



## TANZANIA: MALARIA OUTBREAK IN KAGERA

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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 185 countries.*

### In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 42,500 (USD 34,553 or EUR 27,070) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation. This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will be completed by 18 October 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>

## **Background and current situation**

Kagera region is situated in the north-western part of Tanzania and is divided into eight administrative districts; Bukoba Urban, Bukoba Rural, Muleba, Karagwe, Ngara, Biharamulo, Chato, and Missenyi. The region has a total population of 2,146,919 with a growth rate of 2.9 per cent. There are 13 hospitals, 13 health centres and 202 dispensaries providing health care (government and private).

According to a report received from the Tanzania Red Cross National Society (TRCNS) on 10 July 2006, there has been a rise in the number of malaria cases resulting in increased mortality, especially among children aged under five years. The two most affected districts are Karagwe and Muleba in Kagera region, which have reported about 300 deaths of children aged under five since January 2006, excluding unreported cases that might have occurred at home. The number of deaths per month among children increased from 2,295 in February to 3,542 in May in Muleba District and from 3,014 to 3,944 in Karagwe District. It was not until June that the emergency situation became apparent, when the number of admitted patients with severe anemia increased from 89 to 170 raising the demand for blood transfusion in the Rubya and Nyakahanga hospitals in Karagwe and Muleba respectively.

The two hospitals have a combined bed capacity of 162 and have admitted over 420 patients, out of whom 227 were children aged under-five years. This has caused over-congestion as well as difficulty in providing quality care to all the admitted patients.

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

The TRCNS has reorganized its blood donation team to increase its collection in Kagera region so as to meet the increased demand for in for the Karagwe and Muleba district hospitals. Volunteer blood donor recruiters are mobilizing the community in early self-referral, destruction of vector breeding sites and on measures to prevent malaria. Volunteers from TRCNS branches have been mobilized to engage in the dissemination of preventive messages, demonstration of re-impregnation as well as distribution of insecticide-treated nets (ITNs).

The Ministry of Health (MoH) has reorganized its staff to support the provision of care in the two district hospitals as well as increased its supply of appropriate medications in the hospitals. The government has also appealed for support from other organizations such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the provision of effective and adequate medication. The manager of the National Malaria Control Programme has expressed satisfaction with the support provided to Muleba district and has asked the TRCNS to focus its intervention in Karagwe district.

In order to enable the Tanzania Red Cross National Society to effectively respond to immediate needs, the International Federation allocated CHF 42,500 from the DREF on 19 July 2006. With the DREF funding, the TRCNS plans to conduct a response operation in the most affected districts.

## **The needs**

To effectively provide assistance in this outbreak, the TRCNS has identified the following needs:

- Additional mattresses and tents for hospitals and health centres to establish temporary wards to accommodate the increased number of admitted patients;
- Insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) for households with children aged under five years in most affected area of Karagwe;
- Orientation of volunteers for community mobilization and education on malaria prevention, treatment of mosquito nets, household sprays and advocating for early treatment seeking behavior among those with malaria symptoms;
- Printing of information, education and communication (IEC) materials for community health education;
- Logistical support for the TRCNS headquarters team, regional delegation staff and volunteers to reach and work in all the affected areas of Karagwe district.

The TRCNS headquarters will work closely with the Karagwe district medical officer, in collaboration with the MoH and Social Welfare, through the National Malaria Control Programme. The implementation shall be done by the TRCNS field staff and volunteers coordinated by the NS's Kagera regional coordinator. The disaster and health departments of the TRCNS will coordinate and work with the respective departments at the regional delegation in Nairobi.

**Proposed action**

The Tanzania Red Cross National Society will implement this operation over a three-month period.

**Goal: To contribute to the control of malaria in Kagera region.**

**Objective 1: To support the capacity of health units to manage in-patient cases of malaria in Karagwe district.**

**Expected result: Reduced congestion of patients in the health units for improved health delivery.**

**Activity planned to achieve this objective:**

- Provide 50 mattresses and 200 blankets to two hospitals in Karagwe District.

**Objective 2: To contribute to the control of malaria in Karagwe district.**

**Expected result: Incidence of malaria in Karagwe district and surrounding districts is reduced as vulnerable groups are protected against malaria.**

**Activities planned to achieve this objective:**

- Procurement and transportation of 3,000 ITNs;
- Volunteer mobilization and orientation on malaria control skills;
- Beneficiary registration;
- Provision of 3,000 ITNs to 3,000 households;
- Printing and distribution of IEC materials;
- Awareness creation on malaria prevention among the community and early referral of suspected cases for treatment;
- Conducting in-depth assessment (as may be required).

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