

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Nigeria: Measles

DREF operation n° MDRNG005
GLIDE n° FL-2007-000000-NGA
13 December, 2007

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 153'000 (USD 134,692 or EUR 91,665) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the national society in delivering immediate assistance to some thousands of beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: The Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS), through its health action teams, is intervening in the measles outbreak in Zaria Local Government Area in the northern part of Nigeria. The outbreak has claimed the lives of about 200 children in the past few days. To complement the efforts of the government in preventing the disease from spreading other areas, the Nigerian Red Cross Society is planning to train and retrain its

team of health volunteers in the mobilization of the communities for immunization and in carrying out health education among the community people with the aim of reducing child mortality and morbidity.

This operation is expected to be implemented over two months, and will therefore be completed by 11 February, 2008; a Final Report will be made available by 11 May 2008 (three months after the end of the operation).

[<click here for contact details,](#)
[or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)



Map of Nigeria

The situation

The northern part of Nigeria has been experiencing different types of epidemics in the last few years. The northern part is endemic to waterborne diseases like diarrhoea and vomiting, measles and polio. In the past three weeks two northern states of the country (Sokoto and Kaduna) have reported outbreaks of measles. The latest of the two outbreaks was in the northern state of the country namely in Zaria city, Kaduna. The first case of measles in Kaduna state was reported two weeks ago in the following wards in Zaria: Jushi,

Kusfa, Limanci, Kaura and Unguwar Fatika. Due to the poor hygiene and sanitation conditions as well as the non acceptance of routine immunization, the situation has exacerbated.

Hence, in the last few days, it was reported that there have been fresh outbreaks in new local government areas in Kaduna State including Sabon, Gari, Hunkuyi, Soba, Makarfi, Giwa, and Kubau.

There has been steady increase in death toll from 50 deaths five days ago to 200 as of 9 December, 2007. Hundreds of children are presently on admission in government and private hospitals in the state.

Coordination and partnerships

With support from the Federation's West Coast regional office, the NRCS will be working in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Kaduna State. The Ministry of Health has been providing the vaccines against measles while the NRCS is assigned the responsibility of mobilizing the community people for the immunization exercise.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The NRCS has deployed the Kaduna State Branch health action team to the affected communities to carry out health education on personal and environmental hygiene. They are encouraging parents to take their children for routine immunization. In addition, the health action team is helping on early case detection and referrals to state hospitals.

Advocacy visits have been made to local government and Ministry of Health to expand immunization and collaborate in the social mobilization for the immunization. The NRCS action started in November through activation of hygiene promoters and volunteers in Sokoto State where the first outbreak was reported and killed up to 60 children. Through volunteers' mobilisation, the NRCS was able to quickly respond to the first outbreak and this was rapidly curtailed. Because of limited funding and difficulty in mobility between the communities (communities are far apart and far away from the clinics) NRCS is facing a lot of challenges and is therefore requesting the support of the Federation, before the outbreak gets out of hand and spreads even to other states.

The International Federation, through its delegation in Lagos, Nigeria, continues to work closely with the national society by supporting its staff and volunteers in all activities of the Red Cross by ensuring that management as well as operational issues are directed to and implemented within the principles and core values of the Red Cross Movement; reaching the needs of the most vulnerable. The West Coast regional health officer and the regional planning and reporting officer have been providing technical advice and support as well as encouraging the Kaduna State Branch community people to identify the health problems. The replication of training and empowerment of communities by the National Society staff and volunteers are ongoing though health hazards and epidemics are still considered as a very huge challenge for the Nigerian national society as some communities still find it difficult to forestall the threats posed by the factors that can lead to disease outbreak.

The needs

Beneficiary selection

The intended beneficiaries of this operation are children below the age of five years, and those whose parents are being mobilized to have their children vaccinated against the measles epidemic. Communities-at-large as well as Red Cross volunteers and staff shall indirectly benefit from the operation through health education and training in the prevention of measles. Red Cross volunteers from the local and state branches are being selected for the operation because of their knowledge of the culture and tradition of the local community. This will enable them to effectively penetrate the communities during mobilization exercises as most of the people in these communities are illiterate; hence the need to communicate with them in local languages.

The proposed operation

Emergency health

Objective: To complement government efforts in the next 45 days in prevention and control of the disease by reducing the morbidity and mortality from measles and other epidemics in the most affected communities through campaigns and programmes.

Activities planned:

- Participate actively at coordination meetings at the national level (task force) and at the district health task force meetings in Kaduna State to obtain the relevant statistics;
- Train 500 mothers' club members, Health Action team members and volunteers;
- The regional health officer will give regular technical advice to the Health Action team and assist in the training sessions;
- Carry out social mobilization activities before and during the vaccination exercise to ensure compliance;
- Carry out community mobilization and house-to-house campaign on preventive measures for measles as well as produce and distribute IEC material concerning Measles transmission and preventive measures.

Expected Outcomes:

- All Red Cross activities are implemented in a coordinated way thus avoiding duplication of services with other actors. Red Cross experience is also shared with others at coordination meetings and during surveillance, reporting, response and advocacy activities at national and district levels;
- 500 well trained and motivated volunteers have been able to reach the most affected people and have referred any cases to the nearest health clinics;
- The regional health officer from the West Coast office has assisted in strengthening the capacity of the health team of the NRCS by providing technical support and advice;
- All children below the age of five years are vaccinated against the measles virus;
- The knowledge of the communities on the spread of the virus has improved;
- The public has come to know more about the role of the Red Cross Movement;
- Significant reduction (about 75%) in the morbidity and mortality of measles affected children.

How we work

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.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Nigeria:** Abiodun Orebiyi, Secretary General, Nigerian Red Cross Society, Abuja; phone: +234 8023121336; email: nrcs@nigerianredcross.org
- **In Nigeria:** Stephen Omollo, Head of Federation West Coast Regional Office, Lagos; phone: +234 12. 695. 228; Fax: +234. 12. 695.229; email: Stephen.omollo@ifrc.org
- **In Dakar:** Alasan Senghore, Head of Zone, West and Central Africa Office, Dakar; phone: +221 33 869 36 40; fax: +221 33 820 25 34; email: alasan.senghore@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Niels Scott, Federation Operations Coordinator (Africa); email: niels.scott@ifrc.org; telephone +41.22.730.4527; fax + 41.22.733.0395

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