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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Gambia: Ebola Virus Disease preparedness

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation	Operation n° MDRGM009; Glide n° EP-2014-000039-GMB
Date of issue: 16 September, 2014	Date of disaster: N/A
Operation manager: Momodou Lamin Fye, IFRC Regional representative for Sahel	Point of contact: Aissa Fall, IFRC Sahel Health Manager
Operation start date: 15 September, 2014 Overall operation budget: CHF 46,856	Expected timeframe: 3 months. (End Date: 15 December, 2014)
Number of people affected: 1,000,000 in 7 regions and districts of North Bank, Lower River, Central River, Upper River, West Coast, Banjul Municipality and Kanifing Municipality.	Number of people to be assisted: 300,000 (38,000 households; 1 household = 7/8 people)
Host National Society (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): 2 RDRT (WATSAN), 1 RDRT (Health Emergencies), 90 NDRT, 120 CDRT and 220 volunteers trained in CBHFA.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: IFRC, ICRC, Spanish RC	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: MoH, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA	

<click [here](#) for the DREF budget, [here](#) to view the map and [here](#) to view contact details>

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

A fast-spreading outbreak of Ebola virus disease is affecting several countries in West Africa. The Ebola virus outbreak in Guinea since February this year which later spread to Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone has continued to cause untold hardship and hundreds of deaths in those countries and the number of cases is expected to increase exponentially. As of September 12, WHO has recorded a total of 3,944 cases attributed to the Ebola epidemic, with a total of 2,097 deaths spread in Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone?

Efforts to stop the ongoing spread and bring the epidemic to an end are gaining in commitment and capacity; however the risk for further spread, both within the affected countries and more widely is also a real possibility and needs to be planned for appropriately. The virus has continued to spread across borders in West Africa. This is the first time an outbreak of this size is being experienced in West Africa.

To date, no treatment or vaccine is available for Ebola virus disease, which kills between 25 to 90 percent of victims, depending on the strain of the virus. The disease is transmitted by direct contact with blood, faeces or sweat, or by sexual contact or unprotected handling of contaminated corpses.

Since the confirmation of the Ebola virus disease in Guinea, the IFRC with National Societies have developed response strategies which include supporting the National Societies of the affected countries, countries with a physical border to the affected countries and those who are at risk. The main activities the IFRC is supporting the National Societies with a physical border to the affected countries include:

- Preparedness for response through volunteer training in communication around epidemics and behavioral change.
- Supporting Ministries of Health in prevention activities and social mobilization.
- Pre-positioning personal protective equipment and related training.

- Adaption and dissemination of information, education and communication material linked with community social mobilization activities.

Since the confirmation of 1 case in Senegal on 29 August, 2014, Gambia is now at risk and therefore the preparedness plan indicated in this operation aims at building volunteer capacity and at carrying out awareness raising and communication campaigns in the most at-risk communities.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

Gambia is vulnerable to disasters including epidemics (cholera, yellow fever and measles) and the National Society has experience in preparing for and responding to these epidemics. Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) has placed disaster risk management and preparedness at the forefront of its activities.

The high risk of spreading Ebola virus disease from neighbouring Senegal has triggered the National Society to conduct preparedness activities alongside the Ministry of Health. GRCS has acquired expertise in preparedness and response related to epidemics over the past years and is committed to reinforcing its branches along the border with Senegal.

The activities of the Gambia Red Cross is part of the national plan of the Ministry of Health; the branch office will collaborate with the regional health teams for the implementation of these identified activities, while the head of office will be responsible for monitoring. The GRCS health department and the health communication task force will be responsible to produce and disseminate key messages, while the DM department will be responsible for all logistics arrangements for this operation.

For this operation, the Gambia Red Cross has planned to deploy 150 volunteers who will be mobilised across 7 regions, namely West Coast, North Bank, Central River, Upper River, Mano River, Banjul Municipality and Kanifing Municipality. Each volunteer will cover a number of households as planned by the operation supervisors. All seven regions in the Gambia will be covered by this operation.

Overview of RCRC Movement in country

ICRC has expressed interest in providing support to the National Society (in coordination with IFRC), in case of a disease outbreak. The Spanish RC is also present in country and the Gambia Red Cross has informed both ICRC and Spanish RC of its preparedness plans.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The Ministry of Health is coordinating the EVD preparedness activities in country and regular meetings are taking place to monitor the situation. There are 7 committees set up for this purpose, and the Gambia Red Cross is participating in 4 of them (Clinical committee, Logistics committee, Communication and Social Mobilization committee and Coordination committee)

In addition, WHO has assisted in providing trainings on infection disease control, sharing information on EVD as well as disseminating preventive measures. WHO has also coordinated pre-positioning of a limited number of low PPEs in country.

UNICEF and UNFPA have also been supporting with training, disseminating key messages and providing support to the health workers at the borders.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Needs Assessment

The country has never experienced Ebola virus before, and the population has limited knowledge on the epidemic, including its mode of transmission and awareness as to how to avoid risks. Due to the highly-infectious nature of the disease, many people are fearful and it is important to reduce rumours and misconceptions related to risks of contracting the virus.

Effective communication and social mobilisation activities focused on community leaders, traders and people at risk such as health workers and taxi drivers as well as disease surveillance are key to increase community preparedness and knowledge of the disease.

Risk Assessment

GRCS is committed to do its utmost to support the Ministry of Health in social mobilization, to prepare the population and prevent any outbreaks in Gambia. In order to reduce risks for staff and volunteers working on the operation, the Gambia Red Cross Society will ensure that personal protective equipment is properly used and personnel adequately trained.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

The overall objective is to prepare Gambia Red Cross Society through staff and volunteers training and awareness raising, distribution of information, education and communication for a possible outbreak and also to undertake targeted social mobilization in order to reduce risk and improve preparedness and prevention activities alongside the Ministry of Health.

Proposed strategy

Gambia Red Cross Society will support the government's efforts through training and deployment of 150 volunteers to conduct activities of sensitization, information, and hygiene promotion.

In case of the confirmation of the epidemic or of suspected cases, the National Society will require surge capacity from the IFRC to assist with the operation.

The strategy identifies the following key points of action;

- Awareness raising, information sharing and communication linked to community social mobilization activities.
- Strengthening of epidemiological surveillance in collaboration with the health structure of the areas concerned.
- Coordination and integration of activities with the Ministry of Health.
- Participation in the national response task force.

Operational support services

Human resources

Gambia Red Cross Society plans to train and deploy 150 volunteers for twenty days in seven targeted regions, together with National Society's staff members, to be able to implement the planned activities. Volunteers and staff will be briefed not to engage in any treatment or handling suspected cases or deaths at community level without proper training and support services. An RDRT will be deployed to facilitate the trainings and support the National Society with the social mobilization activities.

Logistics and supply chain

Low personal protective equipment (PPE) kits have been pre-positioned in country by the World Health Organization (WHO). All other necessary items will be procured locally.

Communications

Visibility of the work of volunteers will be ensured during the operation through local media broadcasting and distribution of visibility materials. A proper documentation and reporting to allow for lessons learnt will be ensured as well. The National Society will provide regular updates on the operation.

Security

Security risks will be monitored and responded to accordingly. IFRC has prepared a security briefing for its staff deployed to the country, and close consultation will be carried out with the Gambian Red Cross and ICRC who has permanent presence in the country.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER)

The Gambia Red Cross Society, in close cooperation with the Sahel Regional Office will monitor the progress of the operation and provide necessary technical expertise. The monitoring and reporting of the operation will be undertaken by the National Society. Brief weekly updates will be provided to the IFRC on general progress of the operation, and regular monitoring reports will provide detailed indicator tracking.

Administration and Finance

Gambia Red Cross Society has a permanent administrative and financial department which ensures proper use of financial resources, in accordance with conditions to be clarified in the Memorandum of Understanding between Gambia Red Cross Society and the IFRC Sahel Regional Representation. Financial resource management will be done according to the National Society's regulations and to the DREF guidelines. National Society's own procedures will be applied to justify the expenditures incurred and this will be done on IFRC agreed formats.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Martine Zoethoutmaar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for Africa; Addis Ababa;
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For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- **In IFRC Zone:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER Coordinator; Phone: +27 11 303 9700; email: robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Gambia

Ebola Ebola Virus Disease Preparedness DREF Budget

Budget Group	Multilateral Response	Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0	0
Shelter - Transitional	0	0
Construction - Housing	0	0
Construction - Facilities	0	0
Construction - Materials	0	0
Clothing & Textiles	1,424	1,424
Food	0	0
Seeds & Plants	0	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	3,916	3,916
Medical & First Aid	0	0
Teaching Materials	1,732	1,732
Utensils & Tools	0	0
Other Supplies & Services	0	0
Emergency Response Units	0	0
Cash Disbursements	0	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	7,072	7,072
Land & Buildings	0	0
Vehicles Purchase	0	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0	0
Medical Equipment	0	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0	0
Storage, Warehousing	0	0
Distribution & Monitoring	0	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	0	0
Logistics Services	0	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	0	0
International Staff	6,000	6,000
National Staff	0	0
National Society Staff	7,523	7,523
Volunteers	14,351	14,351
Total PERSONNEL	27,873	27,873
Consultants	0	0
Professional Fees	0	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0	0
Workshops & Training	1,780	1,780
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	1,780	1,780
Travel	1,500	1,500
Information & Public Relations	2,254	2,254
Office Costs	712	712
Communications	1,331	1,331
Financial Charges	1,475	1,475
Other General Expenses	0	0
Shared Support Services	0	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	7,271	7,271
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	2,860	2,860
Total INDIRECT COSTS	2,860	2,860
TOTAL BUDGET	46,856	46,856
NET DREF NEEDS	46,856	46,856