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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) The Gambia: Election Preparedness

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation	MDRGM011
Date of Issue: 21 November 2016	Date of Elections: 1 December 2016
Operation Manager: Mbalo Thioune, DCPRR Sahel CCST	Point of Contact: Anne Elisabeth Leclerc, Head of Sahel CCST
Operation Start Date: 21 November 2016	Expected Timeframe: 12 days
Overall Operation Budget: CHF 39,711	
Number of People Affected: 500 Families	Number of people to be assisted: 4,000 people
Host National Society Presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): 210 volunteers, 15 Staff and 7 Branches	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Partners Actively Involved in the Operation (if available and relevant): ICRC, IFRC and the Senegalese Red Cross Society (SRCS)	
Other Partner Organizations Actively Involved in the Operation: Ministry of Health and Social Welfare; the National Disaster Management Agency.	

A SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

The Gambia is going to the polls on 01 December 2016 to elect the President for the next 5 years. In the lead up to the election, the atmosphere in the country is tense. Back in April 2016, a protest march organized by the opposition resulted in injuries and arrests.

Officially the campaign started on 17 November 2016. History revealed that during the past four Presidential elections, there were incidents between the national security forces and the opposition. In this context, there is a risk of unrest during the upcoming election. Contrary to previous elections, this year seven opposition parties in The Gambia formed a coalition to contest the election against the incumbent and another opposition party.

The Gambia Red Cross Society, as part of its mission to save lives and promote dignity wherever applicable, developed a Contingency Plan based on an analysis of the evolving situation. This Election Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) focuses on potential hotspot areas at risk of election-related events. The EPRP envisages a) training of volunteers across the seven Branches of the National Society, b) preparing first aid materials and c) repositioning non-food items (NFIs).

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

The Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) developed a Contingency Plan for the Presidential election. Preparations include producing risk area maps and scenario development leading to the identification of needs, gaps and support from each Movement Partner.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in Country

The IFRC provides technical support to GRCS through its Country Cluster Office in Dakar, Senegal. The ICRC is also providing financial and technical support to the National Society in developing the plan as well as safer access and first aid training of 90 volunteers in three branches (Kanifing Municipality, Banjul Municipality and the West Coast Region).

ICRC will focus in three branches, namely Kanifing Municipality, Banjul Municipality and the West Coast Region, while IFRC will support the remaining four Branches, namely the Lower River Region, the North Bank Region, the Central River Region and the Upper River Region. The Senegalese Red Cross Society (SRCS) will provide support with personnel and communication equipment as well as being prepared for potential population movement.

Movement Coordination

The Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) will continue to a) organize regular briefings, b) provide situational reports on the election and c) hold meetings with Movement Partners, IFRC, ICRC, and SRC. At the Branch level, GRCS branch officers and governance will coordinate the interventions and report on emerging issues to the Head Office at Kanifing. GRCS will maintain in constant communication with all other Movement Components. If necessary, GRCS will request technical and material support from IFRC to launch a DREF extension or an Emergency Appeal.

Overview of Non-RCRC Actors in Country

The GRCS has an operational partnership with the Movement Partners, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA). GRCS volunteers will work closely with the health facilities in referring cases for further treatment and management. The GRCS will participate in coordination meetings if required and emergency surveillance volunteers will also help ensure collaboration with actors where necessary.

Needs Analysis, Beneficiary Selection, Risk Assessment and Scenario Planning

Following the mapping that was carried out as part of the contingency planning process, the underneath areas are identified as potential risk areas with the corresponding colour code. In addition, the classification takes into account where some of the opposition candidates originate, as this factor further heightens the risk of election-related events in these communities.

Risk Assessment

Regions	Towns at Risk	Level of Risk	Reasons
Kanifing Municipality	Serekunda, Bakau, Tallinding and Bundung	High Risk	This Municipality houses the election building.
West Coast Region	Brikama, Sukuta, Gunjur, Lamin, Siffoe, Sanyang, Brufut, etc.		This Region is the region of the incumbent, characterized with a wide spectrum of sentiments.
Banjul City	Banjul	Mild Risk	Banjul is the seat of the Presidency and the Administrative Capital of the country.
Lower River Region	Soma	Low Risk	Soma is the main business centre in this Region where people from different works of life meet on daily basis.
North Bank Region	Kerewan and Farafenne	Low Risk	Kerewan is the Administrative Town of this region and Farafenne is the main business centre in this region where people from different walks of life meet on daily bases.
Central River Region	Bansang and Brikamaba	High Risk	Bansang and Brikamaba are the main business centres in this region where people from different walks of life meet on daily bases.
Upper River Region	Basse	High Risk	The two main Opposition leaders are from Basse.

The DREF Operation is expected to support up to 4,000 people depending on the threshold of election-related events. The Operation will a) train volunteers on First Aid, and Safer Access, and b) Provision of first aid treatment, prepositioning of NFIs. The Operation will deploy staff and volunteers during the election, ready to provide tracing and protection of children, provision of temporal shelters, as well as promoting peace and non-violence.

In case of an election-related event, volunteers of the GRCS will have the opportunity to carry out activities in the field without any major risk due to the Fundamental Principles of Neutrality and Impartiality. In addition, last month the Gambia police were trained by GRCS on First Aid, arrest and detention and the roles of the GRCS. The training serves as awareness and understanding of the mandate of Red Cross during and after disaster or emergencies; this will equally support the volunteers in carrying out their duties.

B Operational Strategy and Plan

Overall Objective

To prepare GRCS for the upcoming elections, ready to provide humanitarian assistance in a coordinated manner to address election-related events in compliance with the Fundamental Principles.

Proposed Strategy

- Finalize the communication and coordination mechanism and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) at the headquarters and branch level
- To strengthen the capacities on first aid and Safer Access for volunteers involved in the operation
- To provide GRCS with adequate equipment (first aid material) and resources (communication and mobility) for responding to the situation
- To establish guidelines for restoring family links and protecting unaccompanied children, depending on the context
- Mobilize and coordinate with the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) health facilities as indicated by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

Operational Support Services

Human Resources

For the overall implementation of this DREF operation, 210 volunteers are required across the seven Branches. That the volunteers will be selected and screened to ensure neutrality and impartiality. Volunteers will be put on standby to support the activation of the Contingency Plan in the most at risk communities, regions and municipalities. Out of these volunteers, the ICRC will support the training of 90 volunteers from the following three Regions, namely Banjul, Kanifing Municipality and West Coast Region, whilst, the DREF allocation will support the training of the 120 volunteers from the remaining four Regions, namely (LRR, NBR, CRR and URR) as well as the cost of deployment of the overall 210 volunteers. The other component of the human resources is the GRCS 15 staff both at the Branch and at Head Office Level, who will provide the overall supervision and coordination of the Operation.

The volunteers' insurance will cover all the 210 volunteers who will be recruited and deployed on standby. The IFRC Sahel Country Cluster will deploy its Disaster and Crisis Prevention, Response and Recovery Officer and the Communication Officer to support the NS in the development of Communication Standard Operating Procedures during the Operation.

Logistics and Supply Chain

- ✓ **Procurement plans:** Given the limited time in the lead up to elections, first aid equipment will be purchased locally with the GRCS Logistics Service (GLS) directly following the National Society logistics procedures. For the NFIs, the IFRC Sahel CCST will release stock for 200 families (400 blankets, 240 mosquito nets, 200 buckets and 200 bars soap) and preposition them with Gambia Red Cross Society, whilst the other 100 families will be supported from the National Society's own free stock provided under the MoU with the Spanish Red Cross.
- ✓ **Logistics and warehousing:** The IFRC Sahel Country Cluster will send the NFIs items for 200 families required for the DREF operation to the GRCS National Headquarters, and they will then be transported and prepositioned to the risk areas by the GRCS.
- ✓ **Transport and fleet needs:** The National Society will rent one vehicle for the operations for one month to support the operation. GRCS owns two vehicles, which will also be pre-positioned in the interior of the country.

Information Technologies (IT)

The ICRC and the Senegalese Red Cross Society (SRCS) are expected to provide communications equipment (20 VHF Handset radios) to support the implementation of the DREF Operation (Contingency Plan). The use of internet and telephone facilities during the operation will be charged from the DREF allocation.

Communication

Timely communication is a key dimension of the overall response. It is important to establish communication protocol defining roles and responsibilities and deliverables before, during and after the elections. How to deal with media will be one of the key elements in this communication protocol.

Security

The Red Cross volunteers engaged in this operation will sign the GRCS volunteer Code of Conduct. The National Society will monitor the overall environment in the country prior and during the operation to identify changes in the security and mitigate risks to volunteers and staff. All volunteers and staff involved in the operation will participate in Safer Access training, facilitated by the ICRC. It remains critical that Red Cross personnel strictly adhere to the humanitarian principles, particularly neutrality, to mitigate security related risks.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, & Reporting (PMER)

The monitoring of operation activities will be conducted by the GRCS with technical support from the IFRC Sahel Country Cluster. The monitoring will focus on the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) and regular updates and final report on implementation will be drafted and shared with the Movement Partners.

Administration and Finance

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed between IFRC Sahel Country Cluster Office and the GRCS. This MoU will specify the responsibilities of both the GRCS and IFRC within the framework of the implementation of this DREF Operation. The GRCS Management and the Financial Department will make sure that the conditions agreed in the MoU underlying the use of the DREF allocation are respected in accordance with the DREF procedures.

Contact Information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace.**

DREF OPERATION

21/11/2016

MDRGM011 Election Preparedness

Budget Group	DREF grant budget
Shelter - Relief	0
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	1,500
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	0
Utensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	0
Emergency Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	1,500
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles Purchase	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	0
Distribution & Monitoring	2,517
Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,008
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	6,525
International Staff	0
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	16,520
Volunteers	5,115
Total PERSONNEL	21,635
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	558
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	558
Travel	5,000
Information & Public Relations	420
Office Costs	250
Communications	400
Financial Charges	1,000
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Support Services	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	7,070
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	2,424
Total INDIRECT COSTS	2,424
TOTAL BUDGET	39,711



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