



## CHAD: CHOLERA

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*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 183 countries.*

### In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 15,000 (USD 12,384 or EUR 9,622) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for the Red Cross of Chad<sup>1</sup> to respond to the needs in this operation. This operation is expected to be implemented over 1 month, and will be completed by 31 July 2006. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's 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.

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

<sup>1</sup> Red Cross of Chad- <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=45>

## **Background and current situation**

Massakory is the chief-place of Hadjer-Lamis, a town of 630,000 inhabitants. It is situated between Kanem (MAO) and N'Djamena, exactly 164 Km away from the capital of Chad. Massakory is traditionally known as the entrance of cholera in Chad for its position at a crossroad near Lake Chad. Cholera often occurs in Chad during the rainy season as the Massakory populations are known to drink unsafe water directly from ponds.

The first case of cholera-like diarrhoea this year was reported on 7 June 2006, and the government officially confirmed the outbreak of the cholera epidemic on 13 June. The disease spread rapidly and on 15 June 31 cases and 11 deaths were registered, translating into a case fatality rate of 35%. This figure does not take into account other cases and suspicious deaths that have not been referred to the health centres of Hadjer-Lamis.

### **Possible evolution**

Presently, the epidemic is contained in the three villages where it first appeared. Nevertheless, the disease might spread rapidly in the region or even to N'Djamena– with its over one million inhabitants– given that Massakory is a big town with a cosmopolitan population in constant movement. The heavy rains are still anticipated, and together with the population movements this might escalate the situation. There is, thus, an urgent need to intervene.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

Immediately the epidemic was declared, volunteers of the Hadjer-Lamis regional committee of the Red Cross of Chad (RCC) mobilized and launched an on-foot sensitization campaign. The volunteers have been actively involved in attending to cholera patients in the centre established by the health authorities in Massakory for this occasion despite their limited number; the campaign is conducted by 25 first aid workers in Massakory. Only 63 trained first aid workers are available (3 in Guite and 60 in Baltram). A team from the Red Cross of Chad was sent into the field to assess the situation.

## **Needs**

### **Short-term needs**

In order to contain the epidemic, the ongoing sensitization campaign has to be pursued efficiently. Consequently, there is the need to purchase information, education and communication (IEC) materials such as leaflets and megaphones as well as protection materials. A door-to-door approach has to be used in order to obtain a real change in behaviours, especially in Guite where women do not have the right to go out of their homes; only female first aid workers will talk to the women in their homes. 100 volunteers will be needed, on the basis of 25 for each of the 4 targeted localities. The RCC will mainly work with local first aid workers, with an additional 40 coming from N'Djamena, half of whom will be females.

### **Medium-term needs**

There is the need to carry out environmental hygiene campaigns (sanitation campaign, destruction of vibro breeding places), chlorination of water points and the dissemination of simple messages on cleanliness, as cholera is also called the “dirty hands” disease.

### **Long-term needs**

There is also a need to consolidate the ARCHI 2010 approach; its implementation started 18 months ago in the Massakory local committee. This local committee has been upgraded to a regional committee and is currently being restructured.



## Plan of action

The Red Cross of Chad will carry out response activities for a period of one month as outlined below.

**Goal: Improve the health situation of the populations exposed to the cholera epidemic.**

**Objective 1: Sensitize the populations to signs and symptoms of cholera and encourage them to refer to the nearest health centres.**

**Objective 2: Promote individual and environmental hygiene in order to cut the epidemic transmission chain.**

**Objective 3: Teach the populations how to disinfect water, to use clean latrines, to avoid eating untreated vegetables and fruits as well as to avoid eating uncooked food.**

### Expected results:

- Red Cross volunteers have become:
  - community-based watchers and animate an early alert system;
  - disease prevention agents in their respective communities;
  - a communication channel between the community, the Red Cross and the authorities;
- 80% of the population knows the signs and symptoms of cholera and refer to the nearest health centre after the first alert;
- 80% of the population observe simple hygiene rules; to know how to disinfect water and to use latrines.

### Activities to be carried out:

- Retrain 100 volunteers on IEC ahead of a permanent campaign in their respective communities;
- Promote individual and environmental hygiene;
- Involve Red Cross volunteers in attending to patients in Cholera Treatment Centres (CTCs);
- Assess the project.

## Budget outline

Type	Amount (CHF)
<b>Beneficiary needs</b>	
Water and sanitation	325
Medical and first aid	2,245
Teaching materials	1,813
Other supplies	1,822
<b>Programme support</b>	
Transport and vehicles	1,828
<b>Personnel</b>	
National staff	4,825
Training	925
<b>Administrative and general services</b>	
Other general expenses	50
Communications	188
<b>Total (without PSR)</b>	<b>14,021</b>
PSR (6.5% of total)	980
<b>Grand total (with PSR)</b>	<b>15,001</b>

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