

DREF operation update



Republic of Congo: Cholera Outbreak

DREF operation n° MDRCG004
GLIDE n° EP-2008-000100-COG
Update n° 2
16 October, 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.

Period covered by this update:
1 September to 9 October 2008.

Summary: CHF 69,310 was initially allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 9 July 2008 to support the Congolese Red Cross (CRC) in delivering assistance to some 400,000 beneficiaries. (See [DREF Operation published on 9 July 2008](#)). The situation in the field deteriorated as the epidemic expanded to new localities, including Brazzaville, the capital of the country. Thus, an additional CHF 57,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 1 September 2008 to assist 460,000 beneficiaries in Brazzaville and other newly affected localities. (See [DREF Operation Update No 1 published on 1 September 2008](#)). The total amount allocated from the Federation's DREF to support this operation is therefore CHF 126,310; and the total number of beneficiaries is 860,000 persons in the localities affected by the epidemics, i.e. Loudima, Mouindi and Brazzaville. This DREF Operation highlights what has been achieved so far in those localities within the framework of this operation.



This Congolese Red Cross volunteer explains to these children the need to wash their containers prior to filling them with drinking water International Federation/Yvette MVE

The operation is expected to be implemented in 5 months, and completed by 21 December, 2008. In line with Federation reporting standards, the final report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 21 March, 2009).

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The situation

Thanks to Red Cross intervention since the outbreak in July 2008, no new cholera case has been registered in Loudima and Mouindi, as well as in Brazzaville. However, a joint Congolese Red Cross/Federation study in Brazzaville revealed that the lack of an effective waste collection and disposal system creates a risk of further outbreak. This was highlighted to the Government as a

major challenge within the framework of the fight against cholera. Nevertheless, the activities planned in the DREF Operation have been going on smoothly as outlined below.

Coordination and partnerships

Both the Government and CRC have been joining efforts to combat cholera in Brazzaville and Bouenza. In fact, the Department for Disease Control (DDC) of the Ministry of Health set up surveillance committees in affected localities. In addition, DDC and ICRC contributed in sharing their experience during the training of Congolese Red Cross volunteers and opinion leaders on the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) process by the Federation's Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) deployed in Congo for the purpose of the cholera operation.

A good number of Non-Governmental organizations (NGO) and other interested partners such as ICRC, WHO, UNICEF and the Mougali local council participated in the official launching ceremony for a general clean-up campaign in the affected localities.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Emergency Health

Objective: To improve the health condition of the population affected by cholera.

Activities planned:

In Loudima and Mouindi:

- Training 70 volunteers on Information Education Communication (IEC) techniques to enable them maintaining a permanent sensitisation campaign in their respective communities
- Organising the trained 70 volunteers to carry out sanitation activities for two months, on the basis of three sessions per week
- Promoting individual sanitation and hygiene
- Advocating with administrative authorities and partners for support

In Brazzaville:

- Training 50 Congolese Red Cross volunteers on the PHAST process
- Encouraging the communities concerned to get themselves involved in ongoing sanitation activities in their respective localities
- Organising campaigns to clean gutters and other waste water pipes
- Building 50 Sanplat latrines in the areas most exposed to faecal-borne diseases
- Cleaning water points
- Advocating with the Government for the collection and disposal of garbage in the areas most exposed to cholera.

Progress and impact:

In Loudima and Mouindi:

After the PHAST training that took place last month, the trained volunteers went to the field to sensitise the population on how to prevent cholera outbreaks. During this reporting period, they conducted 76 sensitisation sessions, reaching 2,432 households and sensitising 12,127 persons. They also seized the opportunity to disinfect 822 latrines, build 341 new ones, train the population on how to use latrines properly, maintain safe drinking water, chlorinating water, and digging 492 holes for garbage disposal in all affected localities.

Thanks to the Red Cross intervention, the SPHERE minimum standards have been reached in the sense that the populations targeted by the operation now have an acceptable access ratio to water and sanitation facilities.. Moreover, the communities have learned how to take care of their sanitation and hygiene promotion issues. The cholera outbreak has been brought under control.

In Brazzaville:

The following activities have been carried out in Brazzaville during this reporting period:

- Training of 50 Red Cross volunteers and opinion leaders on how to sensitise the population using the PHAST process
- Launching of a clean-up campaign known as “*Coup de balai en route*”
- Conducting 6 cholera sensitisation campaigns in all 7 subdivisions of Brazzaville, reaching 1,512 people
- Training of 43 households on how to chlorinate water and carrying out summary disinfection of 8 water wells
- Disinfecting 85 latrines in 3 subdivisions
- Cleaning gutters in 2 subdivisions with the participation of local communities
- Involving 14 heads of neighbourhoods in Red Cross activities
- Starting the construction of a VIP latrine in the Mfilou market

As a result of action taken by Red Cross and other actors, no new case of cholera has been registered in Brazzaville since the beginning of the operation. The population is progressively involved in the operation and working towards changing its behaviours in order to avoid new cholera outbreaks. Government and Red Cross authorities have been encouraging them to do so through sensitization and counseling.

Challenges:

The main challenge for this operation is to convince the Government on the need to effectively start the process of collecting and disposing garbage. If this is done on time, it will go a long way to reducing the risk of cholera outbreak. In addition, there is also the need for both Government and CRCS to establish more effective partnerships in the area of potable water supply, which is a corner stone in the cholera epidemic management.

How we work	
<p>All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the <u>Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) in Disaster Relief</u> and is committed to the <u>Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response</u> (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.</p>	
<p>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".</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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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