



Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

DISASTER CASE REPORT

Agency for
International
Development

Washington D.C.
20523

UPPER VOLTA - Meningitis Epidemic

Date: December 1978 to May 1979 (FY 79)

Location: Diapaga, Fada N'Gourma, Ouahigouya, Titao, Djibo, Koudougou

No. Dead: 241

No. Affected: 1,612 cases

The Disaster

Located in the area called "meningitis circle," Upper Volta is one of the Sahelian countries most affected by the disease. Meningitis outbreaks are seasonal with cases appearing at the beginning of the dry season (November to December), increasing in February to March, and then decreasing in June to July with the onset of the first rains. The first cases in 1978-79 were reported at the end of December in Diapaga, and then spread out over the whole sous-prefecture of Fada N'Gourma. Eighty-one percent of the cases were young persons under the age of 20.

Action Taken by the Government of Upper Volta (GOUV)

To cope with the epidemic, the Ministry of Health planned to vaccinate all children aged 1 to 14 and the total population in areas immediately surrounding the epidemic focus. However, the Ministry had no meningococcal vaccine and only 15 ped-o-jets in working order. In a letter dated February 7, 1979, the Ministry requested assistance from the United States government. Assistance was also sought from the Swiss Mission, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

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Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)

In response to the GOUV request, the USG supplied 60,000 doses of A/C meningococcal vaccine at a value of \$27,360 (air freight cost included), 25,000 ampules of Fansil antibiotic for injection, and 500,000 Fansil tablets at a cost of \$71,193 (air freight included).....\$98,553

A Center for Disease Control epidemiologist was sent to make an evaluation of the epidemic and to take fluid samples to confirm vector and drug resistance.

TOTAL \$98,553

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

None reported.

Assistance Provided by the International Community

International Organizations

UNICEF - provided 30,000 doses of vaccine serogroup C, 60,000 ampules of Fansil injectable, 100,000 Fansil tablets, and 5,000 ampules of chloramphenical in oil. Estimated total value of medicaments was \$58,460.

WHO - sent a microbiologist to Upper Volta to help train local physicians and technicians in quick diagnostic methods.

Governments

Switzerland - provided 50,000 doses of vaccine serogroup C, 800 boxes of Fansil tablets, 600 boxes of Fansil injectable, and 1,000 boxes of chloramphenical in oil. Estimated total value of medicaments was \$136,200

TOTAL \$194,660

* Please note: the figure for total international assistance is an approximation. In many cases the cash value of in kind aid is unavailable.

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