



UGANDA: CHOLERA OUTBREAK

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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 35,847 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to enable the Uganda Red Cross Society¹ to respond to the needs in this operation. This operation is expected to be implemented over six months, and will be completed by the end of December 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>

¹ Uganda Red Cross Society - refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=176>

Background and current situation

An outbreak of a cholera epidemic, which began at the end of April 2006, has been reported in Uganda. The affected areas are Bundibugyo, Kibaale and Hoima districts in the western part of the country. A total of 98 cases with 33 deaths have been reported so far, translating to a case fatality rate of 34%. The number of infected people is increasing on a daily basis; some of whom are being hospitalized. The causative agent is *Vibrio cholerae inaba*.

In Bundibugyo, eight people have been admitted at Rwebisengo Health Centre and 10 have been reported dead; all from Budiba village. In Kibaale, the most affected areas are the Lake Albert landing sites of Ndaiga, Kabukanga and Kyaterekera in Mpeefu sub-county as well as Bwakikara in Bwakikara sub-county. Villages adversely affected include Kitebere, Kobushera, Kamina, Rwebigongoro, Ndaiga and Kabukanga. According to the health assistant in charge of Mpeefu sub-county, 13 deaths have been reported while more people are currently bed-ridden without any assistance.

According to the district director of health services for Hoima District, the most hit sub-counties are Kyangwali, Kabwooya and Buseruka. In Hoima alone, 10 deaths have been confirmed. Cholera patients are admitted at Buseruka, Butoole and Kigorobya health units in Buseruka, Kabwooya and Kigorobya sub-counties respectively. The worse hit areas are those where majority of residents lack toilet facilities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) branches have been attending coordination meetings. The URCS has water and sanitation (WatSan) as well as health officers in the affected areas. The officers have mobilized volunteers who are participating in home visits and referring suspected cases to health centres for appropriate treatment.

The URCS has been asked by the Ministry of Health (MoH) to assist in awareness creation, community mobilization and sensitization as well as to facilitate early detection and referral of cases.

The MoH is providing curative services and follow-up of cases, through the office of the district director of health services. The government is also treating and chlorinating water as well as dispensing oral rehydration salts (ORS) through the health facilities to the infected people.

In order to enable the Uganda Red Cross Society to effectively respond to immediate needs, the International Federation allocated CHF 35,847 from DREF to the national society on 9 June 2006. With the DREF funding, the URCS plans to conduct a response operation in two of the most affected districts (Bundibugyo and Hoima). The response strategy is outlined below.

Response strategy

Goal: To contribute towards the reduction of cholera cases among the affected population.

Objective: To create awareness among the target population of 26,931 households in Bundibugyo and Hoima districts on the signs and symptoms of cholera over a six month period, and promptly report cholera cases to relevant health authorities.

Expected results

- 100 URCS volunteers have been equipped with basic knowledge on cholera and its prevention.
- Volunteers have disseminated information to the community on cholera and its prevention.
- Community awareness on cholera case recognition and prevention has increased.
- Number of cholera cases has reduced by 60 per cent.

Proposed activities

- Early case detection and referral of cases to the health facilities.
- Community awareness and sensitization on cholera, what causes it, how it is transmitted and how to prevent its spread.
- Public health education and hygiene promotion.
- Advocacy for the provision of curative services by the MoH of the areas that lack this component.
- Supportive supervision of the volunteers.

Budget outline

Proposed activities	Amount in CHF
Training of 100 community-based volunteers	5,056.36
Printing of IEC materials	5,229.29
Door-to-door sensitization	885.71
Awareness creation on local FM radio	1,785.71
Integrated approach on cross border market days	1,142.86
Monitoring and supervision	2,560.14
Branch operation costs	1,785.71
PSR (6.5%)	2,330.79
Total	35,847.00

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