



CHIREDZI DISTRICT (MASVINGO PROVINCE) CHOLERA UPDATE

Date: 05-02-09

Chiredzi District of Masvingo Province is the most cholera affected district of the province (2854 cases with 108 deaths, according to daily cholera update 03-03-09). The main health partners in the district are the Ministry of Health (MoH) and MSF-Luxemburg.

MSF-Luxemburg is supporting the MoH in 4 CTUs placed in the “hottest” cholera spots of the district:

NAME CTC	LOCATION	Total Cases (Until 5th Week 2009)
Ruware	Ruware, close to the “Filling station”, no Rural health center	655
Chizivirizvi	Fair range area, Chizivirizvi Rural Health Center	151
Chilonga	Chilonga Rural Health Center	125
Chambuta	Chambuta Rural health Center	254

Many cases are coming from new resettlement areas, where there is no infrastructure (water supply and sanitation, health, etc...). Although the main transmission route for cholera is thought to be human contact, there is a suspicion that cholera can be also transmitted through water (especially in the catchment area of the Ruware CTC).

ACF is supporting all these 4 CTCs with water supply and emergency sanitation:

Ruware CTC:

- Provision of materials for the construction of 4 emergency latrines.
- Water supply through water trucking for drinking purposes (2 rigid tanks of 5 m³ + 1 bladder 5 m³).

- Water supply through decantation (onion tank 30 m3) of river water for disinfection solutions.
- ACF is planning to further treat river water for drinking purposes as an alternative to the water trucking.

Chizivirizvi:

- Installation of a 5 m3 rigid tank to improve storage capacity of the existing and functional water system (before ACF intervention there was no storage capacity in the clinic and they had problems during electricity was cut). There is also a functional borehole equipped with a hand-pump in the compound of the clinic.

Chambuta:

- Water supply through water trucking from a nearby motorized borehole to a 5 m3 bladder and to a 5 m3 rigid tank (from the clinic). ACF is planning to substitute this water trucking for transportation of water with a scotch cart.

Chilonga:

- Water supply through water trucking from the motorized borehole of Chambuta to a 5 m3 rigid tank. ACF is in the process of rehabilitation of the clinic borehole equipped with a hand-pump to avoid the water trucking.
- Provision of materials for the construction of 2 emergency latrines.

Hygiene Promotion

MSF Luxemburg is conducting massive cholera awareness campaign in the catchment area of its clinics. The MoE is also planning to start a massive cholera awareness campaign in the area, funded by WHO. After coordination with these 2 actors it has been decided that ACF should not intervene in the area with PHHP for the moment.

Access to water and sanitation

As everywhere else in the country, in Chiredzi district there is a problem of access to water and sanitation facilities. To tackle this problem a massive investment would be needed during the following years, with the rehabilitation-construction of water points. Needs in this aspect need to be further assessed.