

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Benin: Cholera

DREF operation n° MDRBJ003
GLIDE n° EP-2008-000149-BEN
2 September, 2008

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 45,738 (USD 41,170 or EUR 28,392) is requested from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Benin Red Cross (BRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 50,000 beneficiaries. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: according to the epidemiological surveillance department of the Ministry of Health (MoH), as of 29 August 2008 over 350 cases have been recorded in eastern parts of the city of Akpakpa. No deaths have been reported so far. The Red Cross of Benin has deployed its team of volunteers to Enagnon, Dedokpo and Segbeya communities in Cotonou and Porto Novo, the capital city, to provide humanitarian assistance such as first aid and hygiene education to the families and those affected. Further cases are expected to be recorded in the coming days primarily because of the ongoing heavy rains. The National Society and its volunteers will be providing assistance by furnishing cholera kits, and carrying out education and sensitization activities in the communities. The action is aimed at reducing the suffering those affected, their families and the communities at large.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 2 months, and will therefore be completed by October, 2008; a Final Report will be made available by January 2009 (three months after the end of the operation).

The situation

Waterborne diseases are prevalent in Benin due to overcrowded living conditions in major cities, particularly the capital of Porto Novo and the major city of Cotonou. Since 24 July 2008, there have been reported cases of cholera outbreak in Cotonou, the economic capital of Benin. According to the epidemiological surveillance department of the Ministry of Health (MoH), over 350 cases have been recorded in eastern parts of the city of Akpakpa. No deaths have been reported so far, and while cases are reportedly decreasing at the moment they are expected to rise again due to the ongoing heavy rains in the country. The wells that serve as a source of drinking water to the communities are flooded and contaminated with eroded rubbish and uncollected sewage, thereby making the inhabitants more vulnerable to epidemics.

Cholera is commonly linked to lack of good hygiene and sanitation facilities as well as a lack of potable water sources. The affected areas are predominantly inhabited by poorer people who have limited access to latrine facilities. There is considerable concern that the cholera outbreak will increase unless urgent action is taken by the Red Cross Society of Benin, the Government, and partner agencies. On 18 August 2008, the Government of Benin issued a press release confirming Cholera cases in Cotonou (Vibro Cholera) with the main affected areas situated in the east and center of the city.

Coordination and partnerships

With support from the Federation's West Coast regional office, the Red Cross Society of Benin will be working in collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Family Affairs to reduce a further deterioration of the outbreak. The Red Cross of Benin has been attending MoH coordination meetings.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

With the increase in the number of reported cases, the Red Cross of Benin has temporarily given its “Child Protection Project” centre located in one of the affected area to the MoH to serve as another treatment centre. The local Red Cross branch has mobilized its team of volunteers to carry out house-to-house sensitization activities on good hygiene practices, symptoms and steps to take if a case is detected. Early referral activities are also ongoing.

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 and ensuring that management as well as operational issues are directed and implemented within the principles and core values of the Red Cross Movement to reach the needs of the most vulnerable.

The needs

Beneficiary selection: the at-risk population is comprised of 50,000 people in the most affected areas. The communities at large as well as Red Cross volunteers and staff shall benefit from the operation through health education and training in the prevention of epidemics. Red Cross volunteers from 2 local branches are being selected for the operation because of their knowledge of the culture and tradition of the community people. This will enable them to effectively penetrate the community during the exercise.

The needs of the affected people are basic hygiene promotion and health education as well as water purification tablets in the communities. The national society is also planning to carry out sensitization campaigns in the affected communities.

The proposed operation

Hygiene promotion

Objective: the Red Cross of Benin will complement the Government’s efforts in the prevention and control of the disease by reducing the morbidity and avoiding mortality from the cholera, such as watery diarrhoea in the most affected communities of Cotonou.

Activities planned:

1. Participate actively at coordination meetings at the national level (task force) and in Cotonou municipality in order to obtain the relevant statistics;
2. Train 100 newly recruited volunteers and retrain 100 volunteers in Cotonou as well as coaches to be deployed to support the activities planned;
3. Acquire and distribute volunteer cholera kits to volunteers;
4. In collaboration with the MoH and sanitation service, WHO, UNICEF, MSF and other actors in the cholera control efforts to engage in community cholera activities such as:
 - a. looking for suspect cases and reporting them to health authorities (surveillance);
 - b. referring and/or transporting sick persons to or from a health facility (referrals);
 - c. Setting up of 1 emergency point in the communities for ORS treatment (treatment);
 - d. Sensitizing communities on refuse disposal (education);
 - e. explaining how households must handle or disinfect beddings, clothes and other materials and distributing disinfectants to households (education);
 - f. explaining the signs of the disease and how it is spread in public areas such as markets, churches, mosques, schools, special public gatherings etc. (education).
5. Deploy a regional health resource person from West Coast regional office to support the BRCS in the management of the epidemic;
6. Provide the volunteers and teams with welfare, logistics support and protective materials as detailed in the budget attached;
7. Promote and respect the fundamental principles of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.

Expected outcomes:

1. 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 the national and district levels;

2. 200 well trained and motivated volunteers have been able to reach the most affected people and have provided life saving support to those falling sick from the epidemic;
3. 2 volunteers cholera kits and other disaster response materials supplied to the volunteers;
4. Hygiene and health education, early case detection and referral as well as sensitizations and the setting up of an emergency outlet ("Child Protection Project" centre) has been useful in reducing the number of victims;
5. The regional resource person from the West Coast regional office will have increased the capacity of the Red Cross of Benin and the delegation by providing technical support and advice;
6. Volunteers have been provided with welfare, insurance, protective materials and logistics;
7. The public has come to know more about the role of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.

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:

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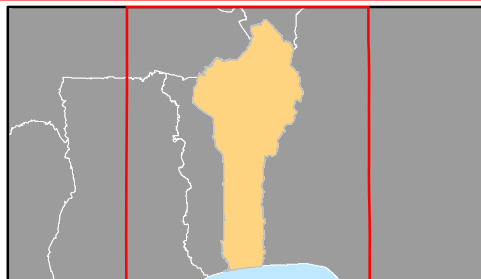
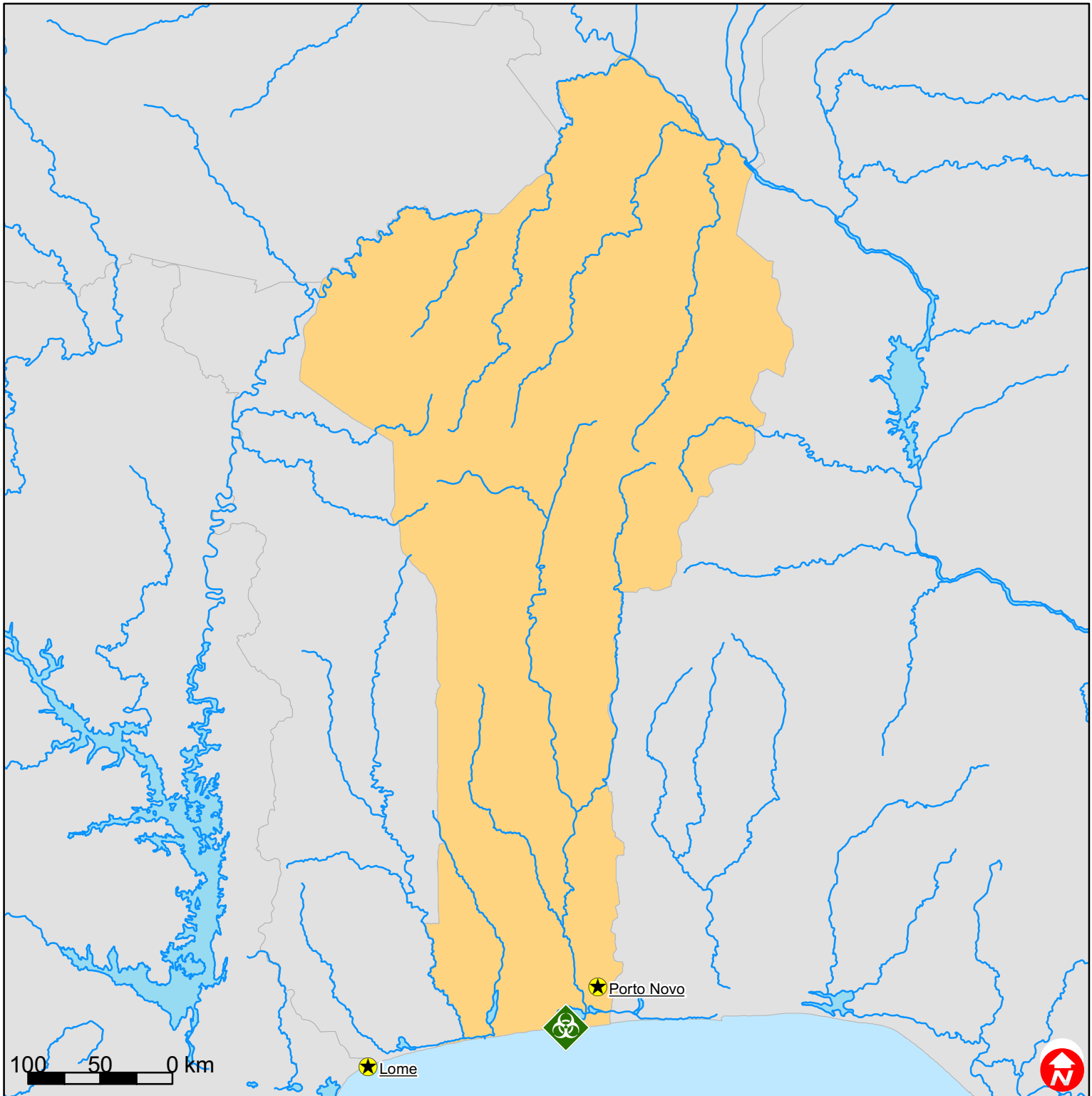
[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

BUDGET SUMMARY

TYPE	VALUE IN CHF
BENEFICIARIES NEEDS	
Sub total medical and first aid	13,000
Sub total teaching and sensitisation materials	3,760
Subtotal other supplies for beneficiaries	280
<u>TOTAL BENEFICIARIES NEEDS</u>	17,040
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	
Programme support (7% of total)	2,973
WEST COAST OFFICE ADMIN COSTS	3,000
Subtotal Transport and Maintenance	1,900
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	
Subtotal Personnel	18,400
Subtotal Training	1,075
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>	
Subtotal other general expenses	150
Subtotal Communications	1,200
<u>TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS</u>	<u>28,698</u>
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	45,738



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Cholera outbreak in Cotonou



Capitals