

MINOR EMERGENCY



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

ANGOLA: MARBURG HAEMORRHAGIC FEVER OUTBREAK

Minor Emergency no.
05ME021
Update no. 4
17 May 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

A TOTAL OF CHF 252,000 HAS BEEN ALLOCATED TO DATE FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF) TO RESPOND TO THIS OPERATION: CHF 65,000 (5 APRIL) AND CHF 187,000 (22 APRIL 2005).

UN earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged in support of the national society activities in non-food relief, disaster preparedness and social mobilization.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's 2005 Annual Appeal for Angola no. 05AA008 – http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA008.pdf. As well, the Annual Report for the 2004 Annual Appeal no. 01.11/2004 will be available on the web no later than 31 May 2005 - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual04/011104ar.pdf. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The situation

As of 13 May 2005, the Angolan Ministry of Health (MINSa) and WHO report 336 cases of Marburg haemorrhagic fever (MHF), with 291 deaths (96% mortality). These cases remain focused in the Uige province, the epicentre of the outbreak. WHO remains concerned and highlights that the outbreak is not yet contained. Surveillance, case detection, follow-up of suspect cases, and contacts have increased through the Provincial Marburg Control Outbreak committee.

Please refer to the table at the end of this Update for hyperlinks to prior Minor Emergency updates. These offer comparative statistics and background information.

A number of control measures have been implemented by the Angolan Red Cross in Uige province. These include:

- Destroying household items that have been in contact with the sick or deceased: mattresses, blankets, bed sheets, mats, clothing and household objects;
- Isolating and confining suspected and confirmed cases; and,
- Supervising the traditional burials in the communities.

The [Angola Red Cross](#)¹ branch in Uige is assisting the Provincial Marburg Outbreak Control committee by distributing food and non-food items to families affected by MHF: 500 mosquito nets were distributed, and five megaphones were provided by UNICEF in support of distribution activities. Angola Red Cross volunteers have been very helpful in carry out community mobilisation and also assisted other organisations such as MSF, WHO and public health authorities as they know the local languages.

Response so far

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

A total of 45 volunteers have been trained for the WHO, UNICEF, MSF and MINSa local authorities in social mobilization and psycho-social activities. They have been active in the dissemination of disease prevention messages, distribution of information pamphlets, home visits, meeting with traditional leaders, fixing posters at public places, training communities on chlorine use, and distribution of midwives' safety materials to the traditional therapeutic centers. A total of 2,430 door-to-door visits had been conducted, reaching at least 25,430 people in four municipalities of Uige province: Uige, Songo, Negage and Quitexi.

This Minor emergency received a total allocation of CHF 252,000 from the Federation's disaster relief emergency fund (DREF). As well, the German Government through the German Red Cross has contributed EUR 59,000; the German Red Cross is covering the administrative and programme support costs of EUR 3,850 towards the purchase of the non-food relief operation. The British Red Cross has contributed GBP 5,000 for this operation.



¹ Angola Red Cross – <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp/countryid=18>

Relief distributions

With the initial DREF allocation (CHF 65,000), the Angola Red Cross started immediately to assist 400 MHF-affected families in Uige province. During the reporting period, 16 volunteers distributed items listed below to 65 beneficiaries' families in eight villages of Uige municipality (from a total of 176 families in 21 villages):

- 130 mattresses;
- 130 blankets;
- 130 bed sheets;
- 130 plastic buckets;
- 130 jerry cans;
- 32.5 kg of soap; and,
- 325 litres of water purification chemicals.

After this initial emergency response phase, distribution of these items will continue in conjunction with social mobilization and psycho-social support activities.

Objective 1: Increased community awareness through social mobilization

In Uige municipality, efforts are on-going to sensitize the population that could serve as link to the barrios most affected by the MHF outbreak, with a more focused dissemination strategy: Candombe Velho, Pedreira, Kakiuya, Centro da Ciudad, Dunga, Kimakungo, Candombe Novo, Kinguangua, Kishikongo, Mbanza Luanda, Muenga, Lilala, Capote, Ngana Kanama, Mbemba Ngango, Piscina and Povo Mateus.

The Angola Red Cross is part of the social mobilization sub-coordination committee comprised of members from MINSa, WHO, UNICEF, MSF and Angola Red Cross; national society volunteers have been distributing leaflets and putting up posters to increase the coverage and heighten awareness.

These sensitization campaigns were being done in conjunction with the information, education and communication (IEC) and epidemiological surveillance teams from local public health authorities, WHO and MSF. The Angola Red Cross and the Federation have mobilized 45 volunteers, three staff members and one Federation delegate for IEC activities in the affected area for a period three months.



Community involvement and understanding are key to interrupting the chain of transmission and training sessions for teachers and young public health students have been an important component.
Photo: WHO/CNRS/Alain Epelboin; Caption: WHO

The Uige branch of the Angola Red Cross started to work in two more municipalities of Uige province: Negage (Negage municipality and Kawenda villages) and Songo (Songo municipality and Tres casas and Quimalalo villages); 20 new volunteers in these two municipalities have been identified and trained. They have so far worked with people on prevention methods and measures. Twenty more community volunteers will be identified and trained 16-26 May), thereby reinforcing the social mobilization activities in Uige province.

Objective 2: Provide affected families/communities with psychological support.

Rapid distribution and replacement of basic items that have been destroyed for hygiene and prevention measures started during this reported period, with one standardized basic kit distributed to families by the Angola Red Cross volunteers with support of the Provincial Marburg Control committee, Government local authority, MINSa, FFAA, WHO, UNICEF, MSF, OCHA, CDC, WFP and ARC. These kits consist of mattresses, blankets, bed sheets, water purification (lts.), soap, local mats, 5-litre jerry cans. 10-litre plastic buckets, and used clothing for 400 affected families in Uige.

Beneficiaries are being identified by the Provincial Control Marburg Committee using Angola Red Cross criteria. The provincial branch secretary in Uige and the Federation delegate regularly inform the committee of these distributions with the list of beneficiaries. From 8-12 May, 38 volunteers conducted a registration exercise in 18

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villages of Uige municipality. On 13 May, they started distributions to 43 beneficiary families in Candombe Velho and 22 in Pedreira.

Angola Red Cross volunteers of Uige province have organized sensitization sessions in the neighboring provinces of Zaire, Bengo, Kwanza Norte and Malanges, and continue to play an active role in prevention. A health coordinator for each branch will go to Uige during the next week to participate in social mobilization and Marburg awareness training with 20 new volunteers. Although this is the first experience of MHF outbreak in Angola, the national society needs to be prepared for the eventuality of further outbreaks.

Operational aspects

A Federation delegate from Guinea-Bissau has been deployed to Uige, was briefed by the health delegate and will follow up with the logistics, distribution, and relief activities. The delegate will be working closely with the Angola Red Cross provincial secretary in co-coordinating the operations, and will communicate regularly with the provincial local authority, provincial Marburg Control committee and the international team from CDC, MSF, WHO, UNICEF and OCHA.

Outstanding needs

The Federation intends to strengthen its support to the Angola Red Cross and its response to the Marburg outbreak in Uige province. A plan of action has been presented and is being revised. In Uige, the operation will continue as planned under its initial objectives, but will be expanded to include additional municipalities in Uige (Mucaba, Bembe and Bungo). This revised plan of action will have a specific focus on social mobilization, psycho-social support, the distribution of basic non-food items to the affected families, and IEC through Angola Red Cross communities volunteers. There is an urgent need to scale-up these activities in neighboring municipalities, which have cases of people who have been in contact MHF-affected people. The Angola Red Cross in Uige is therefore planning more training for volunteers.

Coordination

In Angola, MINSA is responsible for coordinating the national response to the Marburg epidemic. MINSA and Angola Red Cross are operating under a cooperation agreement signed in 1996. This agreement stipulates that they should coordinate the assistance and protection of the population during an epidemic caused by natural disaster. The medical personnel in the affected areas play a significant role in influencing community behavior and attitudes towards the epidemic. Angola Red Cross is also a member of the National Civil Protection Commission, which has finalized a plan of action to control the spread of MHF.

The national technical commission has strengthened coordination mechanisms in the areas of logistics, epidemiology, and social mobilization to prevent the further spread of the epidemic, and to direct isolation and treatment interventions in Uige, Luanda, and other locations with confirmed or suspected cases. At national level, the Angola Red Cross is a member of the social mobilization sub-commissions; two national society staff are permanent members and participates in all meetings.

The Provincial Marburg Control Committee, supervised by the provincial governor, has ensured good coordination of activities, thereby avoiding overlapping among the different partners and international agencies. Through this committee, the different partners stay abreast of events and activities in the field through daily meetings. There is good collaboration between WHO, MSF, UNICEF, OCHA and local health authorities with Angola Red Cross facilitating awareness work in the field.



International response to the outbreak in Angola began in late March, when experts from the global Outbreak Alert and Response Network, GOARN) arrived in Angola to work side by side with colleagues from the Angolan Ministry of Health (MINSA) and partners including MSF, UNICEF, CUAMM (Doctors for Africa), WFP, OCHA and the Angolan Red Cross.

Photo: WHO/William Perea; Caption: WHO

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The initial Minor Emergency and its subsequent Updates are available on the web. The table below lists these, and offers hyperlinks for ease of access.

Document	Federation website hyperlink
Minor Emergency, dated 05 April 2005	http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05ME021.pdf
Minor Emergency Update no. 1 dated 11 April 2005	http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05ME02101.pdf
Minor Emergency Update no. 2 dated 15 April 2005	http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05ME02102.pdf
Minor Emergency Update no. 3 dated 22 April 2005	http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05ME02103.pdf

Budget

The following is an indicative budget for this four-month operation.

Description	CHF
Supplies	109,800
Capital Expenditure	10,700
Transport and Vehicle	11,200
Personnel (International)	27,700
Personnel (National Staff)	30,800
Training / Workshops	12,600
Travel	15,900
Information	10,300
Other General Expenses	3,500
Communications	1,900
Financial Charges	1,200
Programme Support Recovery	16,400
TOTAL	252,000

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