

# 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 والهلال الأحمر

## TOGO: CHOLERA EPIDEMIC IN THE MARITIME REGION/LOMÉ AREA

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Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 47,000

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 180 countries. For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

### In Brief

*This document is being issued based on the needs described below, reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 47,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) which has enabled the Togolese Red Cross to mount an immediate and effective response. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are needed.*

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(SPHERE Project\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. 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 Country's [Annual Appeal 01.30/2004](#)

### The Situation

The [Togolese Red Cross Society](#) is continuing to actively support a collaborated response to the cholera epidemic in Lomé, capital of Togo. Following the prompt response to the epidemic by the national society and others, the number of new cases has reduced significantly, with 62 new cases and one death reported in and around the capital throughout this reporting period. This demonstrates a significant decrease in the incidence of the epidemic and may be attributed to the prompt actions of the national society. However, the geographical areas affected have increased, leading to a need to expand the volunteer mobilization and sensitization efforts. To date a total of 722 cases of cholera and 38 deaths have been reported. The



cause of the outbreak is not specific, but the majority of cases continue to be reported from households close to polluted water sources by the city's lagoon.

The Togolese Red Cross' volunteers are actively involved in house to house sensitization in the affected region. Their messages focus on environmental hygiene, clean water, ORS preparation and timely use as well as appropriate referrals for treatment and support by the MoH (see details in table below). The national society received a cholera kit and other medical supplies from the Federation on 24 February 2004, which has made their intervention most effective. Awareness campaigns are done through the mass media to reach public institutions. Emergency cholera care centres supported by the national society.

#### **Cholera cases in affected areas**

	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Deaths</b>
<b>National total reported as at 22.02.04</b>	661	37
<b>5 Districts in Lomé-Commune</b>	-	-
23.02 – 29.02	15	1
30.02 – 08.03.04	46	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>38</b>

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

The Togolese Red Cross has been working very effectively with the MoH, WHO and other agencies to implement a collaborated cholera response. The main objectives of this intervention are to contribute to reduce the mortality and morbidity linked to the cholera epidemic in Lomé, Togo.

#### **Main activities have included:**

- **Reinforcing the knowledge of the communities affected and surrounding communities concerning prevention and management of cholera.**

This has been implemented through increasing the capacity of the national society to respond to the epidemic and through mobilization of its active volunteer network. On 27 February 2004, meetings were held with the presidents of local sections accompanied by local coaches. In Lomé and gulf commune a further 306 volunteers were mobilized. Volunteers are active in six sanitary districts. The volunteers received refresher training in:

- ✓ Volunteerism and the basic principles of the Red Cross.
- ✓ Cholera definition, causes, signs, management and prevention.
- ✓ Water chlorination or treatment.



*Transfer of cholera kit to the Togolese Red Cross*

The national society deployed the 306 volunteers to conduct house to house awareness regarding cholera prevention and management. The volunteers continue advising the population on hygiene measures and demonstrating how the use oral rehydration solution. Active case surveillance and referral is conducted throughout the house to house campaigns.

- **Community sensitisation through house to house volunteer mobilisation and mass media campaigns.**

The Togolese Red Cross produces and distributes Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials during the house to house campaigns. Community coaches have been actively involved in radio and TV campaigns in French and local languages. The national society organized a press conference with the health

director and plans to make a short television documentary that highlights the activities conducted by the volunteers.

**Coordination**

The MoH and other relevant ministries are actively working to combat the epidemic in coordination with the MoH and other agencies. The national society donated a number of packages to the Director of Epidemiology and the team that is managing the cholera epidemic nationally, while the Lomé municipality, in response to the national society's appeal, donated the CHF 2,937 for assistance to control the epidemic.

The Federation office in Lagos is offering technical support through the health delegate who visited the affected areas and supported the health teams and volunteers. Further support has been received from the Secretariat with visits by the regional officer and the head of Lagos regional office. Logistics and administration support is also provided through the Lagos regional office.

The Nigerian Red Cross provided twenty tents which were transferred in a coordinated response by the Federation office at Lagos and the ICRC Lagos office, demonstrating effective sub-regional collaboration and support.

**Capacity of the Togolese Red Cross**

The Togolese Red Cross is demonstrating a clear capacity to respond to this situation. While assisting in the reduction of new cases and management of the situation, the national society is also able to promote the principles of the Movement and increase its volunteer capacity according to [ARCHI 2010](#).

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