

Information bulletin

Chad: Cholera outbreak

22 August, 2011

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation. The Red Cross of Chad will, however, accept direct assistance to provide support to the affected population.

Since early August 2011, the town of Mongo, an area located 510 km east of the capital N'Djamena experienced heavy rains. As a result of these heavy rains, the vulnerable population surrounding the town—having poor access to potable water and sanitation facilities, experienced an outbreak of diarrhoea cases. Results from the regional laboratory examination did not permit precise identification of the disease, and therefore declared it simply as gastroenteritis. However on 12 August, the regional branch of the Epidemiological Surveillance Service took a sample and sent it to the national laboratory in the capital N'Djamena which confirmed it as cholera epidemic. From 09 to 17 August, a total of 152 cases were admitted at the regional hospital of Mongo, out of which 7 deaths were recorded. Moreover, volunteers from the committee of the affected area registered 19 deaths, out of which 9 persons were from the same family.



Volunteers from the regional committee of the affected area disseminating hygiene messages to the population in a market/Photo RCC

Since the early hours of the disaster, the national committee of Mongo deployed 16 volunteers to sensitize the population and refer suspected cases and 12 others were sent to the hospital to support the small medical team. Administrative authorities in the region called upon local NGOs to support the vulnerable people. A regional crisis committee was put in place. The National Society deployed its disaster management officer to carry out a rapid assessment and distribute hygiene kits and working materials for the volunteers.

The situation

Mongo a town located in the centre of the country usually experiences cholera outbreak due poor water and sanitation facilities. This year, the rainy season started late but came with heavy downpour in the beginning of this month. The majority of the population in the town of Mongo drink water from unprotected wells. The town is surrounding by mountains and people are used to go upstairs to urinate or defecate. When it starts to rain, water and wind flows the remaining of the faecal waste directly into the unprotected wells. As a consequence people started to suffer from diarrhoea. Laboratory results from the capital confirmed the diarrhoea as a cholera epidemic.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The national committee of the Red Cross of Chad was the first local agency to alert on the epidemic. Volunteers equipped with megaphones started sensitizing the population in public places. As a result, their action put a curb to the spread of the epidemic in public places such as markets. The Red Cross volunteers provided some support to the regional hospital in referring suspected cases and supporting some activities within the hospital.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Belly Mamadou Diallo phone: +235 66 27 84 84; or + 235 252 2339; Fax +235 252 2399; E-mail: belly.diallo@ifrc.org:
- **IFRC Zone:** Dr Asha Mohammed, Head of Operations, Johannesburg, Phone: +27.11.303.97.00, Fax: + 27.11.884.38.09; +27.11.884.02..30 Email: asha.mohammed@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Support, Phone: +41.22.730.4529, email: christine.south@ifrc.org
- **Regional Logistics Unit (RLU):** Kai Kettunen, Regional Logistics Delegate Dubai, phone +971.4.883.38.87 Mobile +971.50.458.48.72, Fax +971.4.883.22.12, email: kai.kettunen@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **In IFRC Zone:** Ed Cooper; Resource Mobilization and Performance and Accountability Coordinator Johannesburg; email ed.cooper@ifrc.org; Phone: Tel: +27.11.303.97.00; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting)

- **In IFRC Zone:** Robert Ondrusek; Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Delegate, Johannesburg; email: robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org; Phone: Tel: +27.11.303.9744; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230



[Click here](#)

1. Click [here](#) to return to the title page
-

How we work

All IFRC 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 the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.