

PN-AAM-115

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OFDA
**Disaster
Case Reports**

Rwanda Cholera Epidemic
June 1978-1979

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

RWANDA - Epidemic

Data:

Date: June 1978 - 1979 (FY 79)

Location: Epidemic centered in area around eastern shore of Lake Kivu

No. Dead: None reported

No. Affected: Approximately 2,000

The Disaster

Cholera spread from central Africa into Rwanda, with the first confirmed case in Rwanda reported in June 1978, and continued to spread unabated along the border region of western Rwanda (Lake Kivu).

Action Taken by the Government of Rwanda (GOR)

The GOR made a concerted effort to use all the resources at its command in waging an anti-cholera campaign. It appealed to WHO and to other nations for assistance with a large-scale vaccination program. Vaccination, the professional way in which cholera suppression teams did their work, along with a preventive information and education effort allowed the epidemic to be brought under control.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)

On November 28, 1973, the U.S. Ambassador declared the existence of an emergency situation in order to facilitate U.S. assistance to a mass anti-cholera immunization program. In response to specific requests from the GOR, the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) arranged for the procurement and air shipment of four ped-o-jets (hypodermic injection devices), an autoclave, eight refrigerators, 50 sterilizers, and 50 kerosene stoves. All of this equipment (except the stoves) reached the capital, Kigali, by December 12; the stoves arrived on December 22. The total cost of the equipment was.....\$29,830

TOTAL \$29,830

RWANDA - Epidemic

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies *

World Relief Commission (WRC) - donated syringes and needles;
shipping costs, paid by WRC, were \$1,800

TOTAL \$1,800

Assistance Provided by the International Community *

International Organizations

European Economic Community (EEC) - contribution of \$107,200
for purchase of vaccine and other medical supplies through WHO

World Health Organization (WHO) - 200,000 doses of vaccine;
assisted GOR in planning and implementing immunization and
other aspects of anti-cholera campaign

Governments

Belgium - 50,000 doses of vaccine; 50,000 Fanasil tablets;
Baxter solution and chemicals for its production; vials;
one ped-o-jet

France - 10,000 doses of vaccine; 10,000 Fanasil tablets;
Baxter solution

Germany, Fed. Rep. - 5,000 doses of vaccine

Switzerland - 7,600 Fanasil tablets

Voluntary Agencies

Belgium Red Cross - cash contribution of \$9,484

Canada Red Cross - cash contribution of \$2,149

Denmark Red Cross - in kind contribution of \$3,187

Finland Red Cross - in kind contribution of \$1,236

France Red Cross - in kind contribution of \$2,656

Germany, Fed. Rep. Red Cross - cash contribution of \$2,493

RWANDA ·· Epidemic

Norway Red Cross - cash contribution of \$5,614

Sweden Red Cross - cash contribution of \$5,631

Switzerland Red Cross - cash contribution of \$9,832

United Kingdom Red Cross - cash contribution of \$1,897

TOTAL \$151,379

* Please note: the figures for total U.S. voluntary agency and international assistance are an approximation. In many cases the cash value of in kind aid is unavailable.