

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 THE CONGO: CHOLERA IN SOUTH KIVU

30 March 2005

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.

In Brief

Appeal No. 05EA004; Operations Update no. 2; Period covered: 24 February to 23 March 2005; Appeal coverage: 73.7%; ([Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 24 February 2005 for CHF 285,000 (USD 217,000 or EUR 167,700) for four months to assist 200,000 beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 50,000.

Outstanding needs: CHF 67,837 (USD 56,600 or EUR 43,800)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Democratic Republic of the Congo 2005 Annual Appeal no. 05AA035 – http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA035.pdf.

Operational Summary: Cholera, endemic in South Kivu province since 1998, has resurfaced this year, with about 300 cases per week and with greater scope and duration. The most affected areas are in Bukavu and Uvira and Fizi territories. The [Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)¹ has responded since the onset of this epidemic, and has shown progress in mitigating its effects. To better respond to the needs of the community, the Red Cross of DRC and the Federation launched this Emergency Appeal.

Volunteers were deployed since 18 February 2005; they have assisted at water chlorination points and have revitalized awareness campaigns. The number of recorded cases has shown a slight decrease: Uvira has seen a reduction from 83 cases during week 5 to 47 cases in week 11 of 2005. Activities continue through mobilization of the community around the fight against cholera activities.

For further information specifically related to this operation 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 in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

¹ Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo – <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=187>

Background

South Kivu is a cholera-endemic area since 1998. Each year, the number of reported cases increases during the rainy season. This year, the rise was particularly notable with figures reaching 300 cases per week. This has affected the whole of South Kivu province, particularly the city of Bukavu and the Uvira and Fizi territories.

After an initial assessment, the Red Cross of DRC, through its provincial committee, has actively engaged itself in three areas: support to cholera treatment centers implanted in the province for disinfecting and up keeping, community sensitization on basic hygiene and sanitation rules and on water chlorination at provision points at Bukavu, Uvira Fizi and their neighborhood.

The National Society and the Federation have discussed the possibility of strengthening this fight basically at the community level, in accordance with the Congo Initiative Programme (PIC) process, an action strategy of the Red Cross of DRC, which aims at the grass root community training for their overall self-care.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

To cope with this emergency, 128 volunteers (28 in Bukavu, 80 in Uvira and 20 in Fizi) were trained on water chlorination at household level by the ICRC. A medical inspection team was deployed in the area to chlorinate water at 37 supply points. Meanwhile, 430 volunteers disseminated key messages on the fight against cholera during sensitization sessions in market places, schools, churches, water collection points and other public locations. Currently, a community-based outreach sensitization mechanism is being put in place, in compliance with PIC. Therefore, after meetings with provincial authorities who authorized the sensitization campaign seven-member community-based teams and three Red Cross volunteers have been set up in each of the 60 cells of 20 communities of the city of Bukavu. The ongoing process will be extended in the Uvira and Fizi territories. It aims at building the community members' capacity in the fight against cholera.

Objective 1: Health and Care: the treatment of people affected by cholera is reinforced in the CTC (community treatment centres).

After training and retraining of the Red Cross volunteers by the medical inspection (health zones in the territories), 18 volunteers - two per CTC - have been deployed within the nine operational CTC (two in Bukavu, three in Uvira, two in Fizi territory and two in Kabare) near medical teams. These volunteers are in charge of disinfecting the patients' goods, means of transportation used to bring them to CTC, personal effects. They control access to the CTC and see that visitors' shoes are disinfected and their hands washed (both at entrances and exits), they sensitize the care givers as well as visitors on the observance of rules. A total number of 18 volunteers deployed in nine CTC have so far disinfected goods and homes of 469 households affected by the disease; they have sensitized 2,902 nurses (caretakers) and visitors.

The Federation has supported CTC by providing Red Cross volunteers with protection materials and the medical team with disinfectants, chlorine and ORS bags.

No contamination cases have been reported in any of the CTC so far. The major difficulty encountered by volunteers has been the magnitude of the work and insufficient materials at their disposal.

Objective 2: Health and Care: a community-based cholera epidemic monitoring and early alert system is put in place.

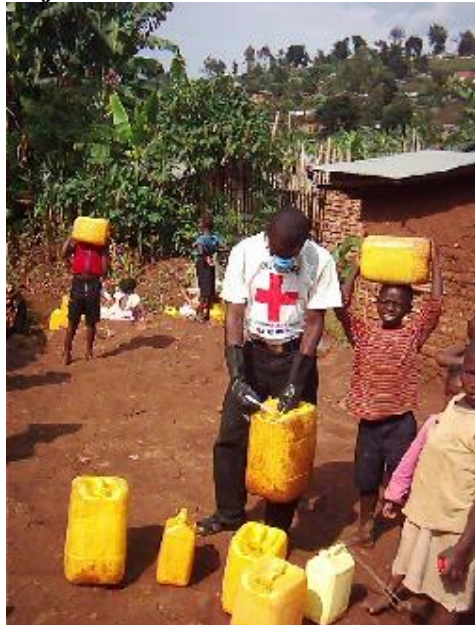
The 60 operational teams (seven people and three Red Cross volunteers from the community) set up in the 60 cells (plus small entity of about 250 households at the city level) of 20 communities (total number) of Bukavu are currently being trained to also sensitize their population on the identification and referral of suspected cholera cases to local health centre. Due to the sensitization efforts, about 70% of the population are aware of the operation and take part in various actions.

Due to the wide area of the zone affected by the epidemic and targeted by the operation, simultaneous coverage could not be achieved but communities are gradually being sensitized through the "snow ball effect".

Objective 3: Water and Sanitation: Good personal and environmental hygiene practices are promoted.

430 Red Cross volunteers - 230 in Bukavu, 120 in Uvira territory (Sange and Central Uvira) and 80 in Fizi territory (Baraka and Central Fizi) – carry out sensitization sessions both from CTC and public places (markets, churches, schools, water provision points), and in some households affected by the disease. Meanwhile, teams are being set up for actions on how to conduct an outreach sensitization; these fall within the PIC framework.

Objective 4: Water and Sanitation: Access to water and basic sanitation is improved.



A Red Cross of DRC volunteer helps chlorinate water for households

128 volunteers perform water chlorination on a daily basis from 37 water provision points in Bukavu, Uvira, Sange, Baraka and Fizi. About 2.3 million litres of water were chlorinated in the 14 water supply points of Bukavu. Other volunteers have been identified and will soon be trained / retrained to strengthen existing teams and increase the number of chlorination points. This action is backed up by the sensitization of the people visiting these points. To date, the number of recorded cholera cases has declined.

Sanitation equipment has been purchased to enable the teams which are being set up to accompany the community in improving access to basic sanitation.

The rehabilitation of water points and the construction of latrines by the community is in progress, and will fall under the supervision of teams set-up within the PIC framework..

Federation Coordination

The inter-agency coordination committee supervised by the provincial Governor and the provincial chief coordinates all actions. There are four commissions within this committee and Red Cross is represented in the social mobilization, hygiene and sanitation, and logistics ones. At the territorial level, the committee is supervised by the Administrator and comprises of all agencies and NGOs involved in the fight.

To avoid duplication and promote complementary approach and information sharing, working sessions of Movement representatives are organized focusing on the evaluation of actions taken on the field. At the Red Cross provincial committee level, the operation is coordinated by the health and social action head of office – skilled in this discipline - under the direct supervision of the provincial Secretary. At the operational level in Uvira and Fizi territories and in each of the three communes of the city of Bukavu, coaches are responsible for the supervision of activities together with the heads of teams.

The Federation field delegate attends all inter-agency and technical meetings convened by the provincial medical Inspection or other agencies. He brings technical support in the planning, execution and supervision of activities as well as in funds management.

A MoU between members of the Movement is being drafted and will be signed at the local level. Operational activities will continue in accordance with this MoU. ICRC sub-delegation will manage security issues.

National Society Capacity Building

The Red Cross South Kivu provincial committee has a strategic plan and an action plan, and is definitely moving forward in its development. However, a SWOT analysis conducted mid-February 2005 shows some committee management weaknesses, and a considerable lack of both material and financial resources.

The Federation continues to underscore the need for building capacity through training and working sessions involving all actors in planning activities: governance members, division heads and other members of management. Improvements are being observed already. Specifically, the Federation is supporting the national society in the setting up of a new financial and administrative system.

From the material standpoint, this operation has already brought in some motorbikes and bicycles, teaching materials, office equipment, among others.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

DR Congo - cholera

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05EA004

PLEDGES RECEIVED

05/04/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				258,000		TOTAL COVERAGE 73.7%
BRITISH - RC		40,000	GBP	87,240	05.02.05	
JAPAN - RC		1,000,000	JPY	11,095	10.03.05	
NETHERLANDS - RC		37,433	EUR	57,628	15.03.05	
SWEDISH - RC		200,000	SEK	34,200	24.02.05	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				190,163	CHF	73.7%

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	