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- 10,000 pamphlets on health, hygiene and cholera education;
- 1,440 ORS sachets;
- 500 water treatment kits (each comprised of a jerry can, a bucket, two cups and two one-litre bottles);
- Fuel and transportation, for 90 days;
- 90,000 chlorine tablets;
- 16 slabs for the construction of public latrines;
- Incentives for 55 Red Cross volunteers.

### **Coordination**

The government has established a total of 12 cholera treatment centres throughout the country, and four of these are in Nampula province— one in each of the affected districts. The Ministry of Health, supported by the Mozambique Red Cross Society and other humanitarian agencies, has been conducting the following activities in the affected provinces:

- Dissemination of information on cholera control and prevention through radio, television and other local media agencies;
- Treatment at health centres and CTCs, where ORS and intravenous treatment are available;
- Epidemiological surveillance and providing updates on the epidemic situation;
- Coordinating all cholera control activities conducted by humanitarian agencies.

### **Budget outline**

See annex below

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**Annex**

**Mozambique Red Cross Society  
Budget for Response to Cholera in Nampula Province**

	Quantity	Unit Cost (CHF)	No. of days	Total (CHF)
<b>Personnel</b>				
Per diem and travel for headquarter staff	2	120.00	5	1,200
Per diems and travel for branch staff	3	360.00	3	3,240
Incentives for 55 volunteers	55	40.00	4	8,800
<b>Sub-total</b>				<b>13,240</b>
<b>Relief Items</b>				
ORS	1440	2.38	1	3,427
Chlorine tablets	90,000	0.15	1	13,500
Water treatment kits (jerry can, bucket, 2 cups, 2 one-litre bottles)	500	15.00	1	7,500
25 kg chlorine powder (HTH 70%) for disinfection	8	150.00	1	1,200
Latrine slabs	16	50.00	1	800
Hygiene and health education material	10,000	0.15	1	1,500
<b>Sub-total</b>				<b>27,927</b>
<b>Transport</b>				
Transportation of relief items	1	300.00	1	300
Fuel	2	780.00	1	780
Vehicle maintenance	2	500.00	1	500
<b>Sub-total</b>				<b>1,580</b>
<b>General expenses</b>				
Mozambique Red Cross administrative costs	1	2,000.00	1	2,000
Administrative costs at regional delegation	1	2,000.00	1	2,000
<b>Sub-total</b>				<b>4,000</b>
<b>Grand sub-total</b>				<b>46,747</b>
<b>PSR</b>				<b>3,250</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>49,997</b>