



ZAMBIA: CHOLERA

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In Brief

CHF 50,000 (USD 38,109 OR EUR 32,123) HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF) TO RESPOND TO THIS OPERATION FOR THREE MONTHS. UNEARMARKED FUNDS TO REPAY DREF ARE ENCOURAGED.

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For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The situation

With the onset of the rainy season in Zambia, an increase of cholera cases has been reported mainly in Lusaka, the capital city. According to the Ministry of Health, Lusaka has so far recorded 150 cases of cholera with at least 30 new cases being reported on a daily basis. Cholera has already claimed three lives in the Copperbelt region in Central Zambia, and one in Lusaka giving a total of four. A total of 117 cases have been recorded in the Central Province in the following districts; four cases in Kabwe, 32 cases and a death recorded in Chibombo, 81 cases and a death in Kapiri Mposhi, five cases in Mufulira, two cholera cases and a death in Kasempa.

Table 1: Summary of reported cholera cases

District	Number of cases reported	Number of death reported
Lusaka	150	1
Kabwe	4	-
Chihombo	32	1
Kapiri Mposhi	81	1
Mufulira	5	-
Kasempa	2	1
Total	274	4

The numbers above do not reflect information after 4 January 2006

The cholera cases in Lusaka are among low-income households in the high-density peri-urban areas namely Old Kanyama, Chibolya and John Leign. The sudden upward trend in the number of cases is attributed to; poor structural design of the unplanned settlement with no proper infrastructure and access to services such as clean and safe water supply; poor sanitary conditions as most households in the townships do not have latrines; overcrowding and poor waste disposal facilities; inadequate food safety measures; lack of systems in place for regular inspections of eating and drinking places, general dealer shops, schools and markets to ensure adherence to health standards as provided for by the Public Health, Food and Drugs Acts.

With the continuing rains, it is likely that without an effective and rapid response, the outbreak will become an epidemic. The Government of Zambia through its Ministry of Health has appealed for assistance as their resources have been overstretched.

The Lusaka District Health Management Team (LDHMT) has established a task force to oversee the operations. Zambia Red Cross Society is a member of the government-led task force. The LDHMT has opened ten cholera centres in Lusaka and in every district affected, and has asked for a coordinated response from the Red Cross and other partners to control the outbreak before it reaches alarming epidemic levels.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action taken so far

The Zambia Red Cross Society established a cholera taskforce which is managing the response in coordination with the Ministry of Health and other partners. The Red Cross has implemented successful cholera prevention and control activities in the past and is using its experience in this operation.

An assessment to determine the needs and an appropriate Red Cross response has been carried out in Lusaka and Copperbelt districts, and in other areas where there have been cases. 155 Red Cross volunteers have been mobilised in the Lusaka and Copperbelt areas and in the areas that were previously prone to cholera outbreaks namely Kabwe, Sinazongwe, Mpulungu and Nchelenge. 20 Red Cross volunteers have been trained in cholera prevention and control activities. These include: promoting proper hygiene and sanitation; promoting the use of safe water and disinfection of water at household level; actively identifying cases and referring them to health centres; and preventing dehydration.

The Zambia Red Cross Society is continuing to attend epidemic preparedness meetings with other stakeholders organized by the Ministry of Health. The Lusaka City Council is inspecting public places such as schools and markets, and carrying out environmental cleansing, and disinfection in the community and enforcing the public health act. The Zambia Police is supporting the council to enforce the public health act.

The needs

- A continuation of activities detailed above is required. To do this effectively, supplies of oral dehydration salts, hygiene promotion materials and soap are required;
- Additional volunteer training and support to the volunteer's response.
- Red Cross staff needs to continue to monitor the situation and to manage and coordinate the response;

- The Ministry of Health has put out a request for cholera kits and assistance with logistics to control the outbreak. The situation will be monitored and assistance provided by the Red Cross if not forthcoming from other sources.

To continue and be able to expand this cholera prevention and control response as detailed above, emergency funds are required for supplies, logistics and management as well as coordination of the response.

Expected results:

- The expected impact of the action is the prevention and control of cholera to the extent that there is no further epidemic in the affected areas.
- Additionally the Red Cross will strengthen its capacity to respond to the disease outbreak and the community will receive education on how to prevent similar outbreaks in the future.

Coordination

The Zambia Red Cross Society is working with the following organisations as part of the coordinated effort to combat the spread of cholera:

- Japanese International Cooperation Agency is setting up latrines and water points in the affected areas. They also provide transport, public address systems and chlorine for the Ministry of Health to use during community sensitisation;
- District health management board established cholera centres in Lusaka and one in each district affected in the Copperbelt areas. They are putting up toilets; procuring drugs, inspecting food outlets, coordinating cholera response by all agencies, providing health education and chlorine to contact families. At national level, the government has put the National Epidemic Preparedness Committee on alert in which the Zambia Red Cross Society is a member;
- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is providing drugs and medical personnel to complement government efforts;
- The Lusaka City Council is conducting health inspection of public places such as schools and markets, environmental cleaning, spraying or disinfections in community and enforcing the Public Health Act;
- The Zambia Police is supporting the municipal council to enforce the public health act.

Budget outline

See annex below.

[Click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

CHOLERA CONTROL AND PREVENTION BUDGET (November 2005 to January 2006)					
Protective Clothing	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total (ZMK)	Total Cost (CHF)
Gum boots	50	pairs	85,000.00	4,250,000	850.00
Dust coats	50	pairs	8,500.00	2,925,000	585.00
Masks	0	100	-	-	-
Heavy Duty Gloves	0		16,650.00	-	-
Rain coats	75		25,000.00	1,875,000	375.00
Sub-total				9,050,000	1,810.00
Perishables	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total (ZMK)	Total Cost
Disinfectant					
kynol	15	5ltrs	76,000.00	1,140,000	228.00
pynol	15	5ltrs	76,000.00	1,140,000	228.00
centrimide	15	5ltrs	59,500.00	892,500	178.50
dettol soap	50	250g	5,000.00	250,000	50.00
spirit	5	2.5ltrs	15,000.00	75,000	15.00
Laundry soap	2000	250g	2,000.00	4,000,000	800.00
jik	50	5ltrs	3,500.00	175,000	35.00
Domestic chlorine	5,000	250ml	700.00	3,500,000	700.00
IV fluids	500.00	1000mls	5,000.00	2,500,000	500.00
normal saline	500.00	1,000mls	5,000.00	2,500,000	500.00
ringers lactate	500	each	2,800.00	1,400,000	280.00
canulars	0	500g	18,000.00	0	-
cotton wool	500	Each	2,250.00	1,125,000	225.00
giving sets	2,500	10	700.00	1,750,000	350.00
Drugs	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total (ZMK)	Total Cost (CHF)
tetracycline	0	1,000	45,000.00	0	-
Doxycycline	0	1,000	105,000.00	0	-
Ciprofloxacin	0	0	34,000.00	0	-
DNS	0	1000mls	4,500.00	0	-
Exam Gloves	200	100	20,000.00	4,000,000	800.00
Sub-total					4,889.50
IEC materials	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total (ZMK)	Total Cost (CHF)
posters	200		1,500.00	300,000	60.00
leaflets	200		1,500.00	300,000	60.00

stickers	0		1,500.00	0	-
fliers	0		1,500.00	0	-
banners	0		300,000.00	0	-
megaphones	5	0	150,000.00	750,000	150.00
t-shirts	150		35,000.00	5,250,000	1,050.00
caps	100		25,000.00	2,500,000	500.00
bibs	150			0	-
Sub-total				33,547,500	1,820.00
Administration Costs					
Administration Costs	Quantity	Unit	Unity Cost	Total (ZMK)	Total Cost (CHF)
Training		Lumpsum		15,000,000	3,000.00
fuel	4000	Litres	5,500.00	22,000,000	4,400.00
Assessments		Lumpsum		15,000,000	3,000.00
Stationery		Lumpsum		4,000,000	800.00
Printer Cartilage	1		750,000.00	750,000	150.00
Communication		Lumpsum		1,000,000	200.00
bicycles	0		500,000.00	0	-
Staff/volunteer allowance	Quantity	Unit	Unity Cost	Total (ZMK)	Total Cost (CHF)
Staff	20	30 days	60,000.00	36,000,000	7,200.00
Volunteers	100	60 days	25,000.00	75,000,000	15,000.00
Administration incidentals		Lumpsum	5,000,000.00	5,000,000	1,000.00
Sub-total				173,750,000	34,750.00
Grand Total				227,347,500	49,423.37