

# 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: CHOLERA

20 August, 2001

Information Bulletin N° 2

DREF Allocated: CHF 50,000

*This Information Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below. A DREF allocation of CHF 50,000 has been released to provide immediate support to the operation, and the Federation and Red Cross of Chad (RCC) require further contributions to cover the remainder of a proposed budget of CHF 94,859. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are also needed. This operation will be reported on through the quarterly DREF update.*

### 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 and only 45 per cent with access to health services. This year, the first cholera case was reported on 25 June in the capital city of N'Djamena. By 7 August, the number of registered cases had reached 1,500, with 46 confirmed dead. Some 370 cases were reported during the week of 30 July to 5 August. N'Djamena and several other towns in the province have been affected, in particular the localities of Bol in the region of Lake Chad, Massakory to the north of N'Djamena, Mao in Kanem, Moundou and Bongor in the south, and the region of Chari-baguirmi around the capital. There are also indications of cases near the Cameroon border, along the Logone river. The table below reflects the most recent situation as of August 9:

Region/City	Registered cases	Confirmed dead
Ndjaména	1,659	70
Bongor	24	3
Moundou	10	2
Massakory	207	13
Mandelia	7	3
Bol	79	6
Total	1,986	97

With the assistance of the Red Cross of Chad (RCC), playing an auxiliary role with the Government, the Ministry of Health (MoH) has opened facilities in the following places: cholera wards in 3 main hospitals and in one health center in Chagoua for N'Djamena, one ward in Bongor, one in Bol, and one in Moundou. The RCC is participating on a cholera co-ordinating committee with the MoH (supervising the operation), the WHO, UNICEF, and MSF. When the first cases were declared, the Ministry of Health, with the help of 50 Red Cross of Chad first aiders and the consumers' association chlorinated 1,700 wells in the city of N'Djamena.

Mandelia (20,000 population), in particular, is a suburban quarter and also an important nomadic transit area. It is located 50 kms from Ndjaména. The sanitation situation is particularly bad, and there are no latrines in the area. The Red Cross will focus as a priority on this area where the population movement is very high.

One hundred and fifty RCC volunteers are mobilized in the affected zones in the country, carrying out activities such as increasing awareness and teaching the population to put bleach in their drinking water and to clean the surrounding area. Volunteers are moving from house to house visiting about seven families a day.

## ***The Needs***

### **Immediate Needs w**

The RCC is seeking to focus on activities within the community that break the chain of transmission of the disease by:

- Increasing people's awareness of hygiene (cleanliness, use of latrines).
- Cleaning the environment (chlorinate wells, draining stagnant water).
- Opening a treatment centre for two months (providing care for 200 to 300 sick persons in the form of intensive use of ORS).

## ***The Proposed Operation***

### **Objectives and Activities planned w**

#### **Health**

##### **Objective 1 Awareness.**

One hundred and fifty volunteers have been mobilized in the working-class districts to move from house to house with brochures to increase awareness, showing women how to chlorinate drinking and cooking water and to clean the environment, and referring cases where cholera is suspected. This is done in collaboration with the community leaders and the health services.

##### **Objective 2 Care for the sick**

A cholera treatment camp will be opened at Mandelia to care for 200 to 300 sick persons. The camp will have 50 beds and will be set up to the south of N'Djamena where new cases have been declared. A consultant will supervise the camp together with three nurses, six assistants and 12 volunteers (three groups of four). The camp is planned to operate for two months.

#### **Construction**

##### **Objective 1 Building a care centre.**

A wooden structure covered with plastic sheeting is planned for the main building (10m. x 15m.), as well as a basin to wash feet, a sink to wash hands, latrines, and a surrounding fence.

#### **Water and sanitation**

##### **Objective 1 Environmental sanitation.**

The transmission of the epidemic will be halted by collecting or removing rubbish with the help of the volunteers and community members, and spraying chlorine on stagnant water. Two cars, in addition to the two belonging to the National Society, will be rented to carry out this two-week operation. Three days before the rubbish-collection operation, the population will be thoroughly informed by radio and in the community to ensure its effectiveness. The army and private individuals will be asked to contribute trucks to transport the rubbish.

##### **Objective 2 Chlorinating wells.**

At the very outset, the National Society mobilized 50 volunteers who embarked on an awareness and well-chlorination programme with bleach provided by the Government. At the request of the Ministry of Health 50 additional volunteers were mobilized to strengthen the teams in the treatment centres in N'Djamena. Since Saturday, 4 July, 100 volunteers have been mobilized to increase awareness in N'Djamena.

Objective 3 Drain waste water.

The volunteers will increase the awareness of the population and provide them leadership with regard to wastewater drainage.

Logistics

Objective 1 The RCC logistics service will:

- purchase building supplies for the centre.
- take the goods received (medical kits) through customs.
- transport the volunteers.
- transport the supplies.
- print documents.
- store supplies and goods.
- maintain and rent vehicles.
- prepare a logistics report for the operation.

**National Society Capacity Building w**

During the last two years the Red Cross of Chad has increasingly become the operational partner with the Ministry of Health for social mobilizations during National Polio Vaccination or Immunization Days. It has established a solid reputation for reacting quickly and effectively to the disasters that strike the country. It had 9,631 trained first aiders at the beginning of the year of whom 3,771 were active, and has 166 instructor trainers and 53 first-aid instructors all over the 12 prefectures where it is present, covering 80% of the national territory. This operation will strengthen its capacities and consolidate its partnership with the Ministry of Health.

**Capacity of the Regional Delegation for Central Africa**

The regional delegation is very strongly involved in the development process and the strengthening of the capacities of the Red Cross of Chad. The regional health delegate provides special support to the national society in its health activities to eradicate polio and fight meningitis, helping to develop an STD/AIDS plan with the national society counterpart. The delegate is accompanied by an assistant (doctor) and will use a regional resource (doctor) as part of regional cooperation.

**Co-ordination w**

The Ministry of Health is coordinating the operation, with three doctors assigned specifically to support the response while the distribution of oral rehydration solution (ORS), antibiotics, and chlorine is underway. The French Red Cross is working closely with the RCC, and Medecines Sans Frontieres (MSF) is managing five camps, including the provision of ORS and antibiotics. The Federation is effectively coordinating efforts for this operation with the Government and other agencies involved. Lastly, the regional delegation has launched a new regional initiative by identifying a Red Cross of Sao Tomé community health specialist to manage the treatment centre. This will permit the Red Cross of Sao Tomé to reinforce its own capacity while transferring skills to the Red Cross of Chad.

**Monitoring and Evaluation w**

Under the auspices of the African Red Cross and Red Crescent Health Initiative (ARCHI) 2010, the mission of the ARCHI delegate will serve to reinforce the monitoring and evaluation aspects of this operation, including the skills of the RCC.

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

*For further details please contact:*

*For further details please contact:*

- *Terry Carney, Federation Desk Officer, Phone: 41 22 730 4298; Fax: 41 22 733 0395; email: [carney@ifrc.org](mailto:carney@ifrc.org)*

*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.*

Peter Rees-Gildea  
Head, a.i.  
Relationship Management Department

Bekele Geleta  
Head  
Africa Department