

**OFDA**  
**Disaster**  
**Case Reports**

**Mali Meningitis Epidemic**  
**January-May 1981**

**Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance**  
**Agency for International Development**  
**Washington, D.C. 20523**



## MALI - Meningitis Epidemic

### Data

Date: January - May 1981 (FY 81)

Location: The regions of Segou, Mopti, and Koulikoro, which includes the district of Bamako, were the most severely affected areas.

No. Dead: 111 In Bamako; 107 In Segou District; 68 In Mopti District; 412 nationwide (figures reflect deaths occurring between January and May 1981)

No. Cases: 895 In Bamako; 1,114 In Segou District; 901 In Mopti District; 4,153 nationwide

### The Disaster

During the third week of February 1981, the Malian Ministry of Health (MOH) was alerted to the possibility of a meningitis epidemic when 42 cases were reported in Bamako. In the following weeks, increased incidences of meningitis were reported in other regions of Mali, particularly in the regions of Segou and Mopti. Over 70 percent of the cases occurred in children and adolescents.

### Action Taken by the Government of the Republic of Mali (GRM)

As soon as the MOH became aware of the impending epidemic, officials of the agency notified the donor community. Because the MOH had a current stock of only 30,000 doses of meningococcal meningitis vaccine, outside assistance in the form of additional vaccine was requested. The vaccine began arriving in Mali the first week of March and was immediately used in a vaccination campaign begun by the government on March 5. School children were vaccinated first, followed by members of the military, and the general population. The most extensive vaccination program was conducted in Bamako, though some vaccine was sent to other regions.

### Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)

In response to the GRM request for assistance, the USG provided the Malians with 100,000 doses of meningococcal A/C vaccine. The vaccine was procured from a private U.S. company and airshipped to Bamako, where it arrived on March 9, 1981. All responsibility for the procurement and shipment

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of the vaccine was undertaken by the Agency for International Development's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance in Washington. Total cost of the vaccine, including airfreight was.....\$25,242

TOTAL \$25,242

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies \*

Foster Parents International - supplied 50,000 doses of meningococcal A/C vaccine. The value of the vaccine (including airfreight) was \$13,500.

TOTAL \$13,500

Assistance Provided by the International Community

International Organizations

European Development Fund (FED) - provided a total of 600,000 doses of A/C vaccine, value not reported.

UNICEF - supplied 100,000 doses of A/C vaccine, value not reported.

World Health Organization (WHO) - provided 100,000 of A/C vaccine, value not reported

Governments

France through FAC, the French Fund for Aid and Cooperation - provided 200,000 doses of A/C vaccine, value not reported.

Germany, Federal Republic - provided 100,000 doses of A/C vaccine, value not reported.

Niger - provided 50,000 doses of A/C vaccine, value not reported.

Saudi Arabia - provided 500,000 doses of A/C vaccine, value not reported.

\* Please note: the figure for total U.S. voluntary agency assistance is an approximation. In many cases, the cash value of in kind aid is unavailable.

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