

# Overseas briefs

Source: World Health Organization (WHO)

## ***Ebola haemorrhagic fever, Gabon***

A total of 58 cases with 43 deaths had occurred up to 8 January in the outbreak of Ebola haemorrhagic fever in Gabon. The last fatal case occurred on 8 January. One patient is still hospitalised and 14 have recovered.

## ***Cholera, Burundi***

An outbreak of cholera has been reported in Rumonge Province, in the south of Burundi bordering Lake Tanganyika. Up to 13 January, 482 cases with 21 deaths had been reported. A breakdown of water supplies after the affected village was the target of an armed group, continuing poor hygiene practices and an increase in the number of displaced persons in the area have all contributed to this outbreak. A national cholera control committee has been established with the support of WHO and other agencies. A plan of action which puts emphasis on improved case management, surveillance and prevention of the spread of the disease has been prepared.

## ***Measles, Guadeloupe***

The Ministry of Health of France has notified the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) of a measles outbreak in Guadeloupe. As of 15 January 1997, a total of 12 laboratory confirmed cases had been reported. Most cases have occurred among unvaccinated adolescents in the city of St. François, located approximately 20 km from Pointe-à-Pitre. The first reported measles case had rash onset in mid-October 1996 and the most recent case had rash onset on 14 January 1997. The source of the outbreak is unknown. Outbreak response activities include heightened measles surveillance and the identification and vaccination of previously unvaccinated children and adolescents.

## ***Dengue type 2, French Polynesia***

Around 70 confirmed cases of dengue type 2 have been reported from French Polynesia between August and November 1996. Dengue type 2 has not been found in French Polynesia since 1976. In recent years almost all dengue in the Pacific Islands has been dengue types 3 or 4, and therefore there is likely to be widespread susceptibility to dengue type 2.

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Contributions covering any aspects of communicable disease are invited. Instructions to authors can be found in *CDI* 1997;21:9.

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