

# 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

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: CHOLERA EPIDEMIC

7 February 2005

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.

### In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 01/05) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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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 in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

### The Situation

Since the beginning of January 2005, cholera has struck South-Kivu, a province of 3.9 million in eastern DRC. As of 30 January, a total of 2,379 cases have been registered, with 23 deaths (1% mortality). The epidemic is especially active in Bukavu and Uvira: from 17-30 January, 90% of 582 reported cases were from this province. The current average in Bukavu is 10 new cases each day; most are coming from neighbouring villages.

There are three main causes for this outbreak:

- People are drinking water from rivers and lakes;
- They don't respect basic hygiene practices; nad,
- Very few use latrines.

With support from MSF, WHO, UNICEF and the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo<sup>1</sup>, the district medical inspectorate is attending to the reported cases. Four cholera treatment centres (CTC) have been established in Bukavu.

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

## Democratic Republic of the Congo: Cholera Outbreak; Information Bulletin no. 1/2005

### Red Cross Red Crescent Action

Red Cross volunteers have been carrying out the following activities in the affected localities:

- Support at the district medical inspection in the cholera training centres where sick people are taken care of;
- Chlorination of water in the water points;
- Disinfection of buildings and materials in contact with sick people;
- Inhumation of bodies;
- Sensitization of the people on hygiene rules

The Federation field delegate in Goma/Bukavu has been working closely with the national society to ensure consistent support to volunteer activities. With support from the Federation and logistical support from the ICRC, an evaluation mission of the situation is being carried out in Bukavu, Uvira and Fizi by the provincial committee of the South Kivu Red Cross. The Federation field delegate is organizing this with the members of the provincial committee.



### Immediate needs

The following items are urgently needed:

- Blankets
- Dehydration products (Oral Dehydration Salt).
- Pulveriser, boots, masks, overall, gloves etc.
- Chlorine
- Megaphone for sensitization activities
- Volunteers' per diem for sensitization activities

*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are 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 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 2005 Annual Appeal for the Democratic Republic of Congo no. 05AA035 – [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual05?05AA035.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05?05AA035.pdf).*

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