

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Guinea-Bissau: Cholera

DREF operation n° MDRGW001  
GLIDE n° EP-2008-000148-GNB  
10 June, 2009

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 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.

**Summary: CHF 108,967 (USD 100,337 or EUR 71,930) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Red Cross Society of Guinea Bissau in delivering immediate assistance to some 90,000 beneficiaries.**

Responding to a cholera outbreak that occurred in early July, 2008, the Red Cross Society of Guinea Bissau worked in close collaboration with regional partners (UNICEF), with the financial support from the West & Central Africa Zone office (CHF 15,000) to mobilize 200 volunteers for community activities (hygiene education, water disinfection) in three regions (Bissau, Quinara and Tombali). The measures initially taken were not sufficient enough to stop the outbreak. A total of 2,992 cases and 63 deaths were reported at the end of August. Taking into account the rapid evolution of the cholera epidemic in nine regions due to lack of safe water, occurring during raining season and poor sanitation and hygiene practices of the population, the National Society increased its intervention in the affected regions and in the other regions that are not yet affected to avoid their contamination. Therefore, a series of sensitization activities were conducted. The Red Cross volunteers carried out door-to-door awareness on hygiene practices, disinfecting and treating water in houses.



Red Cross volunteers carrying out door-to-door sensitization in the communities

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## The situation

The first cholera case was declared on 5 May, 2008 in the southern part of the country, and confirmed by a medical analysis laboratory on 21 May, 2008. The national epidemiological surveillance technical committee was reactive and held regular coordination meetings three times a week. Volunteers have been mobilized to conduct sensitization activities on hygiene practices, health education, and water treatment mainly in three regions (Bissau, Quinara and Tombali). Cholera cases were also recorded in nine districts. The capital Bissau was the most affected with more than 1,600 cases. With the support of the Spanish Red Cross, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation, the National Society intensified its intervention in the main affected districts.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

As part of the campaign to roll back the cholera outbreak in Guinea Bissau, the National Society conducted training for 200 volunteers to implement its plan of action. The training focused on knowledge about cholera, its modes of contamination, prevention and protection measures. The trained volunteers together with the other 60 who had been trained during the initial operation carried out door-to-door sensitization, disinfection, active case identification, and oral re-hydration solutions (ORS) distribution in nine medical regions across the country. During door-to-door sensitization the Red Cross volunteers visited households to communicate cholera education and prevention messages.

The government was responsible for coordinating the operation, working in close partnership with various organizations like UNICEF, WHO, the Red Cross and MSF. As member of the crisis committee and auxiliary to government authorities the RCSGB participated in all committee meetings, and in the formulation and implementation of the plan of action to fight against the cholera epidemic. In coordination with and support from the Spanish Red Cross, ICRC and the International Federation, the National Society was very active in the main affected districts. Medical care and sanitation activities were conducted with the support of different actors from the health sector such as UNICEF, WHO, PLAN GB, and other UN agencies, national and international non-governmental organizations.

### Achievements against objectives

Emergency health	
<b>Objectives:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To strengthen personal and collective hygiene practices of the communities for food, water and environment.</li> <li>To provide oral rehydration salt (ORS) to the affected families.</li> </ul>	
Expected results	Activities planned
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well trained and motivated volunteers have reached the affected people.</li> <li>Hygiene and health education as well as sensitization have been useful in reducing the number of cases.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Train an additional 150 volunteers for cholera response in five regions (Oio, Cacheu, S. Domingos, Bolama and Bijagos).</li> <li>Start additional community activities through door-to-door strategy in the districts that are not yet covered (Oio, Cacheu, S. Domingos, Bolama and Bijagos).</li> <li>Continue community awareness activities with the 80 trained volunteers in Bissau, Quinara and Tombali (costs for 20 trained volunteers are supported by Spanish Red Cross).</li> <li>Acquire and distribute of 5,000 oral rehydration salt (ORS) to households during the awareness visits.</li> <li>Mobilize 10,000 ORS from Dakar to support activities until arrival of cholera kits.</li> </ul>

**Impact:** The operation had a considerable impact thanks to the 200 trained volunteers (40 in Oio, 40 in Cacheu, 30 in S. Domingos, 20 in Bolama, 20 in Bijagos, 30 in Biombo and 20 in Bissau). The trained volunteers carried out sensitization campaign in the affected districts. A total of 2,880 households were sensitized on cholera prevention measures in two neighbourhoods in Bissau.

About 2,563 households, i.e. 8,520 people were sensitized in 34 communities in the regions of Tombali and Quinara. Oral rehydration salt (ORS) were distributed to 2,494 households in the neighbourhood of Bissau. Broadcasting on radios and community mobilization have been used as sensitization channels. A total of 90 radio programmes were run on the national radio station and two community radios (Imberen and Papagaio) for 30 days. The table below shows the distribution of oral rehydration salt and the number of households sensitized by region.

Nº	Region	Households visited	People sensitized	ORSs distributed
1	Oio	2,311	73,215	1,000
2	Cacheu	3,973	33,413	1,000
3	S. Domingos	1,901	16,512	1,000
4	Biombo	2,427	32,580	1,000
5	Quinara	2,400	23,961	1,000
6	Tombali	1,606	9,838	1,000
7	Bolama	1,013	4,122	1,000
8	Bijagos	617	4,005	1,000
<b>9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>16,248</b>	<b>197,646</b>	<b>8,000</b>

All these efforts contributed to the reduction of cases and enhanced the target people knowledge about Red Cross and its mandate. The effective collaboration and partnership of institutions such as UNICEF, WHO, MSF, the Ministry of Health and the national and international NGOs contributed to the smooth implementation of the planned activities. However the lack of means of transportation, the lack of supervision of volunteers' activities, and the difficult access to rural areas and remote islands were some challenges to overcome.

### Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: To sensitize the populations on the treatment and conservation of water and food.	
Expected results	Activities planned
1. Promoting individual and body sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organise campaigns to clean gutters and other waste water pipes.</li> <li>Clean water points.</li> <li>Strengthen activities for disinfecting affected homes and neighbouring in Bissau for 30 days through mobilising 200 volunteers.</li> <li>Procure two cholera kits to be used by volunteers and in treatment centres.</li> </ul>

**Impact:** The Red Cross Society of Guinea Bissau volunteers distributed soap and chlorine provided by UNICEF in the neighbourhood of Bissau for ten days. A total of 1,156 households received soap and 3,149 received Water PUR. The volunteers also disinfected 71.9% of the houses of affected people, representing 2,012 houses. Hygiene and sanitation material from the cholera treatment centre of the Samoa Mendes National Hospital and the Regional Health Division of Quinara and Tombali Acquisition was procured and distributed. In the medical region of S. Domingos, with support from ICRC, 15 RCSGB volunteers were trained and mobilized for nine days to carry out sensitization activities and treatment of wells and latrines in the hardest hit area. About 256 wells and 216 latrines have been treated in 21 communities in S. Domingos.

### 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:**

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**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

MDRGW001 - Guinea Bissau - Cholera

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/8-2009/4
Budget Timeframe	2008/8-2008/11
Appeal	MDRGW001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**I. Consolidated Response to Appeal**

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>A. Budget</b>		108,254				108,254
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>		107,124				107,124
<b>C5. Other Income</b>		107,124				107,124
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)</b>		107,124				107,124
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>		107,124				107,124
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>		99%				99%

**II. Balance of Funds**

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0
<b>C. Income</b>		107,124				107,124
<b>E. Expenditure</b>		-107,124				-107,124
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>		0				0

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### III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>108,254</b>					<b>108,254</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Water & Sanitation	8,125						8,125	
Medical & First Aid	28,117		23,063			23,063	5,054	
Teaching Materials	1,163						1,163	
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>37,405</b>		<b>23,063</b>			<b>23,063</b>	<b>14,341</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,600		1,201			1,201	399	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>1,600</b>		<b>1,201</b>			<b>1,201</b>	<b>399</b>	
<b>Personnel</b>								
National Society Staff	51,338						51,338	
Consultants			1,740			1,740	-1,740	
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>51,338</b>		<b>1,740</b>			<b>1,740</b>	<b>49,598</b>	
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	2,113		61,098			61,098	-58,986	
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>2,113</b>		<b>61,098</b>			<b>61,098</b>	<b>-58,986</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	6,583		7,503			7,503	-920	
Office Costs	750						750	
Communications	1,000		434			434	566	
Financial Charges			4,149			4,149	-4,149	
Other General Expenses	430		1			1	429	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>8,763</b>		<b>12,088</b>			<b>12,088</b>	<b>-3,325</b>	
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	7,037		6,896			6,896	141	
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>7,037</b>		<b>6,896</b>			<b>6,896</b>	<b>141</b>	
<b>Services</b>								
Services & Recoveries			1,038			1,038	-1,038	
<b>Total Services</b>			<b>1,038</b>			<b>1,038</b>	<b>-1,038</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>108,254</b>		<b>107,124</b>			<b>107,124</b>	<b>1,130</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>1,130</b>			<b>1,130</b>		