

Final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Pandemic influenza: response and mitigation

Final report
Emergency appeal n° MDR0002
GLIDE n° EP-2009-00084
30 November 2009

Period covered by this Final Report:
30 April to 31 October, 2009
Initial Appeal Target: CHF 5,000,000
Revised Appeal Target: CHF 0

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on 30 April 2009 for CHF 5m for 6 months.
- CHF 550,000 was initially allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Mexican Red Cross to respond to the H1N1 outbreak.
- The appeal was revised to CHF 0 on 25 May 2009 and appeal activities were split between the existing Human Pandemic Preparedness annual programme (MAA00018) and the International Federation's core budget.



A volunteer of the Mexican Red Cross shows how to wear the mask and explains its utility.

Summary: This Emergency Appeal was launched on 30 April 2009 to respond to the outbreak of the influenza A (H1N1) virus that originated in Mexico. Because no voluntary contributions were received, a decision was made on 25 May 2009 to cancel the appeal and separate the appeal components. Activities in support to National Societies were transferred to the existing Human Pandemic Preparedness annual plan, and the Secretariat's mitigation and business continuity activities were transferred to the Federation's core budget. Following this, the British Department for International Development (DfID) contributed CHF 2.5 million to Appeal MAA00018 to enable the Federation to support National Societies to respond to H1N1. The US Government Agency for International Development (AID), as the primary contributor to MAA0018, also provided extra-ordinary support to further augment the Federation's and National Societies response to H1N1. For details related to pandemic H1N1 activities being carried out in support of National Societies, please see the latest [programme update of MAA00018](#).

The situation

Emergency Appeal MDR00002 was launched on 30 April 2009 to respond to the outbreak of the influenza A (H1N1) virus (the so-called 'swine flu') that originated in Mexico. On 11 June 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak a pandemic. Since then at least 194 countries/territories have reported pandemic H1N1 influenza in humans. There have been more than 500,000 reported cases and over 6,000 deaths as of mid-November 2009. However, many countries are no longer reporting confirmed cases and many mild cases are probably not being detected. Consequently, these figures are considered to severely underestimate the actual number of pandemic H1N1 cases. Those most vulnerable to severe cases and/or death include people with certain chronic medical conditions, pregnant women, and minority groups

and indigenous populations, presumably due to lower standards of living and poor health status. The second wave appears to have started in the northern hemisphere in September 2009, but remains relatively mild in severity compared to the 1918 H1N1 pandemic and is more comparable with seasonal influenza.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Achievements against objectives

Overview

Emergency Appeal MDR00002 included both Secretariat preparedness activities as well as response activities to help National Societies respond to the outbreak. Following are three main objectives and related expected results and planned activities:

Objective 1: Capacity building -- support National Societies' efforts to increase their capacity, working in partnership with their governments, to tackle influenza at community or local level in affected countries, thereby mitigating the threat of a pandemic and the challenges it may pose and reducing the risk of human cases.	
Expected result	Activities planned
The response capacities of National Societies have been reinforced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved communications. • Developing or updating guidance on staff and volunteer health and protection. • Developing, printing and translating information and education materials and communication messages. • Advocacy for National Societies' role in complementing their government's efforts. • Mapping of National Society actions and identifying support requirements and actual involvement.

Objective 2: Provide resources and structural support so that countries and communities at risk of influenza can increase their preparations for a possible pandemic and are ready to train their staff and volunteers.	
Expected result	Activities planned
Resources and structural support has been provided resulting in at-risk countries and communities have increased their preparations, including training staff and volunteers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public awareness and education campaigns (hygiene & health promotion). • Community-based First Aid. • Prepare country and community level contingency plans. • Training, establishing and organizing National Society and community's response teams (for example, National Disaster Response Teams, community response teams, etc). • Providing logistical support for procurement and stockpiling of emergency medical and non-medical items (masks, gloves, aprons, pairs of rubber boots, and hygiene supplies such as soap and disinfectants would be necessary to cover the needs of volunteers, staff and the general population for six months). • Increasing partnerships at the local level; and improve performance in community-based surveillance, social mobilization and community outreach activities.

Objective 3: Plan for and advise on Business Continuity Plan (BCP) initiatives at the global, zonal and National Society levels, thereby ensuring that essential services to communities and coordination of activities are supported or reinforced.	
Expected results	Activities planned
BCP initiatives have reflected progress in supporting or reinforcing essential services to communities and coordination of activities.	Defining roles and responsibilities and identifying capacity needs; and considering organizational and "core business continuity" measures.

On 15 May 2009 expenditure of CHF 1.8mn was approved by the Secretariat and was distributed between Mexico, seven other countries in the Americas, and nine zone and global projects linked to this appeal. No voluntary contributions, however, were received against Emergency Appeal MDR00002.

As a result, a decision was taken to cancel the Emergency Appeal MDR00002 and transfer its activities into other existing programmes:

- Activities related to ensure that the Secretariat was prepared to continue its critical functions and services throughout the pandemic, or business continuity planning, were incorporated in the Federation's core budget.
- Activities related to supporting National Societies prepare for and respond to the H1N1 pandemic were incorporated into the existing Human Pandemic Preparedness annual plan (MAA00018). This included the eight Americas country projects as well as part of the zone project activities. The Mexico DREF allocation was returned to DREF. Please see the latest MAA00018 [programme update](#) for details relating to pandemic H1N1 activities being carried out in support of National Societies. The Annual Report for this plan (to be published in April 2010) will also provide an analysis of activities carried out under this programme.
- The additional donor support received from DFID for appeal MAA00018 was used by the Federation to provide financial support and technical assistance ranging from approximately CHF 40,000 to 500,000 CHF to 25 National Societies. Activities supported with these funds included training of National Societies staff and volunteers, adaption, production and dissemination of IEC material, advocacy campaigns for governments to include civil society in pandemic response plans, design of National Society business continuity plans, and promotion of country and regional-level partnerships for enhanced response. DFID funds were also used to develop mass media campaign material and program guidance for H1N1 response that was provided to all 186 National Societies. An additional 17 National Societies received small grants (CHF 3,000 CHF – 15,000) to ensure their use of campaign material.
- USAID also provided vital and extra-ordinary financial support to the development of the campaign material and emergency response program activities in an additional 24 countries.

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 Geneva:
Stephen Ingles, Director of Support Services; phone: +41.22.730.4459; fax: +41 22 730 0395; email: stephen.ingles@ifrc.org