

EMERGENCY APPEAL



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

COTE D'IVOIRE: YELLOW FEVER IN ABIDJAN

Appeal no: 30/01
18 September, 2001

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 278,652
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES
TO ASSIST 3 MILLION¹ BENEFICIARIES FOR TWO WEEKS***

The Situation

The first case of the current yellow fever outbreak in Cote d'Ivoire was reported in March 2001 in the west of the country. The Minister of Health announced an epidemic in July, 2001; so far 143 suspected cases have been reported, 72 confirmed, and 16 people have died from the disease. In the business capital, Abidjan, there have been 27 suspected cases, five of which have been confirmed and proved fatal.

Yellow fever is an acute infectious disease caused by the yellow fever virus, which is transmitted by mosquitoes. About five to 20 percent of people infected with yellow fever will develop temporary liver damage that leads to jaundice and a yellowing of the eyes and skin (the reason this disease is called "yellow fever"). Statistically, about 20 percent of people who develop jaundice die. The virus also causes bleeding through the nose, eyes, skin, gums or gastrointestinal tract.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), many cities are now threatened with major epidemics as yellow fever is undergoing a major resurgence especially in the African region. Over the last 20 years the number of yellow fever epidemics has risen and more countries are reporting cases. Mosquito numbers and habitats are increasing. In both Africa and the Americas, there is a large susceptible, unvaccinated population. Changes in the world's environment, such as deforestation and urbanization, have increased contact with the mosquito/virus. Widespread international travel could play a role in spreading the disease. The priorities are vaccination of exposed populations, improved surveillance and epidemic preparedness. The strategies for yellow fever control are: control of *Aedes aegypti* (mosquitos) in urban centres, infant immunization, immunization campaigns to prevent epidemics, epidemic detection and emergency immunization when an epidemic is confirmed. Surveillance data allows for monitoring disease incidence.

The Needs

Immediate Needs w

CHF 50,000 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to start the planned assistance activities. The yellow fever epidemic prompted the establishment of a Crisis Committee on 5

¹ The beneficiary figure of 3 million persons includes those assisted through the planned social mobilization campaign.

September, composed of representatives of the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, MSF, Médecins du Monde, Association de la Médecine Préventive (AMP), European Union, Co-opération Français, Save the Children, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, CDC, the Red Cross Society of the Côte d'Ivoire, and other national NGOs. The Crisis Committee meets twice a week. A plan of action has been put forth for a mass social mobilization and vaccination campaign against yellow fever in which Red Cross volunteers will play a crucial part. The city of Abidjan will be the operational scope of a mass vaccination campaign starting this week targeting children over 9 months old and adults who have never been vaccinated or whose vaccination has expired. WHO has launched an appeal for three million doses of yellow fever vaccine to cover this campaign, and the Federation is donating CHF 200,000 towards the purchase of part of the total need.

The Red Cross Society of Cote d'Ivoire has started training volunteers in all ten of Abidjan's districts. In one district, Koumasi, where a yellow fever case was confirmed, the Ministry of Health undertook a three day vaccination campaign from 4-7 September using available vaccines and using Red Cross volunteers to help with social mobilization. Over 120,000 people were vaccinated.

The Red Cross Society of the Côte d'Ivoire has requested the Federation to donate CHF 50,000 for the social mobilization and environmental clean-up activities of this campaign. A further CHF 200,000 will be provided to WHO as a contribution to the purchase of vaccines.

The Proposed Operation

Objectives and Activities planned w

The overall objective of this appeal and operation is to contribute to the control and eventual elimination of the current outbreak of yellow fever in Abidjan. This will be achieved by a social mobilization campaign of the population before and during the vaccination operation, assistance with environmental cleanup, and follow-up surveillance and reporting.

Objective 1: Volunteer preparation: Activities will consist of 660 volunteers and team leaders receiving refresher training on yellow fever and the need for vaccination. They will be equipped with public awareness materials, megaphones, boots, and clothing identifying them as Red Cross workers.

Objective 2: Volunteer Mobilization: Activities will consist of two teams of thirty volunteers each working in one of Abidjan's eleven communes. Volunteers will check vaccination cards and records, advise on vaccination points and times, and assist at vaccination centres. They will be supported by announcements in the press, in posters, on radio and on TV. Volunteers will convene public meetings, inform community leaders, youth workers, and go door-to-door to inform the public. As cholera is also a serious problem in Abidjan, Red Cross workers will also address cholera prevention and general hygiene information. During the social mobilization campaign volunteers will also assist the Ministry of Health in its epidemiological survey by reporting any further cases of yellow fever and/or cholera.

Objective 3: Vector Control: Activities will consist of suitably-equipped volunteers assisting with the collection of domestic rubbish, cleaning up drainage channels and gutters, sweeping public places, and clearing old tires and other areas where stagnant water is likely to provide breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

Objective 4: Follow-Up: The Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross Society, supported by the International Federation, will take full part in the evolution of this campaign, assisting with data-collection, monitoring and reporting.

National Society Capacity Building w

An immediate benefit of this operation will be the training of 660 Red Cross volunteers in community mobilization, thus providing a core group of workers for similar future operations.

Co-ordination w

A Crisis Committee, meeting twice weekly, has been established. It is composed of representatives of the Ministry of Health, WHO, UNICEF, MSF, Médecins du Monde, Association de la Médecine Préventive (AMP), European

Union, Co-opération Français, Save the Children, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, CDC, Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross, and other national NGOs.

Monitoring and Evaluation w

As the vaccination campaign will last for ten days only, aiming to cover up to three million people, Red Cross workers will collect and collate information during their house-to-house and other community visits, and this information will contribute to the overall picture.

Capacity of the National Society w

The Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross has ten chapters in Abidjan, and a pool of volunteers has been called upon to assist with this social mobilization. The CRCS has been working on various relief operation in the past, and is currently engaged in providing assistance to Liberian refugees in the west of the country.

Present Capacity of the Federation w

The Federation's regional delegation for West Africa is located in Abidjan. Technical assistance is being provided by the regional health, information, reporting and finance departments, and by the Head of Regional Delegation.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

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All International Federation Assistance 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.

In line with the Minimum Reporting Standards, the first operations update on this appeal will be issued within 30-days of the launch and the second will be issued over the course of the operation; a final narrative and financial report will be issued no later than 90 days after the end of the operation.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support and these programmes are outlined on the Federation website.

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>

Jean Ayoub
Director
Disaster Management and Coordination

Didier J. Cherpitel
Secretary General

		ANNEX 1
<u>BUDGET SUMMARY</u>	APPEAL No. 30/2001	
Côte d'Ivoire - yellow fever in Abidjan		
TYPE	VALUE	
RELIEF NEEDS	IN CHF	
Vaccines: 295,000 doses	200'000	
Utensils & tools	7'000	
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS		207'000
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>		
Programme management	18'789	
Technical support	5'625	
Professional services	6'238	
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>	2'000	
<u>PERSONNEL</u>		
National staff	16'500	
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>		
Information expenses	1'500	
Administrative & general expenses	21'000	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS		71'652
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES		278'652
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)		
NET REQUEST		278'652