

# 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

## ANGOLA: CHOLERA CRISIS

**Appeal No.**  
**MDRAO001**  
**26 May 2006**

### FOCUS ON THE FIELD ASSESSMENT & COORDINATION TEAM (FACT)

*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

Operations Update no. 1; Period covered: 18-26 May 2006; Appeal target: CHF 1,206,656 (USD 957,284 or EUR 764,190); Appeal coverage: 0%<sup>1</sup>; Outstanding needs: to date, there are no contributions recorded, but a number of donors have expressed interest in providing support. Separately, discussions are ongoing with ECHO on potential funding proposals, and European Union National Societies (EUNS; specifically the Finnish, French, German and Spanish Red Cross) are being approached to consider taking the lead in this respect.

[<click here for the map>](#); [click here for contact details>](#)

#### Appeal history:

- Launched on 18 May 2006 for CHF 1,206,656 (USD 957,284 or EUR 764,190) for 6 months to assist 30,000 beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 200,165.

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

#### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) 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 Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for

<sup>1</sup> While the current list of contributions reflects a coverage of 0%, based on indications of forthcoming support, the list will be updated and made available on the web shortly.

*national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.*

## Background

Responding to a serious, and growing, outbreak of cholera in the country (see table below), the Federation launched this Emergency Appeal at the request of the Angolan Red Cross (ARC) for a period of 6 months to assist some 30,000 beneficiaries. The proposed operation is based on the following activities:

- reinforcing local disaster response capacities in social mobilization;
- providing safe water and adequate sanitation;
- providing relief supplies such as oral rehydration solutions (ORS), protective clothing, jerry cans and disinfectants.
- considering extending the geographical areas of involvement, in addition to enhancing Red Cross volunteer's sensitization activities in the affected communities in support of the local health authorities.

Cholera statistics at the national level (13 February to 15 May 2006).

Provinces	New cases and deaths between 14 and 15 May 2006		Cumulative total cases from 13 February to 15 May 2006		
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Mortality rate (%)
Bengo	20	0	1,947	81	4
Benguela	49	1	7,316	496	7
Bie	0	0	3	1	33
Huambo	0	0	13	4	31
Huila	11	1	382	37	10
Kwanza Norte	30	0	3,299	166	5
Kwanza Sul	63	12	285	19	7
Luanda	375	2	17,945	246	1
Malange	67	2	3,654	191	5
Uige	0	0	17	1	7
Zaire	1	1	163	4	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>35,033</b>	<b>1,246</b>	<b>4</b>

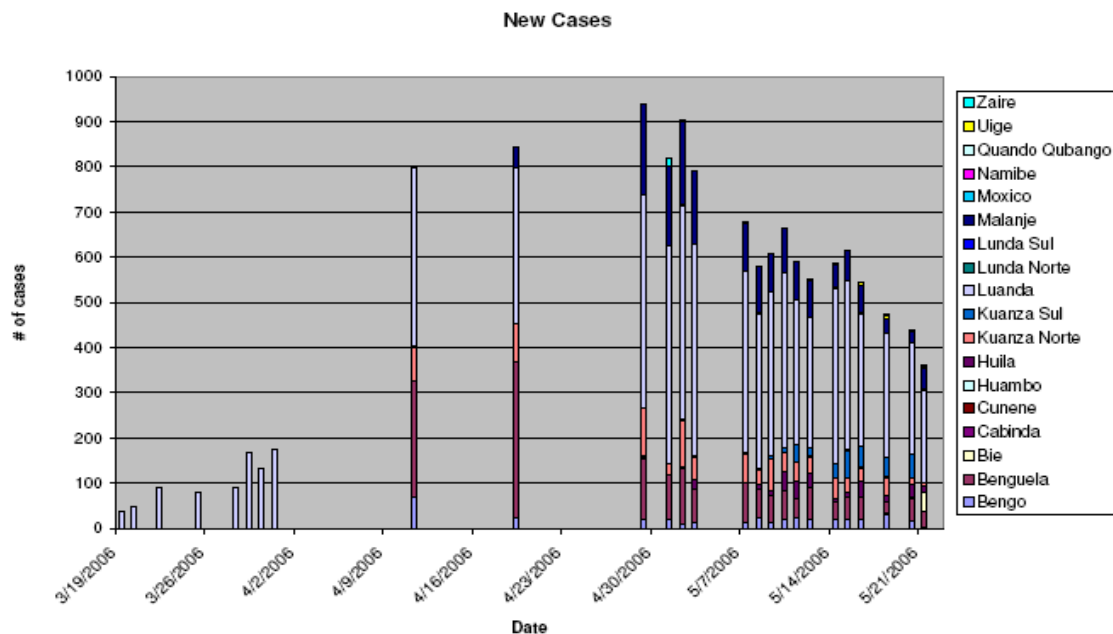
A total of CHF 200,165 was allocated from the Federation's DREF (CHF 50,165 of 24 February and CHF 150,000 on 14 April 2006) to support the ARC in this operation. The DREF allocation enabled Angola Red Cross to conduct social mobilization in ten provinces, beginning in Luanda. With support of the Federation regional delegation, a Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) member from the Mozambique Red Cross Society was deployed to assist the ARC. In response to the priority needs for water supply and adequate sanitation, the Federation regional delegation deployed the regional WatSan officers. Based on the deteriorating situation and in response to an ARC request, the Federation also deployed a Field Assessment Coordination Team (FACT) to reinforce the RDRT already in place. The proposed operation is a continuation of the response activities initiated by the national society following the outbreak. The FACT, which has health and logistics specialists, is further assessing and supporting response activities on a larger scale. This Operations Update focuses specifically on the FACT actions.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent FACT action

The FACT team reports that:

- Total country-wide numbers appear to be decreasing (see chart below).
- While absolute numbers are not all solid, the trends are reliable.

- The Federation is focusing on providing support to the ARC on the preventive aspects of the cholera crisis, in the process maximizing the use of Red Cross volunteers.
- Given the decreasing numbers - and following the pattern from previous outbreaks - the epidemic is expected to be over by July, maybe earlier.
- MSF is managing the curative aspects of the intervention country-wide, and its team is being scaled-down.
- Luanda-based organizations met so far include the ARC, Ministry of Health (MoH), WHO, MSF (Holland, Spain, Switzerland), UNICEF, UNDP.



#### Initial plan for Red Cross interventions:

- Based on the team's findings so far the largest remaining gaps in the overall response to the cholera epidemic lie in the watsan and preventive activities, such as community mobilization and education coupled with relevant material and equipment and further cholera-specific training of the Angola Red Cross staff.
- Addressing these needs plays to the strength of the ARC with its extensive network of branches and volunteers already active in dealing with many of the needs associated with the current cholera epidemic.
- Given the poor state of the water and sanitation infrastructure in Angola, and no such investments foreseen to take place, the FACT considers it necessary to focus on building the capacity of the communities and the Red Cross organization to lessen the severity and impact of future outbreaks.
- Given the planned phase-out of MSF (all sections) from Angola in mid-2007, there will be operational space also in curative interventions in future cholera outbreaks, though not necessarily for the next year.
- The field assessments in the provinces may or may not corroborate these initial findings.

#### Immediate FACT plans:

- Dispatch 2 field assessment teams to cover at least 6 (of total 18) provinces in order of priority.
- To be agreed in/prior to meeting with the ARC:
  - The FACT team suggested criteria (highest incidence, increasing need, access, ARC local quality/capacity) for the selection of provinces to be visited cross-checked with the recommendation of the ARC.
  - Field assessment methodology and approach.

- First team – composed of health, watsan and an ARC representative – to be dispatched on Thursday (25 May). A second team with the same composition to be fielded as soon as the watsan and medical delegates have arrived in the country

**Constraints:** the FACT has indicated that the absence of the medical and watsan delegates (to form the second field team) is creating a bottle neck for the operation, and jeopardizing the agreed timeline for the action plan and recommendations.

#### **Communications – Advocacy and Public Information**

The FACT is actively involved in supporting the ARC in producing public information and media reports (including photos) [<click here to link directly to the related news stories>](#)

*For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:*

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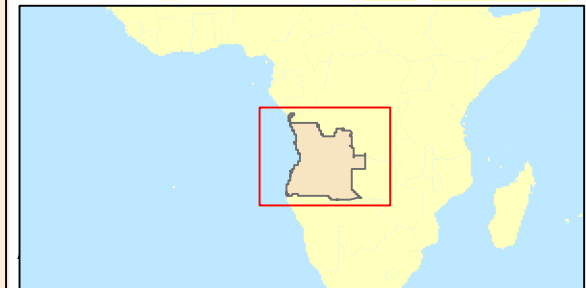
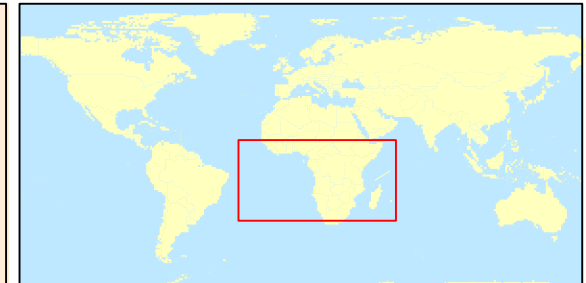
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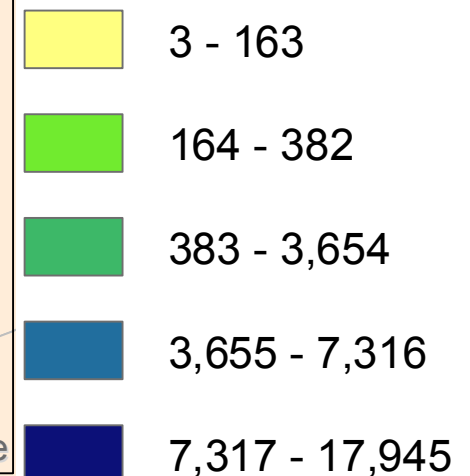
<sup>2</sup> Angola Red Cross- refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=18>



# Angola: Cholera



## Total cumulative cases



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, Federation