

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Guinea-Bissau: Cholera

DREF operation n° MDRGW001
GLIDE n° EP-2008-000148-GNB
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 108,967 (USD 99,000 or EUR 67,775) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the national society in delivering immediate assistance to some 90,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Responding to a cholera outbreak that occurred in early July, 2008, the Red Cross Society of Guinea Bissau has been working in close collaboration with regional partners (UNICEF) and focused on mobilizing funds directly from the Federation's West and Central Africa Zone (WCAZ) office (15,000 CHF) to mobilize 100 volunteers in community activities (hygiene education, water disinfection) in 3 regions (Bissau, Quinara and Tombali). The measures taken so far have not been sufficient to stop the outbreak from progressing, and a total of 2,992 cases and 63 deaths were reported at the end of August. The outbreak has spread to 9 districts. In coordination with and support from the Spanish Red Cross, the ICRC and the Federation, the National Society is planning to be active in the main affected districts. The CHF 109,000 from DREF will be instrumental in combating the cholera outbreak, thereby assisting some 90,000 beneficiaries in Bissau and other newly affected localities.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by November 2008; a Final Report will be made available by February 2009 (three months after the end of the operation).

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

The Situation

Working in close collaboration with regional partners (particularly UNICEF), a response was started by mobilizing funds directly from the West and Central Africa Zone (WCAZ) office (15,000 CHF) to assist the Red Cross Society of Bissau in mobilising 100 volunteers in community activities – hygiene education, water disinfection - in 3 regions (Bissau, Quinara and Tombali). The measures taken so far have not been sufficient to stop the outbreak from progressing and a total of 2,992 cases and 63 deaths were reported at the end of August. The outbreak has spread to 9 districts. In coordination with and support from the Spanish Red Cross, the ICRC and the Federation, the National Society is planning to be active in the main affected districts. This DREF request of CHF 109,000 will be instrumental in combating the cholera outbreak, thereby assisting some 90,000 beneficiaries in Bissau and other newly affected localities. The capital Bissau is the most affected area with more than 1,600 cases.

Coordination and partnerships

The Government is responsible for coordinating the operation, working in close partnership with various organizations such as UNICEF, WHO, the Red Cross and MSF. In coordination with and support from the

Spanish Red Cross, the ICRC and the Federation, the National Society is planning to be active in the main affected districts

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Cross Society of Guinea Bissau, with financial support from UNICEF and the Federation, has mobilized 100 volunteers who carried out the door to door awareness on hygiene measures, disinfecting and storing water to homes in three regions of Bissau, Quinara and Tombali. As member of the crisis committee, the GBRC is participating in all committee meetings, and in the formulation and implementation of the plan of action to fight against the cholera epidemic.

However, taking into account the rapid evolution of the cholera epidemic in 9 regions due to lack of safe water, occurring of rain season and lack of sanitation and hygiene of the population, the GBRC would increase its intervention in the affected regions and also the others not yet affected to avoid their contamination.

The proposed operation

Objectives

- Strengthen personal and collective hygiene measures of the communities for food, water and environment.
- Educating people on the disinfection and conservation of water and food.
- Provide ORS to the affected families.

The needs

- Technical assistance (one person) to support the National Society.
- 5,000 ORS for distribution to families affected by cholera.
- 2 cholera kits.
- Operational cost for social mobilisation activities.

Community related activities and information dissemination

Objective: distribution of 20,000 oral rehydration salts (ORS) sachets.

Activities planned:

- Training an additional 150 volunteers for cholera response in 5 regions (Oio, Cacheu, S. Domingos, Bolama and Bijagos).
- Start additional community activities by a door-to-door strategy in the districts not yet covered (Oio, Cacheu, S. Domingos, Bolama et Bijagos).
- Continue community awareness activities with the 80 trained volunteers in Bissau, Quinara and Tombali (costs for 20 trained volunteers are supported by Spanish Red Cross).
- Organising campaigns to clean gutters and other waste water pipes.
- Cleaning water points.
- Strengthen activities for disinfecting of affected homes and neighbouring in Bissau during 30 days and by mobilising 20 volunteers.
- Acquire and distribute of 5,000 ORS to families in households during the awareness visits.
- Procure 2 cholera kits for use by volunteers and in treatment centres (2 kits comprised of volunteer and treatment module, plus one additional infusion module).
- Mobilize 10,000 ORS from Dakar to support activities until arrival of cholera kits.

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

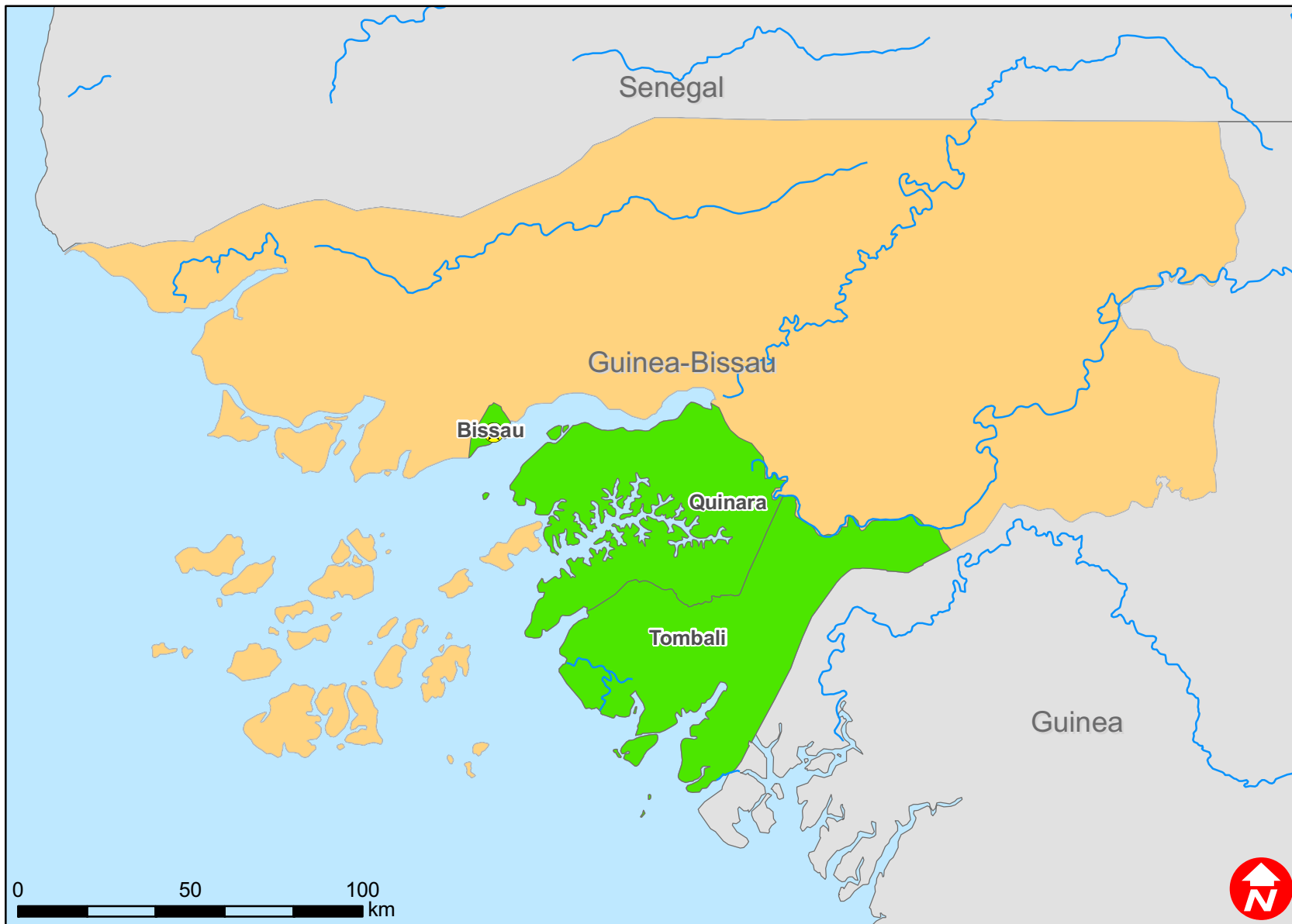
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[<map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



Guinea-Bissau: Cholera



Cholera outbreak claimed the lives of vulnerable people in Guinea-Bissau since July 2008 with a total number of 2992 cases and 63 deaths reported at the end of week 34. The situation is getting worse with increasing numbers of cases per week and now spread to 9 districts. The capital Bissau is the most affected area with more than 1600 cases.

 Regions affected