

# 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

27 February 2004

Appeal No. 21/03; Operations Update no. 3

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

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

Period covered: 8 January to 9 February 2004

*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 181 countries. For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)*

### In Brief

**Appeal coverage:** 104.9%; [Click here to go to the attached Contributions Status Report](#). See also the Federation website for details.

**Outstanding needs:** None

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:**

[Annual Appeal for Democratic Republic of Congo, number 01.43/2004](#)

**Operational Summary:** In collaboration with other partners, [The Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Congo](#) has been actively involved in combating cholera in Mbuji-Mayi. The situation is under control, apart from isolated cases which are being reported. Sensitization campaigns are going on, mobile disinfecting teams are active, and volunteers are educating families on techniques to prevent cholera. This three-month operation is complete (with some residual activities being carried out), and the Final Report (or Interim) is expected by April, 2004)

### Operational developments

The epidemic situation as of the end of December 2003 is 7,145 cases, with 369 deaths (a mortality rate of 5.16%). With support from all partners in the field, the epidemic seems to be under control though some sporadic cases have been reported, especially in the town of Mbuji Mayi. The table below reflects the epidemiological situation from the first through to the fifth weeks of the year (2004).

**Table 1: Development of the epidemic as of the first to the fifth week of the year 2004**

	Bipemba		Dibindi		Diulu		Kanshi		Muya		Total	
	Cases	Dead	Cases	Dead	Cases	Dead	Cases	Dead	Cases	Dead	Cases	Dead
<b>Week 1</b>	0	0	8	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	12	1
<b>Week 2</b>	0	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	8	0
<b>Week 3</b>	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	8	1

<b>Week 4</b>	9	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	12	1
<b>Week 5</b>	14	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	22	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>3</b>

Lethality rate: 4.8%

## Coordination

The coordinating team holds weekly meetings every Friday under the leadership of the Provincial Medical Inspector.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

- There is a Provincial Coordinator working with the National Coordinator.
- An assistant to the Provincial Coordinator is in charge of logistics.
- Five local coaches liaise with the teams in the field and assist in coordinating the operations.
- Thirty three team leaders are supervising the activities in the quarters and are taking care of the volunteers. They are also ensuring that the materials for sensitization are secure and are submitting weekly activity reports.

### Three sensitization methods were used, namely:

- Door-to-door campaign: volunteers are visiting families in the affected region and sensitizing them about cholera.
- Educational talks: in collaboration with the government and local authorities, volunteers are organizing meetings and holding educational sessions.
- Sensitization at public places: while in public places, volunteers sensitize the population on cholera and distribute leaflets to those who can read.
- Quarters are chosen according to vulnerability criteria.
- While waiting for the upcoming training session, some volunteer teams sensitise neighbouring quarters.

**Table 2: Sensitized population in communes**

Communes	Populations	Number of quarters	Quarters covered	Quarters not yet covered	Coverage in %
<b>Bipemba</b>	840,723	16	10	6	62.5
<b>Dibindi</b>	852,753	11	8	3	72.5
<b>Diulu</b>	401,258	7	5	2	71.4
<b>Kansht</b>	192,662	10	5	5	50.0
<b>Muya</b>	635,405	15	5	10	33.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,896,801</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>55.9</b>

**Table 3: Number of families sensitized**

Communes	First week	Second week	Third week	Total for January 2004
<b>Bipemba</b>	752	1,116	870	2,767
<b>Dibindi</b>	440	746	1,088	2,274
<b>Diulu</b>	383	888	1,471	2,762
<b>Kanshi</b>	301	886	750 *	1,987 *
<b>Muya</b>	204	852	1,046	1,102
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,080</b>	<b>4,487</b>	<b>6,265</b>	<b>11,832</b>

\* Plus two trading posts

**Table 4: Number of sensitized people**

Communes	First week	Second week	Third week	Total for January
<b>Bipemba</b>	4,781	6,826	9,444	17,051
<b>Dibindi</b>	3,046	3,133	4,308	10,487
<b>Diulu</b>	1,687	2,526	6,990	11,163
<b>Kanshi</b>	4,012	5,806	4,751	14,969
<b>Muya</b>	2,704	3,608	2,844	9,206
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,280</b>	<b>28,889</b>	<b>24,297</b>	<b>62,476</b>

### **Disinfecting activities**

There are two mobile disinfecting teams which disinfect houses when cholera cases are reported. A total of 94 houses have been disinfected by Red Cross volunteers in the following communes:

- Bipemba Commune: 67 houses
- Muya Commune: 16 houses
- Dibindi Commune: four houses
- Diulu Commune: seven houses

### **Water and Sanitation**

This activity was not covered during this reporting period. However, the Federation visited Mbuji Mayi, Misesa areas and identified Dibindi as the most vulnerable. There are plans to extend the programme to Tshilenge.

### **Partnership**

- Collaboration with the Provincial Medical Inspection team is going on well. Volunteers from the national society received 10,000 leaflets and posters for sensitization as a result of the collaboration.
- UNICEF has confidence in the national society, supports the sensitization campaign, and has promised to fund national society projects which will last more than three months.
- The MONUC<sup>1</sup> financed a project on the construction of latrines in schools in the framework of their ‘quick impact’ projects. The project was implemented in collaboration with the Federation WatSan Delegate based in Mbandaka and the impact is being assessed.

### **Constraints**

- It is difficult to access the interior because of a lack of a vehicle and the non implementation of the February projected budget.
- There are 150 volunteers working in this region -- too few compared to the area they need to cover and the number of people they have to reach out, to hence the need to train more volunteers.

### **Objectives for the second month of the operation**

- **Intensify partnerships to guarantee the extension of the operation beyond the three months period previously planned.**
- **Continue with the extension of the activities in other areas of Mbuji Mayi with sensitizing teams.**
- **Recruit and train 200 volunteers: 150 in the interior and 50 in Mbuji-Mayi.**

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and Initiatives**

- The provincial committee, with support from the national health and social action department and the Federation, energized social mobilization activities in Mbuji Mayi and the surroundings. Cholera kits will be received in the near future to reinforce the Cholera Treatment Centres (CTC’s), in accordance with the appeal plans.

<sup>1</sup> The United Nations Mission in the Congo

- The provincial committee and the project coordination team participate in the crisis committee 'Stop Cholera' meetings.

## **Federation delegation**

The Federation's health delegate, in collaboration with the head of the health and social action department in Kinshasa, supervised the coordination of the operation from the Federation's office in Mbuji Mayi.

### ***For further information please contact:***

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

# Democratic Republic of Congo - cholera

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 21/2003

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

25/02/2004

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	