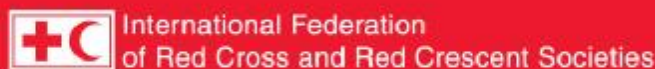


DREF operation



Republic of Congo: Cholera Outbreak

DREF operation n° MDRCG004
GLIDE n° EP-2008-000100-COG
9 July, 2008

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 69,310 (USD 67,951 or EUR 43,050) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the national society in delivering immediate assistance to some 400,000 beneficiaries representing the inhabitants of the Bouenza division. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: A cholera outbreak is currently hitting the Loudima district, in the Bouenza division which is located 375 km South-East of Brazzaville, the capital of the Republic of Congo. A first outbreak occurred in the same locality earlier this year claiming 527 cases and 25 deaths. The situation has been under control and there was no longer cause for alarm. However, another 78 new cases and

one death have been registered in Loudima since 5 June, 2008. In addition, 18 cases have been registered within the same period in the Mouindi village located some 50 km from Loudima. This brought the total of new cholera cases to 96 and one death as of 20 June, 2008. Seven new cases were registered as of 25 June, 2008 with two cases in Loudima and five in the Mouindi village, bringing the total number of cases to date to 103 in the affected localities.

Congolese Red Cross volunteers have been conducting an information, education and communication campaign to help prevent the spread of the epidemic. This DREF Bulletin highlights the plan of action of the Congolese Red Cross Society (CRCS) as their contribution to responding to the epidemic. The activities planned essentially aim at sensitizing the populations on to how to avoid cholera and how to handle cholera-affected people in order to stop the propagation of the disease.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by 3 October, 2008; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 3 January, 2009).

[<click here for the DREF budget, here for contact details>](#)



Congolese Red Cross volunteers are getting set for sensitization

The situation

A cholera outbreak is currently hitting the Loudima district, in the Bouenza division which is located 375 km South-East of Brazzaville, the capital of the Republic of Congo. The health history of the division shows episodes of bilharziasis and other current diseases like malaria, meningitis and scabies. The Loudima district, which is the epicentre of the epidemic, is located at about 60 km from the chief place of the Bouenza division, 20 km from the Nkayi council and about 20 km from Mont-Belo, an important road station linking the town of Dolisie to Mbinda, in the Niari division.

This is the second time that cholera outbreak is occurring in the same locality in half of 2008. Some 527 cases and 25 deaths were registered during the first outbreak that occurred in February 2008 in the Louetete and Loudima districts. The disease reached the Mouindi village on 5 June, 2008 affecting about 18 persons. Mouindi village is situated 50 km from Loudima. About 78 cases and one death have so far been registered in Loudima, bringing the total number of cases to 96 and one death from 5 to 20 June, 2008.

The epidemiological bulletin on the epidemic in the Bouenza division, published by the Disease control department on 25 June 2008 in Brazzaville, revealed that two new cases are being followed up at the Loudima hospital. On the same day, five new cases were registered in the Mouindi village, one of which is being treated at the local hospital and four at home. This brings the total number of cases in the region to 103 and one death. This information was confirmed on 2 July by the Congolese Red Cross Society.

Coordination and partnerships

A crisis committee headed by the Bouenza Divisional Officer has been set up for the smooth organization of the response. An important number of commissions have been set up within this committee. The various commissions are respectively in charge of epidemiological surveillance, taking care of affected persons, logistics, hygiene and sanitation and social mobilization. Members of each commission have been selected according to their respective mandates. The Congolese Red Cross Society (the Bouenza local branch) is represented in the hygiene and sanitation and social mobilization commissions.

A team was sent by the Congolese Government to assess the situation and take necessary actions. A Coordinating committee has been set up to conduct operations under the patronage of the Disease Control Department and the Bouenza Divisional Health Department. UN agencies, particularly WHO and UNICEF, have also been providing a multi-sector support to the Government action against cholera.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Congolese Red Cross volunteers have been conducting an information, education and communication campaign to help stop the propagation of the epidemic. They are also involved in home follow-up activities and epidemiological surveillance, especially in Loudima and Mouindi. The Red Cross has also been working with the Government to mobilize relief teams, take care of affected persons, sensitize the communities through door-to-door visits, and carry out hygiene and sanitation activities.

Mindful of the seriousness of the situation, the Secretariat general of the Congolese Red Cross has been maintaining permanent contact with the technical services of the Health Ministry and the Divisional Council of the Red Cross.

The needs

Cholera can spread rapidly if nothing is done to stop it. Selecting the beneficiaries in the affected locality for intervention will mean keeping some breeding places that will favour the appearance of new outbreaks. Therefore, this DREF operation is targeting the entire population of the Bouenza division, which is estimated at about 400,000 inhabitants. In order to provide a lasting response to the cholera epidemic in the affected locality, three types of need must be satisfied.

Short term needs

Given the prevailing situation in the field, there is an urgent need to organize a door-to-door sensitization campaign in the Bouenza division to guarantee a real change of behaviour towards hygiene. To that effect, sensitization materials such as leaflets, posters, etc. are needed.

Access to potable water is very poor in the Loudima and Mouindi areas; and it is even suspected that this might be the cause for recurrent cholera outbreaks in the Republic of Congo. Therefore, there is an urgent need to treat water with chlorine right at water points or sources. This could contribute to interrupting the vibrio transmission channel.

Moreover, sanitation activities need to be carried out in cholera treatment centres and in the homes of cholera-affected persons.

The Congolese Red Cross Society lacks know-how in the area of cholera response. Thus, there is the need to deploy a regional resource person (an RDRT member) to provide support within the framework of this operation, at least during its active phase.

Medium term needs

In the medium term, there will be the need to focus on environmental hygiene, i.e. conduct a sensitization campaign on sanitation, destroy the vibrio breeding places, disinfect water points and sources, and disseminate simple messages on cleanliness to avoid cholera.

Long term needs

In order to prepare the national society for possible future outbreaks, there will be the need to train Congolese Red Cross volunteers on the ARCHI 2010 approach, focussing on areas already affected by cholera like Loudima and Mouindi.

The proposed operation

Emergency health

Objective: To improve the health condition of the population affected by cholera.

Activities planned:

- Training 70 volunteers on IEC techniques to enable them to maintain a permanent sensitization campaign in their respective communities;
- Making the trained 70 volunteers to sensitize populations and carry out sanitation activities for two months, on the basis of three sessions per week;
- Promoting individual and body sanitation;
- Advocating before administrative authorities and partners for support.

How we work

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.

The International Federation's activities 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Congo Brazzaville: Christian Ndinga, President, Congolese Red Cross, Brazzaville; email: chrised_ndinga@yahoo.fr ,Tel:+242.662 03 11
- In Cameroon: Javier Medrano, Federation Regional Representative for Central Africa, Yaoundé, email: javier.medrano@ifrc.org, Phone: +237 22 21 74 37; +237 96 29 87 89, Fax: +237 22 21 74 39
- In Senegal: Alasan Senghore, Federation Head of West and Central Africa Zone Office, Dakar, Senegal, email: alasan.senghore@ifrc.org; Phone: +221 33 869 3641, Fax: +221 33 820 2534; Hans Ebbing, Health Coordinator, Phone: (221) 77 638 98 61, email: hans.ebbing@ifrc.org

[<DREF budget below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

BUDGET SUMMARY

TYPE	VALUE IN CHF	%
SUPPLIES FOR BENEFICIARIES		
Water & Sanitation	1,800	
Medical and First Aid	12,100	
Teaching Materials	4,480	
<u>TOTAL BENEFICIARIES NEEDS</u>	18,380	27%
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>		
Programme support (6,5% of total)	4,505	
<u>TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</u>		
Transport & Vehicles	10,000	
<u>PERSONNEL</u>		
NS Staff	19,670	
<u>WORKSHOP & TRAINING</u>		
Workshop & training	1,700	
<u>GENERAL EXPENSE</u>		
Travel	11,425	
Other General Expense	1,000	
Communications	2,200	
Other Admin Costs	430	
<u>TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS</u>	50,930	73%
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	69,310	-