



## TOGO: YELLOW FEVER

No. MDRTG001  
15 February 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

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 60,069 (USD 48,055 or EUR 37,077) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation. This operation is expected to be implemented over 2 months, and will be completed by 25 April 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

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

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.

### The situation

On 15 December, 2006 the Togolese Ministry of Health announced an outbreak of yellow fever in the country. The affected areas are two adjacent districts in the north; Oti, in the Savane Region (2 cases) and Dankpen, in Kara Region (1 case). The yellow fever cases were laboratory-confirmed by Institute Pasteur de Dakar (Senegal). Two more cases were reported at the end of January 2007, making a total of five cases in six weeks.

Following the outbreak, a team comprising of Ministry of Health (MoH) and World Health Organization (WHO) officials was sent to the affected area on 17 to 23 December 2006. The team recommended that a vaccination campaign should be conducted to help in reducing the immediate risk of infections among the populations.

The vaccination campaign will focus on the two affected regions, Kara and Savane. Every inhabitant (except children aged under nine months and pregnant women) will be vaccinated. It is estimated that 1.3 million people in these two regions are targeted (96.87% of their total population). The last yellow fever mass vaccination campaign in these regions was conducted in 1987.

### Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Togolese Red Cross (TRC) has been an active member of the task force inaugurated by MoH in conjunction with WHO, among other stakeholders. The national society (NS) is well known for its active volunteers and experience in social mobilization, and has been given the lead role of creating awareness during the vaccination

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campaign. The NS, with technical support from the Federation sub-regional office in Lagos and the regional delegation in Dakar, has prepared a plan of action to carry out sensitization activities in seven districts of Kara Region and four districts of Savane Region.

### **The needs**

In order to contain the epidemic, mass immunization and sensitization campaigns need to be urgently organized in Kara and Savane regions. Red Cross volunteers will be mobilized and trained on how to carry out sensitization campaigns, so as to encourage full participation by the communities. In order to ensure that the affected population is well reached, there is also a need for a platform for discussions with all stakeholders. The resources required for this intervention include:

- Trained volunteers and personnel;
- Sensitization materials;
- Aprons and other visibility materials;
- Communication materials, including megaphones;
- Transportation means.

### **Coordination**

There is an improvement in the management structures of the Extended Programme on Immunization (EPI) at central, regional and district levels in Togo. The structures of the Interagency Coordination Committee (ICC) are still functioning and will be used both at the technical and decision-making levels.

With support from the Federation, TRC is mobilizing its team of volunteers (1,250 volunteers) for this exercise in the two regions. During the campaign activities will be coordinated by the task force inaugurated by MoH.

### **Plan of action**

The Red Cross response will target a total population of 1.3 million and will involve over 1,250 Red Cross volunteers and 115 local supervisors.

**Goal: To contribute towards reducing the rate of yellow fever prevalence in Kara and Savane region.**

**Objective 1: To contribute towards strengthening the operational capacity of the government vaccination structure.**

**Objective 2: To sensitize the population for vaccination against yellow fever.**

**Objective 3: To disseminate messages on the prevention of yellow fever.**

**Objective 4: To carry out post vaccination activities.**

#### **Planned activities:**

- Mobilizing and training 1,250 volunteers, 115 supervisors and local coaches;
- Conducting sensitization campaigns in the affected and high-risk villages;
- Disseminating information, educational and communication (IEC) materials on yellow fever prevention and vaccination;
- Involving volunteers in the epidemiologic surveillance system, through case finding and referral to medical structures;
- Strengthening the capacity of the community to care for the sick;
- Coordinating resource mobilization, supervision of activities and evaluation of the management of the epidemic;
- Participating in coordination meetings with partners.
- Educating households on the importance of getting vaccinated – through door-to-door mobilization, public discussions, meetings and demonstrations. TRC volunteers will also refer the populations to vaccination sites;

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- Reinforcing local and international partnerships;
- Providing aprons and T-shirts for Red Cross visibility during the campaigns;
- Organizing sensitization campaigns, for 14 days, through radio programmes;
- Supplying technical and financial support to the sensitization teams.

### **Expected results:**

- The targeted population is well informed of yellow fever, its cause, mode of transmission and how it can be prevented;
- The population is mobilized to go for vaccination;
- The targeted population has been vaccinated;
- The volunteers conduct home-visits after the sensitization campaigns.

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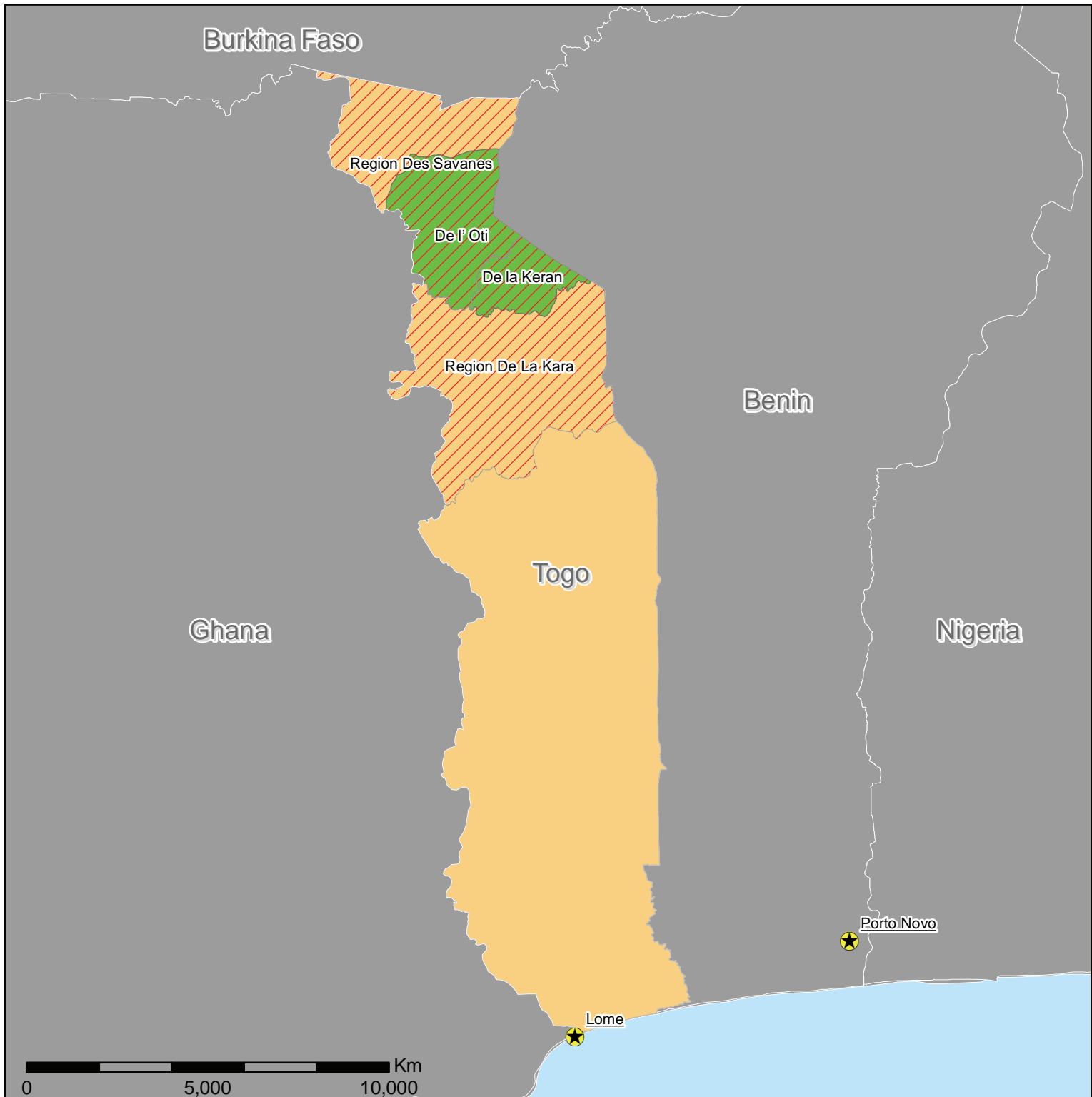
All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) 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>

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



# Togo: Yellow fever



- ★ Capitales
- ▨ Vaccination campaign
- Yellow fever cases