

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

## CHAD

27 July, 2001

*Information Bulletin N° 1*

*DREF Allocated: No*

***This Bulletin is intended for information only. Limited in kind support in the form of cholera kits or cash contributions of CHF 44,000 is requested. Based on further updates and details from assessment reports, or should the situation deteriorate, the Federation may consider a further request for additional assistance.***

### ***The Situation***

CHAD is periodically hit with serious outbreaks of cholera, most commonly at the end of the rainy season in September. The outbreaks are worsened due to the scarcity of water, with only 20 per cent of the population having access to potable water. This year, the first cholera case was reported on 25 June in the capital city of N'Djamena. By 25 July the number of registered cases had reached 572, with 18 confirmed dead. On the same date 10 cases were reported in the city of Bongor 200 km from N'Djamena.

With the assistance of the Red Cross of Chad (RCC), playing an auxiliary role with the Government, the Ministry of Health (MoH) has opened a cholera ward in 3 main hospitals and in one health center in Chagoua for N'Djamena, and one ward in Bongor. The RCC is participating on a cholera co-ordinating committee with the MoH (supervising the operation), the WHO, UNICEF, and MSF.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

When the first case was reported Government authorities requested the RCC to provide immediate support with two cholera kits (type A and B) which remained in stock from the 1999 epidemic and through the Red Cross volunteer network. Approximately 50 volunteers were mobilised to sensitise the population, to teach how to chlorinate drinking water sources, and for early diagnosis. Since June, 25 these volunteers have enter affected communities in N'Djamena to inform the population about the epidemic and distribute leaflets in French and Chadian Arabic. Any person suffering from diarrhoea is taken to the nearest health centre, with parents and any contact of a confirmed case advised to report to the health centre. Houses of confirmed cases are cleaned and a chlorine shower carried out in all rooms in the house. As of 25 July, 1,500 families had been reached by this sensibilization activity. 125 pit wells have also been chlorinated.

The logistics arrangement already in place for the polio operation is proving critical for the success of this cholera operation. In Bongor, the polio operation network was activated to sensitise the population. In Massakori, 10 volunteers from the community have started a programme of sensibilization, and despite encountering difficulties due to a population consisting of pastoralists who are in constant movement, volunteers have often walked for 20 km a day to catch them.

The RCC headquarters has instructed all local branches to start sensibilizing persons to counter population movements, and the health department is monitoring the situation on a daily basis, in collaboration with the

MoH. The RCC will mobilize more volunteers as the epidemic may increase in magnitude and more cities become affected. The regional delegation in Yaoundé is transporting two more cholera kits (both A and B), and is monitoring the situation through the RCC. A team from the regional health department will soon arrive in Chad to provide assistance and to assess the situation.

## *Needs*

In-kind support or cash contributions in the form of CHF 44,000 are required to replace the cholera kits deployed for this operation, to print more leaflets, and to cover the expenses of the RCC and the regional delegation team. Information on further needs and details will be provided in a follow-up Information Bulletin.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

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*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

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

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