

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

POLIO ERADICATION CAMPAIGN: DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, ETHIOPIA, NIGERIA, PAKISTAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO

18 October, 2002

Appeal No. 07/2002

Appeal Target: CHF 1,086,000

Beneficiaries/target groups (if available): N/A

Operations Update No. 1; Period covered: April - September, 2002

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 102.3%

Related Appeals: N/A

Outstanding needs: None

Summary: The final rounds of National Immunization Days for 2002 supported by this appeal will take place between October and December 2002 for Pakistan, Nigeria, Niger, Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Chad and Egypt.

The context

In June 2000, the Federation and the ICRC were invited by the World Health Organization (WHO) to become a partner in the Global Polio Eradication Campaign. The Red Cross/Red Crescent continues to utilize networks of volunteers to mobilize communities to ensure optimal vaccination coverage rates (100%) for the target population. In consultation with WHO and UNICEF, the Federation will not engage in the purchase of vaccine but will concentrate on the mobilization of the human resources of the Red Cross/Red Crescent network. Federation field offices and national societies continue to be active participants in the Interagency Coordinating Committees (ICCs) of the priority countries. The ICCs are made up of in-country-representatives of WHO, UNICEF, Rotary Club, Ministries of Health and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement. For the polio campaign, there continues to be increased efforts on better training and use of volunteers as well as increasing the numbers participating in the campaigns.

In 1988, wild polio virus circulated in 125 countries with more than 350,000 cases reported. In 2002, wild polio virus has been contained to only 6 countries with fewer than 550 cases reported. More than 98% of the cases worldwide are found in India (535 cases), Nigeria (112 cases) and Pakistan (45 cases). In the Horn of Africa and the Congos, no cases of wild polio virus have been reported for the last 12 months.

Latest events

During 2002, support was provided for polio eradication efforts from the Norwegian government, BP-Netherlands and the Swedish, Norwegian, Japanese, Finnish and Monaco Red Cross. This allowed support to be provided for campaigns in Nigeria, Niger, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Bangladesh and Iraq with campaigns planned for Ethiopia and Chad late in 2002. The Afghan Red Crescent also was involved in Ids, though funding came from sources outside of this appeal. In consultation with WHO, the Egyptian Red Crescent will provide support to the National Immunization Days to ensure full community coverage.



Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Nigeria

The Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS), working with its partners (National Program on Immunization or NPI, WHO, UNICEF, USAIDS, John Hopkins University and Rotary) participated in two sub-National Immunization Days (SNIDs).

During the SNIDs in April and May, NRCS intensified social mobilization in the 13 targeted high priority northern states where most cases of wild polio virus has been reported. More than 700 volunteers mobilized 7.3 million children under the age of five by house-to-house contacts and reached 15,000 groups, had 1,800 partner contacts and sensitized about 46,000 community and religious leaders and key people in the communities (health staff, teachers, women groups, etc.).

Volunteers from the NRCS and the Niger Red Cross collaborated across the border for the most difficult-to-reach areas. Red Cross volunteers discovered 27 suspected cases of Acute Flaccid Paralysis during the SNIDs that were investigated further. NRCS social mobilization has gained quality and impact through collaboration with the other partners and expanded to new areas. In some areas, the volunteers had to overcome resistance from the local population about suspected contamination of the vaccine to allow the vaccination teams to reach the children..

In October and November 2002, a Red Cross volunteer will be a member of each of the 774 LGA Social Mobilization Committees. While a house-to-house tracking strategy is not prioritized for the upcoming NIDs that aim to mobilize whole communities, the NRCS will prioritize activities in the selected 16 high risk states consisting of 353 LGAs utilizing more than 1,500 volunteers.

Pakistan

During the Federal Steering Committee meeting of the partners, the PRCS was identified as having the capacity and credibility to conduct social mobilization in the hard-to-reach areas, with its mandate, emblem, broad volunteer base and respect within the community. A plan was developed in the Interagency Communication Group for the distribution educational materials in advance of the NIDs. PRCS volunteers also announced the NIDs in the hard-to-reach areas using a megaphones attached to vehicles or by volunteers on foot in the villages to advise the parents to have their children vaccinated during the campaign..

All 66 PRCS health centers were visited by the PRCS Polio Coordinator, who provided them with the necessary support regarding the social mobilization material. These centres have also been carrying out routine vaccination programs. More than 240 volunteers were mobilized during the campaigns to reach more than 214,000 children. The added value and comparative advantage that the national society had in community presence and ability to access hard-to-reach areas continues to be highly appreciated by the Government of Pakistan, WHO, UNICEF and other partners.

PRCS was requested by WHO to assist in Jacobabad in Sindh Province and one case of polio was identified by a PRCS volunteer. The PRCS also assisted in Afghan refugee camps and achieved 90% coverage. In another

successful effort for the PRCS, the volunteer force and efforts by the Polio Coordinator in Rajanpur District in the Punjab Province led to coverage of 94.4% when previous coverage was at 60%.

Niger

As a partner in the Interagency Coordinating Committee of Niger, the Croix Rouge Nigérienne developed a plan to focus on the Niamey, Gaya District (Bana, Bengou and Tounouga), Madaoua District (Bangui and Sabon) and Aguié (Magami, Gazaoua, Tchadaoua, Gangara, Aguié).

A total of 300 volunteers were recruited (150 for Niamey, 150 for the other districts) for door-to-door community sensitization. During the first phase, 200 volunteers covered Niamey and Madaoua District reaching 54 quarters in Niamey and 154 villages and hamlets in Madaoua. The target population for both areas was 246,583 of which 210,213 were vaccinated. During the second phase, 300 Red Cross volunteers participated in the NIDs in Niamey and 3 districts. Volunteers reached 45 quarters in Niamey, 453 villages/hamlets and reached out to 24 nomadic tribes. From this effort, 222,118 of the 267,756 children targeted under the age of 5 were vaccinated.

The Croix Rouge Nigérienne reported that the impact of the campaigns resulted in a revitalization of local and regional branches, revitalization of the youth volunteers, the development of an integrated plan with the Ministry of Health and strong collaboration with partners on the ground.

Democratic Republic of Congo

During the first round of NIDs, the Red Cross of the DRC provided 85 supervisors and 1,316 volunteers to assist the Ministry of Health to increase coverage to 100% in the four districts of Kinshasa, Bas Congo, Bandundu et Katanga and to reduce the level of AFP. Working with the key partners of the Ministry of Health, WHO, BASICS, USAID, SANRU and UNICEF, the CRRDC implemented the agreed upon strategy. From this effort, more than 4.5 million children under the age of five were vaccinated.

The volunteers enhanced the quality of the vaccinating teams, the Ministry of Health had favorable impressions of the Red Cross participation and the participation of the Red Cross provided additional motivation to the community to get their children vaccinated.



Bangladesh

For 2002, the Bangladesh government planned to conduct sub-National Immunization Days (SNIDs) in the summer because of the high risk for importation of polio virus along the Rajshahi Division border with India with cases occurring within 50 km of the Bangladesh border. The BDRCS was assigned to cover the 3-4% of the children who are homeless or remain traveling during the NIDs.

To cover the traveling population, Dhaka City Corporation located 95 spots where the children enter or leave the city. BDRCS youth volunteers covered these spots from early morning until late at night for five days. For the homeless population living on the streets, foot paths, platforms of the railway station and temporary slums, BDRCS conducted child-to-child searches starting in the middle of the night up to the early hours of the day.

Four hundred sixteen (416) volunteers participated in the efforts and provided vaccine coverage to 60,411 hard-to-reach children.

Iraq

The Iraq Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and the Federation has worked with Ministry of Health (MoH), WHO and UNICEF at government and governorate level during the planning period as well as during the campaign.

Experiences learned from the previous campaigns had been taken into consideration and adjustments carried out accordingly.

The IRCS participated in the campaigns by providing volunteers for the vaccination teams and for the monitoring of the overall campaign. In total, 1,347 volunteers were mobilized in support of the NIDs with 300 serving as vaccinators, 756 as monitors, 96 supervisors (doctors), 151 supervisors (volunteers), 8 team leaders (doctors) and 36 coordinators.

The reports from the co-ordinators give the overall impression that the quality of the monitoring has further improved at all levels and that the cooperation with PHC doctors is well- established. The Ministry of Health as well as the IRCS and the Federation have made a considerable and successful effort in trust building.

According to the reports from the IRCS and the Federation, coordinators in most of the governorates, the follow-up of the unvaccinated children found by the monitoring teams has been satisfactory as these children are vaccinated by the vaccination teams the next day. On the last monitoring day, a vaccination team followed the monitoring team to vaccinate immediately.



Republic of Congo

During the end of July campaign, the CRC provided 604 volunteers to cover the areas of Brazzaville, Kouilou (Point Noir), Niari, Bouenza, Lekoumou, Pool, Plateaux, Cuvette, Cuvette Ouest, Sangha (Ouessou) and Likouala (Impfuendo). The ICRC loaned 3 vehicles for five days in the areas of Brazzaville, Kinkala and Dolisie. In Pool, the problems of safety impacted the first day where the vaccinators could only go outskirts of Kinkala. The children living the center were eventually vaccinated in the days following. In Brazzaville, there were the effects population displacement that resulted in some weak results.

Overall, 630,162 of the 681,287 (92.5%) children received the polio vaccination while an additional 515,428 received vitamin A. The final campaign for 2002 is in October.

Outstanding needs

In all likelihood, highly focused efforts will be needed in 2003 in the remaining high-risk areas to ensure that the transmission wild polio virus is broken. For this to be successful, house-to-house and other community driven campaigns will take place where the Red Cross/Red Crescent networks of volunteers could play a pivotal role. By the end of 2002, a final appeal will be launched to support this efforts by the national societies. Funding will be needed early in 2003 to address any emergent needs as identified during consultation with WHO and other technical partners.

Contributions

See annex 1 for details

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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.

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Polio eradication: DR Congo, Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Pakistan						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 07/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED			18.10.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1'086'000		TOTAL COVERAGE 102.3%
BP		1'705	EUR	2'496	11.04.2002	
FINNISH - RC		25'000	EUR	36'593	03.04.2002	
JAPANESE - RC				35'838	02.04.2002	
MONACO - RC		5'000	EUR	7'319	01.04.2002	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		2'000'000	NOK	381'000	08.04.2002	
SWEDISH - RC		4'025'000	SEK	648'025	23.04.2002	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'111'271	CHF	102.3%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	
THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE LINKED TO THIS APPEAL:						