

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

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: CHOLERA IN MBUJI-MAYI

14 December 2003

Appeal No. 21/2003; Operations Update no. 02

Appeal launched on 2 July 2003 for CHF 114,000 (USD 86,642 or EUR 73,929) for three (3) months for 50,000 beneficiaries.

Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: N/A;

Period covered: 3 November to 14 December 2003

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 104.9%; [Click here to see the attached Contributions List](#) or refer to the Federation's website for details.

Outstanding needs: None

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Democratic Republic of Congo, Annual Appeal (01.43/2003)

Operational Summary: The health zones in Mbuji-Mayi continue to be affected by the pandemic. New cases are reported, and the death rate is worrying. The [Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#) with support from the Federation is acting in coordination with other humanitarian actors, providing the necessary support: sensitization, caring for the infected, burying the dead and disinfecting the affected areas.

Operational developments

During this reporting period, cholera continues to spread. Efforts by the various humanitarian agencies have scaled up; each is continually addressing the ways and means to continue operations. The table below reflects the serious nature of this pandemic. Since the first Operations Update, 383 new cases have been reported; a total of 22 deaths have resulted, representing 5.7 % of all cases.

Epidemic development from week 42 to week 49 of the year 2003

Weekly Period (2003)	Number of cases	Number of deaths	Percentage of deaths
Week 42	91	5	5.5
Week 43	69	6	8.7
Week 44	50	3	6.0
Week 45	71	4	5.6
Week 46	34	1	2.9
Week 47	38	1	2.6
Week 48	18	-	-
Week 49	12	2	16.7
TOTAL	383	22	5.7

Source: Stop Cholera coordination team.

Coordination

The Stop Cholera Coordination team, under the chairmanship of the Provincial Medical Inspector, holds weekly meetings to assess, monitor, control and coordinate the response to the epidemic.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

There is good response and immense financial support from the Swedish Red Cross, the DFID/British Red Cross, Finnish Government/French Red Cross and Norwegian Government/Norcross in response to the appeal launched by the Federation on 2 July 2003. The DRC Red Cross has performed as follows:

- Sensitization media (posters, leaflets, Tee-shirts and aprons) have been produced in sufficient quantities to be used for a three-month operation;
- The DRC Red Cross volunteers - together with the Health and local authorities - are identifying suspected cases, caring for those who have been infected, burying bodies, disinfecting affected areas and, crucially, raising awareness among the population about how the disease is spread. Motorbikes and bicycles for volunteers' field travels have been ordered and will be received at the beginning of next month;
- Sanitation and protection materials are being provided;
- Under the patronage of the Ministry of Health, an advocacy session for local fundraising mobilization took place at Grand Hotel Kinshasa on 13 December 2003. Ambassadors, businessmen, leaders of societies and firms as well as UN agency Representatives participated in the session;
- Advocacy for the city of Mbuji-Mayi is planned to take place on 8 January 2004.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

The DRC Red Cross is in line with the cardinal mission of the International Movement of Red Cross and Red Crescent which consists of assisting the vulnerable people to alleviate their suffering and in accordance with ARCHI 2010¹. All these activities are carried out by the Red Cross volunteers (both men and women), who do not expect anything in return for their services and target the youth, children, adults, women and men, without distinction of religion, sex, ethnic group etc according to the Red Cross Movement principles.

National Society Capacity Building

The national society has shown the capacity to implement the cholera operations in the DRC and has competent human resource. So far, the national society has achieved the following:

- The provincial committee of the Red Cross, with the support of the National Health and Social Services Department and the Federation (Central Africa Regional Office and Kinshasa Delegation) carried out another needs assessment.
- Sensitization activities are being implemented in the field by Red Cross volunteers in identified settlements as well as in the diamond mining areas to plea for the populations' change of behavior.

¹ ARCHI 2010 – African Red Cross and Red Crescent Health Initiative 2010 builds on its strength: a Red Cross and Red Crescent presence in each of 53 countries in Africa and, in all, more than 2 million volunteers. The overall goal of ARCHI 2010 is to make a major difference in the health of vulnerable people in Africa. Refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/what/health/archi/>

- The provincial committee participates in «Stop Cholera » Crisis Committee meetings. However, there is a need to ensure the provincial committee is supplied with 10 megaphones and Boxes of batteries for the megaphones.

Federation coordination

The Federation health delegate and the Director of the Health and Social Action Department set up a field team to manage the operation in the province of Kasai Oriental. The Central Africa Regional Office (BRAC) has supported the operation by putting at its disposal, two cholera kits.

Outstanding needs

- 10 megaphones ;
- Batteries boxes for megaphones.

For further information please contact:

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is 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 programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

[<Contributions List below - Click here to return to title page>](#)

Democratic Republic of Congo - cholera

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 21/2003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

17/12/2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				114,000		104.9%
BRITISH - RC		26,214	GBP	59,244	24.11.03	
FINNISH - RC		15,000	EUR	23,085	22.10.03	
NORWEGIAN - RC		60,000	NOK	11,340	09.10.03	
SWEDISH - RC		150,000	SEK	25,875	09.10.03	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				119,544	CHF	104.9%

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	