

DREF Bulletin 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

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: CHOLERA IN THE UVIRA AND FIZI TERRITORIES

No. MDRZR001
Update no. 1
22 March 2006

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

Period covered by this update: 17 February to 10 March 2006.

History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 49,000 was allocated from the Federation's DREF to respond to the needs of this operation and to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. For DREF Bulletin, refer to http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?06/MDRZR001.pdf.
- This operation is expected to be implemented for two months; a DREF Bulletin Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (30 June 2006).

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.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In DRC:** Matthieu Musepulu, Secretary General, Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kinshasa, Email: croixrougerdc@hotmail.com; Phone: +243.998.225.214 or +243.998.481.624
- **In DRC:** Zibi Zibi Constantin, Head of Federation delegation, Kinshasa, Email: constantin.zibizibi@ifrc.org; Phone+ 243.818 801.400
- **In Cameroon:** Daniel Sayi, Federation acting Head of Central Africa Sub-Regional Office, Yaoundé; Email; daniel.sayi@ifrc.org; Phone +237.221.74.37,+237.950.12.44; Fax +237.221.74.39
- **In Senegal:** Alasan Senghore, Federation Head of West and Central Africa Regional Delegation, Dakar; Email: alasan.senghore@ifrc.org; Phone +221.869.34.61; Fax +221.860.20.02
- **In Geneva:** Helene Ruud, Federation Regional Officer for Central Africa, Africa Dept; Email: helene.ruud@ifrc.org; Phone +41.22.730.49.14 ; Fax +41.22.733.03.95

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

The situation in some territories of the South Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is characterized by permanent insecurity linked to attacks by big armed groups, resulting in the displacement of civilian populations to safer zones. Furthermore, access to potable water is exacerbated by the incessant power shut-offs occurring in Uvira. Such power shut-offs at times last whole weeks thereby making it impossible for the water supply company to satisfy the populations' needs. People are consequently left with no other option than to get water from unsecured sources such as rivers, lakes and swamps. Moreover, Congolese refugees continue to return home and new repatriated persons are regularly registered in the primary centres that have been set up in the Uvira and Fizi territories. This increases their risk of cholera infection.

Cholera has been endemic in South Kivu since 1998. Although several localities like Bukavu were spared this year, the epidemic hit the Uvira and Fizi territories and has proved particularly serious this year in the Uvira and Fizi territories, with figures reaching 200 cases a week at some point. The epidemic is yet to be completely under control. During week 4 to 6, the number of cases increased to over 100 in Uvira alone. See table in [annex 1](#) for a summary of the epidemiological situation during the first nine weeks of 2006.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is involved in the fight against the epidemic in the affected localities since its very first appearance. Immediately after the official declaration of the epidemic on 6 January 2006, the Uvira and Fizi territorial committees of the [Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Congo](#)¹ deployed 100 volunteers (80 from Uvira and 20 from Baraka and surrounding localities) who were trained by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Medical Inspection on water chlorination during the 2005 cholera outbreak. After evaluating the situation, the national society requested for a DREF allocation from the Federation's Secretariat to enable it to respond effectively to the epidemic. A DREF allocation of CHF 49,000 was approved to initiate activities on the ground.

Through its territorial committees, the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is pursuing cholera preventive activities such as: supporting cholera treatment centres (CTC) of the province, carrying out disinfection and maintenance activities, sensitizing communities on hygiene rules as well as carrying out basic sanitation and water chlorination activities at water supply points in Uvira, Kiliba, Luberizi, Makobola, Nundu, Baraka, and in the Ubwari peninsula.

Red Cross volunteers, deployed since 18 February 2006, continue to carry out water chlorination activities at water points (49 new water chlorination points that have also been set up). They have also intensified sensitization and community mobilization on actions to combat cholera in both territories. A community-based sensitization and epidemiological surveillance mechanism based on the door-to-door approach has been developed in line with the Programme Initiative Congo (PIC) process. 15 new operational teams to combat cholera have been set up in the most affected neighborhoods and localities in the Uvira and Fizi territories. The teams have been coaching communities through dissemination of educative messages, organization of hygiene and sanitation activities as well as identification of basic sanitation, quality water and clean toilet needs. In order to improve the populations' hygiene awareness, the volunteers have held sensitization sessions in markets, schools, churches, water supply places and in other public places. The immediate result has been a reduction in the number of cases registered. In Uvira for example, the number of cases that stood at 105 in week 6 and 108 in week 7, dropped to 56 in week 8.

Coordination

The coordination of all actions on the field is ensured by the inter-agency coordination committees under the authority of Territory Administrators and central offices of health zones (BCZ)² medical doctors. All agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in the operation are represented in those committees.

¹ Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Congo - refer to <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=187>

² In French: Bureaux Centraux de Zones

Democratic Republic of Congo: Cholera in the Uvira and Fizi territories; DREF Bulletin no. MDRZR001; Update no. 1

On behalf of the provincial committee of the national society, the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo PIC coordinator ensures follow up of activities through supervision missions while the operational supervision of activities within the Uvira and Fizi territories is ensured by four coaches and various team leaders. As far as Movement action is concerned, working sessions conducted by the Federation's field delegate are held to assess the activities carried out in the field; and the information is shared at all levels. The Federation's field delegate participates in all the meetings of the inter-agency committee and in the technical meetings organized by the Provincial Health Inspection or by other agencies. The delegate also provides technical support for the planning, execution and supervision of activities as well as for the management of funds.

Goal: The health condition of the Uvira and Fizi populations is improved.

Objective: The vulnerability of the populations of Uvira and Fizi to cholera is reduced due to the action taken by the local committees of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Achievements

- The 15 operational teams from the 2005 outbreak have been revitalized, former team leaders have been retrained and missing material has been replaced.
- 15 new operational teams have been set up in the most affected neighbourhoods and localities, notably Songo, Kilibula, Mulongwe, Kakombe, Kibondwe, Rugenge, Luberizi and Sange (in Uvira), and Nundu, Baraka and Ubwari (in Fizi). 15 new team leaders have been instructed on how to respond in case of cholera outbreaks, water chlorination techniques and communication techniques.
- Water chlorination, sensitization, sanitation and protection materials have been provided to the teams whose duty consists of mobilizing communities around community-based cholera preventive activities.
- About 300 Red Cross volunteers in the 30 operational teams pursued door-to-door sensitization to promote basic hygiene rules and measures to combat cholera.
- Three radio announcements are made on a daily basis and sensitization sessions are held in public squares.
- New water chlorination points have been set up in line with the needs of the central offices of health zones (BCZ) as expressed during the last evaluation, i.e. a total of 49 new points (18 in Uvira, 2 in Sange, 3 in Kiliba, 3 in Luberizi, 12 in Baraka and 11 in Nundu).
- 150 Red Cross volunteers have chlorinated water from 64 water supply points in the Uvira and Fizi territories.
- An emergency stock of materials has been pre-positioned at the headquarters of the local committee of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- A joint Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo provincial committee/Provincial Health Inspection/Federation mission supervised the training of team leaders and officially launched the operation. Another supervision mission is currently going on.

Impact

Participation in the various coordination meetings facilitated the following:

- The populations have agreed to drink chlorinated water;
- Patients were brought to health centres early, thereby reducing the mortality rate of the outbreak;
- The credibility of the Red Cross and the confidence in volunteers has increased, as all existing partners in DRC now prefer to work with Red Cross volunteers. ICRC and TearFund are currently contributing to taking care and motivating the volunteers involved in chlorination activities;
- The number of cases has reduced considerably over the past weeks.

Constraints

- Poor management capacities of the two territorial committees of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Insufficient motivation of the volunteers involved in water chlorination.

[Click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)

Annex 1**Epidemiological situation in week 1 to 9 of 2006**

	Week 1		Week 2		Week 3		Week 4		Week 5		Week 6		Week 7		Week 8		Week 9		Total	
	Cs	D	Cs	D	Cs	D	Cs	D	Cs	D	Cs	D	Cs	D	Cs	D	Cs	D	Cs	D
Z.S Uvira	31	-	63	-	67	2	124	4	113	1	91	-	108	-	56	-	80	-	733	7
Z.S Ruzizi	12	-	13	-	15	-	14	-	10	-	14	-	12	2	-	-	-	-	90	2
Z.S Lemera	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	0
Z.S Nundu	18	-	22	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	6	-	9	-	-	-	86	0
Z.S Fizi	30	-	38	-	34	2	34	-	38	2	-	-	-	-	17	-	24	2	215	6
Z.S. Kadutu	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	5	-	5	-	4	-	12	-	10	-	40	0
Z.S. Katana	5	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	9	1	6	-	13	-	18	-	57	1
Z.S. Minova	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	13	-	5	1	8	-	2	-	32	1
Z.S Ibanda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	0
Z. Mubumbano	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0
Z.S. Kalehe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	0
Z. Miti-Muhesa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	0
Sub-total	96	0	138	0	134	4	178	4	176	3	147	1	145	3	126	0	134	2	1,274	17

Note: Cs = number of cases
D = number of deaths