DREF 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

NIGERIA:AVIAN INFLUENZA

DREF Bulletin no. MDRNG001
24 February 2006

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 183 countries.

In Brief

CHF 100,000 (USD 77,790 OR EUR 64,331) HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF) TO ASSIST SOME BENEFICIARIES FOR TWO MONTHS.

UNEARMARKED FUNDS TO REPAY DREF ARE ENCOURAGED.

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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.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at http://www.ifrc.org

The situation

Bird flu had been suspected and officially declared on February 8 in Nigeria with identified cases of the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus H5N1 in poultry in the village of Jaji located in the Northern State Kaduna. The outbreak, which is the first of its kind in Africa, was confirmed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Laboratory for Avian Influenza in Padova (Italy).

Avian Influenza (AI) is a viral infection that primarily affects birds (chickens, ducks, geese, etc, both domestic and migratory species), but sometimes also other species such as pigs and tigers. On the 8 February 2006, the Nigerian Minister of Agriculture announced that all suspected birds nationwide would be killed and buried in order to

contain the outbreak and that the Federal government had set a the sum of 1.5 billion naira (USD 11.5 million) for compensation at a rate of 250 naira (USD 2) per bird killed.

The fear about having a geographical spread to other West African countries has led most neighbouring countries to take strenuous measures of ban on all poultry importations from Nigeria. Some reported cases of the same virus in the adjacent states of Kano and Plateau have increased this fear. The ability of the virus to cause rare but severe disease in humans has also been well documented. However, so far no human case has been reported yet cautious measures are being taken by the government to avoid human contamination.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action taken so far

A meeting was held in Lagos on February 13 with the Nigeria Red Cross, the Federation head of regional delegation for West and Central Africa and Partner National Society (PNS) representatives from the Swedish, British and American Red Cross Societies. The meeting was informed of actions already taken by the Nigeria Red Cross Society, which include the sharing of background information on AI, which has been provided by the health and care department of the Secretariat. The Nigeria Red Cross Society has since then sensitized some of its zonal and health officers on the subject. It was agreed that a Federation health delegate be urgently assigned to Nigeria to assist the NRCS in the implementation of the plan of action.

The needs

There is a great need to assist the Nigeria Red Cross Society in further assessing the situation especially with regards, to the risks passed to human health and to plan for an effective response. As cases are being reported sporadically, there is a need to coordinate the assessment in affected areas. With the already overwhelming needs in these affected states where chicken remain in Nigeria, like in other parts of Africa the main source of income and food, as in many of the Africa countries. The killing of all poultry may have serious food security implications for the affected population.

It is equally important to tackle the current H5N1 avian influenza epizootic and have a good chance to prevent the emergence of an influenza pandemic in the affected states. There should be an immediate technical and practical support of the international community to ensure that local community involvement in sharing the information, preparing the community to face such crisis which affects their livelihood, increase surveillance and mobilization for the eradication of the pandemic.

Plan of action

Objective: The Red Cross intervention has helped in eradicating the spread of the Bird Flu

Expected Results

- Trained volunteers have been deployed in affected communities to conduct community mobilization and sensitization at household level.
- The information materials have been distributed to farmers and the mass population have been well informed on the danger of the AI, its mode of contamination and how to avoid its spread.

Strategy

To ensure an effective and timely response with proper coordination between different actors, a health delegate is being deployed to the Federation Regional Office in Lagos to be roving up to Abuja to support the actions of the Nigeria Red Cross Society. This mission is to provide technical support to allow the Nigeria Red Cross society to carry out a rapid assessment and start up an efficient response to the AI outbreak in cooperation with Ministry of Health (MoH), WHO and MSF on the field. Also, to ensure that the Red Cross volunteers are mobilized and trained in community social mobilization and health education necessary to prevent human infection and to collaborate with others in controlling the outbreak.

Activities

Due to the situation at stake, Federation support to the Nigeria Red Cross Society will include the following activities in the next 6 weeks:

- Carry out a rapid assessment and work with the national society in developing a comprehensive Plan of Action for social mobilization, training of volunteers for effective health education and disease prevention, giving a timeframe, roles and responsibilities as well as resource needs;
- Pre-position 50 oseltamivirs (commercially known as Tamiflu) for the Red Cross volunteers that may be exposed to the virus;
- Together with the Nigeria Red Cross Society, exchange information with MoH, World Health Organizations (WHO), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and other country team members on the epidemiological situation;
- Assist liaison between Nigeria Red Cross Society, MoH, WHO, Centres of Disease Control(CD and others;
- Provide advice and support, based on his long-standing experience in working with volunteers and communities;
- Coordinate with other health and care delegates and officers in West and Central Africa aimed at working towards a regional strategy in responding to the AI outbreak.
- Keep the Federation regional delegation in Dakar and the Secretariat in Geneva well appraised of developments and activities in the field.

Capacity of the national society

The Nigerian Red Cross Society has well experienced zonal health officers with more than 24 health coordinators in different states. It is one of the strongest national society is in the region with a well established community-based health care programme, which comprises more than 300 mothers' clubs working with a pool of about 9,000 volunteers who are well experienced with sensitization and mobilization campaigns. The national society has zonal offices in each state and local branches in most communities.

Capacity of the Federation

The regional delegation has a team of health officers strategically placed in Yaoundé and Dakar, who are knowledgeable of the region. The regional office in Lagos will provide additional support to the Nigerian Red Cross Society in the recruitment of a health delegate for the next six weeks to work in collaboration with the health delegates and officers of the region.

Coordination

The regional delegation in Dakar is closely monitoring the situation and attending regional meeting on AI organized by OCHA. Contacts are underway with WHO and FAO in Nigeria for further collaboration in the field especially with the last visit of the HoRD in Lagos. This will be pursued by the Health delegate who will closely coordinate his/her work with the sub-regional health and care officers in Yaoundé and Sahel regions, were also coordinating closely coordinate with the Disaster Management (DM) team in Dakar and other delegations in the affected or neighbouring countries for the purposes of information sharing.

Budget outline

See below

Budget below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.

BIRD FLU IN NIGERIA				
Two months Budget				
Budget-CODE	**DESCRIPTION**	**UNITS**	**AMOUNT**	**TOTAL**
600	Health Delegate Salary	2	6,200	12,400
635	Health Delegate in-country costs (MSA &other Admin. Costs)	2	6,000	12,000
680	Regional Health Meeting	1	12,000	12,000
	Nigeria Red Cross Society activities	1	40,348	40,348
700	Travel cost for the Health delegate	1	6,000	6,000
740	Lagos Reg. Office Admin. Support costs	1	7,656	7,656
	Regional Del. Support costs	1	3,493	3,493
	Sub Total			**93,897**
599	PSR (6.5%)			6,103
	GRAND TOTAL			**100,000**