

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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

CÔTE D'IVOIRE: YELLOW FEVER IN ABIDJAN

12 October 2001

This Ops Update is intended for reporting on emergency appeals.

Appeal No. 30/01

Launched on: 18 September 2001 for 2 weeks for CHF 278,652

DREF Allocated: CHF 50,000

Beneficiaries: approximately 3 million

Operations Update No. 1; Period covered: 18 September - 6 October

“At a glance”

Appeal coverage: 103%

Related Appeals : 01.02/2001 (West Africa Regional Programmes)

Summary/Update: With timely donor support this brief operation has successfully met its intended objectives with activities implemented according to plans. The Final Report will be issued shortly.

Operational Developments:

Since February, 2001 and as of 4 October, the Ministry of Health has reported 193 suspected cases of yellow fever in eight southern districts of the country (Abidjan, Daloa, Danané, Divo, Gagnoa, Guiglo, Issia and Lakota), of which 23 were laboratory confirmed, and 20 resulted in death. Of that number 47 suspected cases were in Abidjan alone, of which 7 were laboratory confirmed and 7 resulted in death (MoH/WHO).



As of 21 September, 3,152 cases of cholera, including 175 deaths were reported between May and September in the entire country. Some 2,012 cases of cholera, including 51 deaths, were reported in Abidjan. The Ministry of Health, assisted by the international community, is currently carrying out treatment and implementing measures to control the outbreak. (WHO)

The yellow fever immunization campaign in Abidjan targeting 2,858,826 persons began 21 September under the direction of the Ministry of Health. A Crisis Committee consisting of international and local agencies, including the Ministry of Health, WHO, the Federation and the Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross (CIRC) developed a plan of action dividing the responsibilities and expertise of each agency to immediately immunize the target population and sensitize the population for long-term prevention measures.

In five days, over 1.5 million persons were immunized while thousands more were mobilized and informed of where to go to get their free vaccinations. The campaign stopped on 28-29 September as additional vaccines were procured (820,000 ordered by the government and 300,000 by WHO). The campaign started up again on 30 September and ended 2 October 2001. By the end of the 10-day campaign 2,610,994 persons were vaccinated - 91.3% of the original target. Active surveillance is taking place and surveillance programmes for adverse events following immunization have been established. Vector control activities started midway through the campaign and will be continuing well after in each of the districts of the capital.

Red Cross Red Crescent action w

The Federation raised CHF 250,000 to contribute to the joint ten-day campaign - CHF 200,000 towards the purchase of vaccines and an immediate release of CHF 50,000 from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) towards a massive social mobilization campaign to be undertaken by the Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross. The Federation worked with the Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross to design an appropriate plan of action, and throughout the campaign, the Federation supported the National Society mobilization teams during the operation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Society w

In charge of the social mobilization campaign, the Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross (CIRC), supported by the Federation, and its network of volunteers, which includes a number of medical professionals, implemented an effective and laudable campaign which contributed to the success of the Crisis Committee's campaign to get almost 3 million people immunized in Abidjan. At of the end of this operation, CIRC volunteers are still involved in vector control activities, which will continue so long as the Red Cross Committees have the necessary materials. Below is an account of the operation based on the objectives of the appeal.



Objectives and Activities Achieved w

Objective 1: Volunteer Preparation

22 team leaders from the 11 districts of Abidjan came to the National Society headquarters for a refresher course offered by a doctor volunteering for the National Society's Health Department. The doctor taught the team leaders on yellow fever pathology, transmission, symptoms and prevention, as well as on sensitization techniques to mobilize communities to be immunized and to clean their environments. The 22 team leaders then returned to their local committees where they offered a similar refresher course to their teams of volunteers (660 in total). Each local committee had two teams of 30 volunteers. Each volunteer was equipped with CIRC bibs. Each team was provided with a megaphone and 30 two-colour posters and around 450 leaflets on both yellow fever and cholera.

Supplies purchased for this operation

ITEM	TOTAL
Red Cross bibs	660

Megaphones	22
Posters	660
Yellow fever leaflets	10,000
Cholera leaflets	10,000

Objective 2: Volunteer Mobilization

The volunteer teams sensitization campaign was well coordinated and employed various media for outreach. The local committees went to the health centres in each district to collect the list of immunization points previously decided by the Ministry of Health. The volunteers then went door-to-door; they frequented market places standing under their posters making announcements with their megaphones. The volunteers handed out leaflets describing the symptoms of yellow fever and listing the places the MoH was offering vaccinations.

The local radio stations, TV stations and newspapers made daily announcements. For example, in the district of Cocody, the two local radio stations broadcasted many times through out the day where the population could go for a vaccination. On the two TV channels in the capital, a public announcement was broadcast before and after the news.

At the vaccination points, CIRC volunteers were the first line of reception. They checked people's vaccination cards to verify the need for immunization. Vaccinations were only given to people from 9 months and above who had either never been immunized or whose immunizations had lapsed. In general many people had never been immunized.

CIRC volunteers (doctors and nurses) also assisted the MoH to administer the 2.6 million vaccinations. The vaccination points operated from 8:00-18:00 every day for the duration of the ten-day campaign.

Though the main focus was on yellow fever, the CIRC volunteers did receive training on the symptoms and pathology of cholera, as well as on prevention measures (maintaining a healthy environment). This information was disseminated during the door-to-door and market place information campaigns. Leaflets specifically regarding cholera were handed out at the same time as the yellow fever leaflets.

In addition to being trained to recognize the symptoms of yellow fever and cholera, the CIRC volunteers were also to report suspected cases discovered during their door-to-door campaigns to the team leaders who would then coordinate the referral of the individual immediately to a designated health point. Although no suspected cases were discovered by the volunteers during their campaigns, two new cases of yellow fever were registered by the Ministry of Health.

Objective 3: Vector Control

Midway through the mobilization campaign, other teams of CIRC volunteers started to identify places most in need of vector control: slaughter houses, public market places. 330 volunteers were equipped with boots, pails and mops, among other things, and on 28 September, the teams started cleanup operations. The cleaning will continue for 10 days. The teams will speak to the general population at the areas where they clean to inform on maintaining a health environment as prevention to diseases such as yellow fever and cholera. The committees will keep the supplies and reinitiate cleanups at other times during the year.

Objective 4: Follow-Up

Data was collected through a centralized process, gathering data from the health points to the MoH which was collated and redistributed to the partners in the operation.

The CIRC project manager had two meetings per week with the team leaders and technical personnel from the Federation to discuss the CIRC plan of action and then the project manager travelled daily to various health points and committee offices to monitor and, if necessary, to troubleshoot.

The Federation assisted the National Society in formulating the appeal and in preparing this final report. All information for this report was gathered and reported by the CIRC project manager.

National Society Capacity Building w

The National Society reinforced its bonds with its professional volunteers through the refresher course on yellow fever and cholera. The National Society also received material assistance, strengthening its capacity so that it can continue during non-emergency times without the need for further external, financial assistance. The National Society believes that the expertise among its own staff in conducting social mobilization campaigns has been raised as well as that the National Society's image has been raised among its international, governmental and local non-governmental partners.

Coordination

This immunization campaign was successful largely due to the coordination efforts of the Crisis Committee, of which the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, Médecins sans Frontières, Médecins du Monde, Association de la Médecine Préventive, European Union, Coopération Française, Save the Children, the Federation, the Centre for Disease Control (CDC), ICRC, and other national non-governmental organizations were a part.

When the Crisis Committee met twice each week, each partner reported on their most recent activities. The plan of action was divided among the partners according to their expertise, thus preventing any unnecessary duplication of efforts. The CIRC and MoH had been responsible for managing the immunization points. The CIRC was responsible for the social mobilization efforts. Now the CIRC is working in collaboration with the Abidjan Sanitation Department on the vector control activities.

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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>.

This operation sought to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or long-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.

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Bekele Geleta
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Côte d'Ivoire - yellow fever in Abidjan						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 30/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			10.10.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				278'652		TOTAL COVERAGE 103.0%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
AMERICAN - RC		10'000	USD	16735	18.09.2001	
BRITISH - RC		5'000	GBP	11'950	19.09.2001	
DANISH - RC		92'500	DKK	18'879	28.09.2001	
FINNISH - RC		33'638	EUR	51'096	20.09.2001	
FRENCH - RC		61'000	EUR	9266	19.09.2001	
GERMAN - GOVT/RC		165'168	DEM	128'303	25.09.2001	VACCINES
ICELANDIC - RC		200'000	ISK	3'393	18.09.2001	
MONACO - RC		20'000	FRF	4586	19.09.2001	
NORWEGIAN - RC				10'000	26.09.2001	
SWEDISH - RC		200'000	SEK	32'860	25.09.2001	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				287'068	CHF	103.0%