

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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 والقمر الأحمر

TOGO: CHOLERA EPIDEMIC

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Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 37,000

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 181 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

This document is being issued based on the needs described below. A DREF allocation of CHF 37,000 has been released. The Federation does not anticipate further needs. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are needed. This operation will be reported on through the DREF update.

The Situation

The [Togolese Red Cross Society](#) is supporting an urgent collaborated response to a cholera epidemic in the capital city of Lomé. To date, 661 cases of cholera and 37 deaths have been reported in and around Lomé, with reports of the epidemic increasing. The national society actively participated in a crisis meeting on 21/22 January 2004 convened by WHO and the Ministry of Health (MoH). Following the meeting, the national society mobilised and trained a further 150 volunteers to respond to the epidemic.

Togolese Red Cross volunteers visited 1,248 households in the affected region in January and reached 20,763 people with information and education on prevention and management. They are assisting with mass awareness campaigns through radio and public institutions, such as schools. They have also assisted with active case surveillance referring cases to the clinics established by the MoH. There is fear of the epidemic escalating as the rains are increasing. The Togolese Red Cross is therefore requesting support for a most effective intervention.

The cause of the outbreak is not specific but the majority of cases being reported are from households close to polluted water sources by the city's lagoon. The national society participates in regular task force meetings with other agencies in Togo, including one to support the treatment of water sources.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The national society has been working very effectively with the MoH/WHO and other agencies to prevent and respond to sporadic outbreaks of cholera. In 2003, the city of Lomé was divided into zones to deal more effectively with the sanitation situation. The national society particularly focuses on cholera prevention activities. Their information and education activity has focused on:

- Environmental hygiene;
- Clean water;
- Oral re-hydration solution (ORS) preparation and use; and,
- Timely and appropriate referrals for treatment and support.

Coordination

The MoH and other relevant ministries are actively working to combat this epidemic. WHO is also actively involved in supporting the MoH. GTZ (German company) is working to treat water sources. Scout and CVD are working in partnership with the Togolese Red Cross in social mobilisation.

The Togolese Red Cross is supported by a number of national societies including Swiss Red Cross delegate present in Togo. The Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, French Red Cross, American Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross Societies also support the Togolese Red Cross.

The Federation sub-regional office in Lagos is offering technical support through the health delegate with further support from the Secretariat. The office also offers logistical and administration support. The Nigerian Red Cross Society has offered to donate tents to the Togolese Red Cross.

The proposed operation

Responding to the Togolese Red Cross request, the Federation has ordered one cholera kit. This contains items for use at house-hold level (ORS), and items for support to the MoH during this emergency (intravenous fluids and medications).

Objective:

The main objective of this intervention is to contribute to a reduction in the mortality and morbidity linked to the cholera epidemic in Lomé, Togo.

Activities planned:

- Continue cooperation with the Ministry of Health and other agencies involved.
- Reinforce the knowledge of the communities concerning prevention and management of cholera.
- Increase the national society capacity to mobilize its active volunteer network in response to this epidemic.
- Coordinate efficiently with the partners to ensure most effective impact.
- Update the knowledge of 1,600 Togolese Red Cross volunteers.
- Reproduce and distribute IEC materials (information, education and communication).
- Sensitize the community through house-to-house and mass media campaigns.
- Ensure active case surveillance and referral

Capacity of Togolese Red Cross

Within its three-year development plan, Togolese Red Cross has placed great emphasis on disease prevention and promotion of health. In accordance with [ARCHI 2010](#), it has trained volunteers in health and hygiene deployed in the communities. It has a clear coaching system which offers structured support and guidance. The team is managed by a health coordinator with support from senior management.

Outstanding needs

The Togolese Red Cross has received a DREF allocation for CHF 37,000. This will be used to procure materials to support and conduct their activities, including hygiene and medical items which are contained in the 001 cholera kit. The Federation seeks un-earmarked funds to repay this DREF allocation.

In addition to support for their activities, the funds will cover logistical support for transporting coaches and volunteers as well as resources, communication and the rapid production of IEC materials.

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For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's [Annual Appeal for Togo, no. 01.30/2004](#).

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