

DREF bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

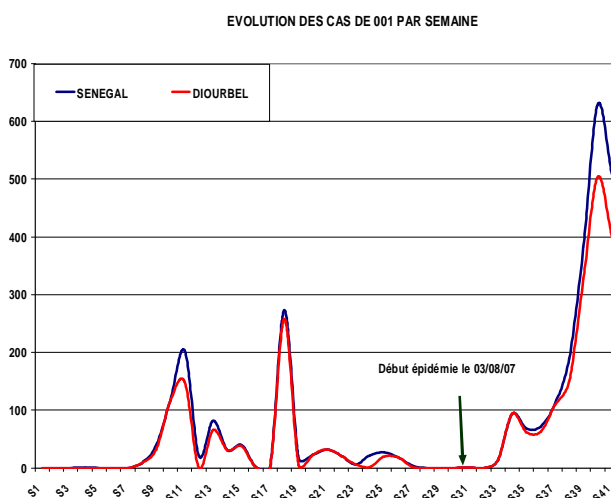
Senegal: Cholera

DREF Operation no. MDRSN001;
GLIDE no. EP-2007-000187-SEN;
26 October 2007

The International Federation's DREF is a pool of un-earmarked money to ensure that immediate funding is available in the event of an emergency. It is a flexible tool that can be used in the case of a sudden onset disaster, when the rapidity of the response is vital to saving lives, or in the case of a slow onset disaster, such as drought or food insecurity. Funds are also made available for smaller-scale emergency operations, for forgotten disasters and for disaster response preparedness activities where Emergency Appeals are either not appropriate or there is limited donor interest.

CHF 40,000 (USD 34,196 or EUR 23,975) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the national society in delivering immediate assistance to the affected population. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Cholera is an endemic illness in Senegal, hitting the population particularly hard during the rainy season. From 3 August 2007 to 14 October 2007, 2,144 cholera cases were registered with 11 deaths, a lethality rate of 0.51%. The first case of the current outbreak was officially declared by the Ministry of Health in August 3, 2007 in the district of Touba, Diourbel Region. Following a request from the Senegalese Red Cross Society (SRCS), the CHF 40,000 allocated from the Federation's DREF will support their efforts to respond. The SRCS, as an auxiliary to the government health authorities, is assisting the Ministry of Health (MoH) to control the epidemic.



	TOTAL	Percent		RATE
Dakar	62	2.9%	3	4.84%
Diourbel	1789	83.4%	5	0.28%
Fatick	23	1.1%	2	8.70%
Kaolack	14	0.7%	0	0.00%
Louga	177	8.3%	1	0.56%
Saint Louis	63	2.9%	0	0.00%
Thiès	16	0.7%	0	0.00%
Total	2144	100.0%	11	0.51%

Source: Division de la surveillance épidémiologique, Ministry of Health and Prevention.

The Diourbel and Louga Regions contain nearly 92% of the total caseload, with 83.4% and 8.3% respectively (see graph above). To respond more effectively to the threat, the government set-up a national committee for diarrhoeal diseases, reinforced by the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) project. A national committee for epidemiological surveillance within the Ministry of Health and Medical Prevention is also responsible for coordinating efforts to combat the disease.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Following a request from the Senegalese Red Cross Society (SRCS), CHF 40,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support their efforts to respond. The SRCS, as an auxiliary to the government health authorities, is assisting the Ministry of Health (MoH) to control the epidemic. The National Society was supported by its partner Colgate Palmolive, a company specialized in hygiene and sanitation products, through material and financial assistance. This longstanding collaboration began in 2004 during the countrywide cholera outbreak, and the Senegalese Red Cross has been working with Colgate Palmolive in this fight ever since. As the epidemic becomes more serious and threatens to spread to others regions, additional financial support is needed.

The Senegalese Red Cross, in collaboration with the MoH, is providing materials and mobilized 100 volunteers in the Diourbel and Louga regions to carry door-to-door activities involving sensitization and demonstration of correct hand washing, and visits to affected families with hygiene products and sensitization materials.

Coordination

The MoH is working with all stakeholders to set up a plan of action which advocates on timely support for resources mobilization. Coordination is ensured by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and its partners. WHO and UNICEF are providing ORS and medical drugs to health centres. The MoH is organizing diffusion of messages through radios and TV.

Plan of action

Objective: To sensitize and prevent cholera at the community level of the five most affected or at-risk regions (Dakar, Diourbel, Fatick, Louga and Saint Louis).

Activities planned:

- The SRCS will take advantage of its community-based branch volunteer network to organize the delivery of key messages and IEC/BCC materials.
- They SRCS will advocate with community leaders on the precautions to be taken at both household and community levels.
- Activities will target schools, market places, water distribution points and hospitals.
- The general public will be sensitized through demonstrations on correct hand washing, cleaning of latrines, water chlorination and washing of vegetables.
- Volunteers will be involved in early case identification during household visits and refer persons with symptoms to the nearest health centre.
- Oral rehydration salts (ORS) will be provided to persons with mild symptoms of watery diarrhoea.

- Activities will not only focus on the main outbreak areas, but prevention activities will also be carried out in health centres and along traffic routes where risks for transmission are very high.
- Some 240 volunteers will be trained on health education and hygiene promotion.
- Provision of hygiene kits to families.

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

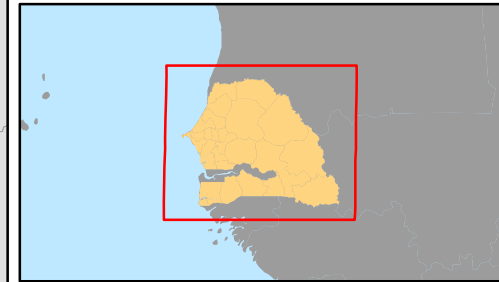
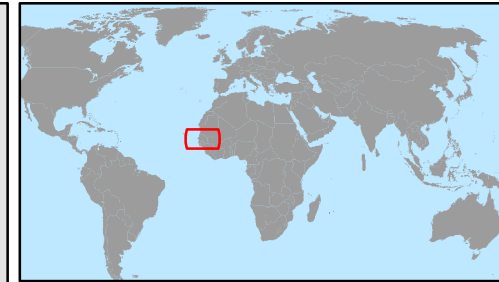
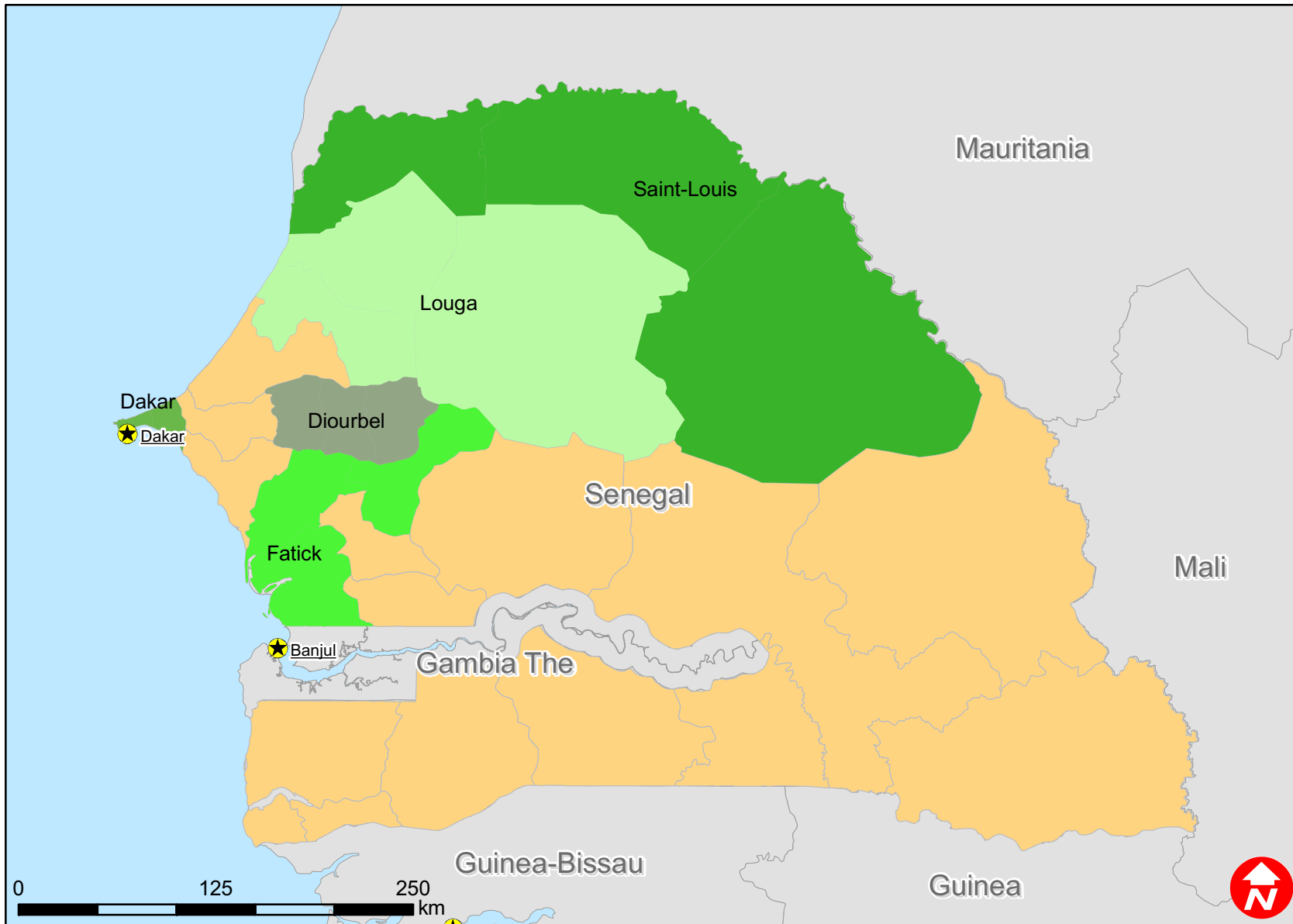
For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Senegal: Senegalese Red Cross, Secretary General - Mr Adama KAMARA, Telephone : (221) 33 823 39 92, Fax : (221) 33 822 53 69 (email : crsnational@sentoo.sn)
- Federation (West and Central Africa Zone- Dakar): Alasan SENGHORE, Head of Zone, Telephone: (22) 33 869 36 40 , Fax: 221 33 869 20 02, Email: alasan.senghore@ifrc.org
- In Geneva: Dr Jari Vainio Senior Health Officer - Public Health in Emergencies Unit, Telephone: +41-22-730 4531 (direct), +41-22-730 4222, Mobile: +41-79-217 3309, Email: jari.vainio@ifrc.org

[<Map below; click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)



Senegal: Cholera



★ Capitals

Affected regions

- Dakar
- Diourbel
- Fatick
- Louga
- Saint-Louis