

# 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

## TOGO: CHOLERA EPIDEMIC

31 May 2004

### In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 3/2004) is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 47,000 has been released from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). The Federation does not anticipate further needs. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are required. No further information bulletins will be issued for this event.

[Click here to go directly to Information Bulletin no. 1/2004 dated 19 February 2004.](#)

[Click here to go directly to Information Bulletin no. 2/2004 dated 24 March 2004.](#)

*For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:*

- *In Togo:* Norbert Gagno Paniah, President, Togolese Red Cross, Lomé; Email [crtogol@tg.refer.org](mailto:crtogol@tg.refer.org); Phone 228.221.21.10; 228.221.12.96; Fax 228.221.52.28
- *In Nigeria:* George Bennett, Federation Head of Nigeria Sub-Regional Office, Lagos; Email [ifrcng02@ifrc.org](mailto:ifrcng02@ifrc.org); Phone 234.1.269.52.28; 234.1.269.66.82; 234.1.267.34.53; Fax 234.1.269.52.29
- *In Geneva:* Mark Willis, Federation Regional Officer for West and Central Africa, Africa Dept.; Email [mark.willis@ifrc.org](mailto:mark.willis@ifrc.org); Phone 41.22.730.42.60; Fax 41.22.733.03.95

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### The Situation

The prompt and well-coordinated response by the [Togolese Red Cross](#) to a cholera epidemic in Lomé, capital of Togo has reduced significantly the number of new cases to 40 and two deaths since the last Information Bulletin, No. 2/2004 dated 24 March 2004. Table 1 below demonstrates a significant decrease in the incidence of the epidemic which peaked in February 2004; this led to a request for an allocation from DREF. To date a total of 790 cases of cholera and 40 deaths have been reported. The cause of the outbreak has not been specified; however, the majority of cases were reported from households close to polluted water sources near the city's lagoon.

**Table. 1 Incidence of cases and deaths in the Lomé region (commune)**

Five Districts in Lomé -Commune	Cases	Deaths	Fatality (%)
Week 1 (29/12/03 - 04/01/04)	40	2	5.0
Week 2 (05/01/04 - 11/01/04)	47	0	0.0
Week 3 (12/01/04 - 18/01/04)	41	0	0.0
Week 4 (19/01/04 - 25/01/04)	80	1	1.2
Week 5 (26/01/04 - 01/02/04)	72	3	4.2
Week 6 (02/02/04 - 08/02/04)	99	0	0.0
Week 7 (09/02/04 - 15/02/04)	139	2	1.4
Week 8 (16/02/04 - 22/02/04)	120	1	1.0
Week 9 (23/02/04 - 29/02/04)	65	1	1.5
Week 10 (01/03/04 - 07/03/04)	47	0	0.0
Week 11 (08/03/04 - 14/03/04)	12	0	0.0
Week 12 (15/03/04 - 21/03/04)	23	2	7.7
Week 13 (22/03/04 - 28/03/04)	5	0	0.0
<b>TOTAL – LOME REGION / COMMUNE</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1.5</b>

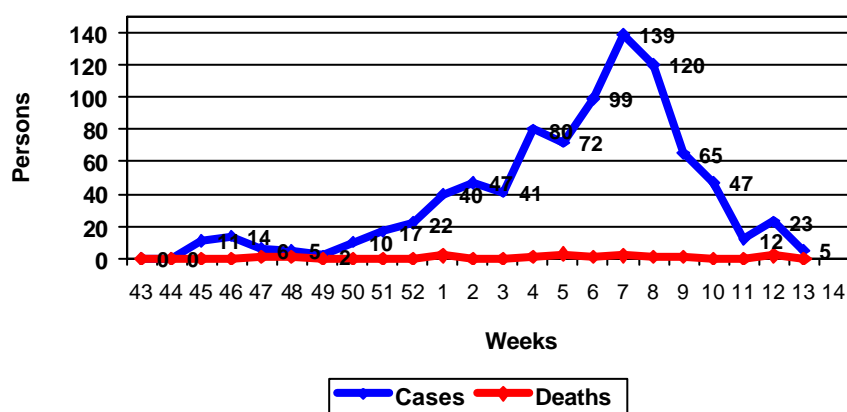
Note: Information Bulletin no. 1/2004 was issued on 22 February 2004; response and delivery of supplies increased from that point onward.

### Red Cross and Red Crescent action

At the peak of the epidemic, Togolese Red Cross launched a crisis committee with key staff from the national society. The Togolese Red Cross volunteers were mobilised for house-to-house sensitization in the affected region. Their messages focused on environmental hygiene, clean water, oral rehydration solution (ORS) preparation and timely use as well as appropriate referrals for treatment and support by the Ministry of Health (MoH). A medical kit and other medical supplies from the Federation enabled Togolese Red Cross to intervene effectively through house-to-house campaign and mass media. Graph 1 below demonstrates the decline in the incidence of the epidemic following the increase of Togolese Red Cross activities

Togolese Red Cross has been working very effectively with the MoH/WHO and other agencies to implement a collaborated cholera response. The main objectives of this intervention were to contribute to reducing the mortality and morbidity linked to the cholera epidemic in Lomé, Togo.

**Graph 1. Number of cases and deaths from cholera as reported in Lomé region, Togo**



**Main activities have included:**

- **Volunteer mobilisation to reinforce the knowledge of the communities affected and surrounding communities concerning prevention and management of cholera.**

Togolese Red Cross deployed 493 volunteers to conduct house-to-house awareness regarding cholera prevention and management. The volunteers include community health agents, peer educators and women from the mothers clubs. Volunteers were effectively recruited in the zones not represented. The volunteers are supported by the coach network. Of the 493 Volunteers, two-thirds were female, which facilitated house-to-house sensitisation. The volunteers continued to advise the population on hygiene measures and the use of ORS. Active case surveillance and referral was conducted throughout the house-to-house campaigns.

The volunteers were active in six sanitary districts and received refresher training in:

- Volunteerism, social mobilisation and the basic principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- Cholera definition, cases, signs, management and prevention.
- Water chlorination or treatment



**Togolese Red Cross tents were used as emergency treatment centres**

- **Community sensitisation through house-to-house volunteer mobilisation and mass media campaigns**

Volunteers were active in house-to-house sensitization, and sensitization to the general public in markets, churches through the media (particularly the TV and community) radios in French and local languages. Togolese Red Cross organized a press conference with the Health Co-ordinator and produced a short television documentary highlighting the volunteer activity. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials including 10,000 leaflets and 400 posters with essential messages were reproduced and distributed, a stock remains available and samples have been shared regionally.



**Togolese Red Cross was a key partner in responding to the cholera epidemic**

- **Distribution and management of the supplies received**

Following discussions with MoH, the crisis committee in collaboration with governance distributed medicines and equipment to the MoH General Director; this supported the emergency treatment centres established with Togolese Red Cross support as well as tents provided by Nigerian Red Cross Society.

**Table 2. House -to- house statistics for the six health districts**

	Houses visited	Persons reached		Time used (hours)	Number and type of volunteers involved				
		Adults	Children		SASC	APE	PE	FA	Others
Day 1	5,599	31,214	8,867	3,269	44	47	53	51	5
Day 2	6,989	40,758	8,084	2,927	31	35	37	46	6
Day 3	7,341	49,472	8,060	3,096	0	0	0	0	0
Day 4	6,960	48,735	5,573	2,802	6	2	3	11	3
Day 5	7,488	53,355	5,958	2,973	0	0	0	0	0
Day 6	6,160	50,114	3,540	2,687	0	0	0	0	0
Day 7	6,107	57,925	2,858	2,905	0	0	0	0	0
Day 8	3,729	41,291	2,944	2,383	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sub-Total</b>	50,373	372,864	45,884	23,042	106	117	127	143	17
<b>Total persons reached</b>		<b>418,748</b>							
					<b>Total of volunteers involved:</b>				<b>493</b>

Abbreviations:

APE-Animator/Peer Educator; PE-Peer Educator; FA-First Aiders

### Coordination

Togolese Red Cross worked in a coordinated response with the MoH and other agencies to respond most effectively.

The Federation Sub-Regional Office in Lagos offered technical support through visits by the health delegate to affected areas and support to the health teams and volunteers; logistical and administrative support was also offered. As well, the Federation Regional Officer for West and Central Africa and the Head of Sub-Regional Office also visited. Further support was received from the Secretariat with visits from the Regional Officer and Head of Lagos regional office.

Nigerian Red Cross Society provided tents which were transferred in a coordinated response between the Nigerian Red Cross, Federation Sub-regional office and ICRC Lagos office; this demonstrated effective sub-regional collaboration and support.



**Togolese Red Cross volunteers conducting house-to-house sensitization activities**

## **Capacity of Togolese Red Cross**

Togolese Red Cross demonstrated a clear capacity to respond to such an emergency. Whilst assisting in the reduction of new cases and management of the situation, the National Society was able to promote the principles of the Movement and increase its volunteer capacity according to [ARCHI 2010](#).

## **Outstanding needs**

The Togolese Red Cross is urgently seeking extra funds to repay the DREF allocation of CHF 47,000; this was used to procure materials to support and conduct their activities, including hygiene and medical items. These funds will also assist in supporting Togolese Red Cross activities, including logistical support for the transportation of coaches and volunteers as well as resources, communication and the rapid production of IEC materials.

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