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Emergency Plan of Action operation update

The Gambia: Election Preparedness

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n°: MDRGM011	Glide n°: XXXXX
Operations update n° 1 Date of issue: 16 December 2016	Timeframe covered by this update: 21 November – 10 December 2016
Operation start date: 21 November 2016	Extension of the Operation timeframe: 21 days (10 - 31 December 2016)
Overall operation budget: CHF 75,622	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 39,711 Additional Budget requested: CHF 35,911
N° of people affected: 500 families	N° of people being assisted: 4,000 people
Host National Society (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): 210 volunteers, 13 Staff	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: 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	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

The first DREF allocation focused on preparedness activities a) training of volunteers across the 7 branches of the National Society, b) preparing first aid materials and c) prepositioning non-food items (NFIs). The operation was implemented within the timeframe in the lead up to the election and according to plan as reported through the DMIS.

This Revised Emergency Plan of Action will focus on the monitoring and supervision of the Post-Election phase, considering the risks generated by the contest of the results of the elections. The operation will now focus on a) the mobilization and deployment of volunteers and staff within the seven at-risk branches, b) monitoring of the security situation by community volunteers, c) both on-site emergency and national coordination. This Revised EPoA also includes a request to extend the operation timeframe till the end of December 2016.

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Exactly 8 days after the Elections and the acceptance of the results by the incumbent President a television announcement stunned the nation on 9 December 2016, saying that he rejects the election results, declaring that he is still the president until a new election is conducted. The statement was aired through the nation's only television and radio station, GRTS.

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 revised Post-Election Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) focuses on potential hotspot areas at risk of election-related events. The EPRP envisages, a) the continued deployment of volunteers and staff within the Branches, b) community volunteers continue monitoring the security situation, c) both on-site emergency and national coordination will continue for an additional 10 days.

Summary of 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 related to Emergency Preparedness and Response. Preparations include producing risk area maps and scenario development leading to the identification of needs, gaps and support from each Movement Partner.

Since the announcement by the incumbent, rejecting the 1 December 2016, Presidential Election results on 9 December 2016, the National Society convened an emergency coordination meeting with the branches to update on the Emergency Plan of Action. GRCS contacted both ICRC and IFRC informing them of the situation. Regular phone contact is maintained with the Sahel Cluster Office.



Simulation exercise during the training of Red Cross volunteers © GRCS

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC and ICRC continue to provide technical support to GRCS through its Country Cluster Office and the Regional Delegation in Dakar, Senegal. IFRC, ICRC and the Senegalese Red Cross provided support during the election preparedness phase with personnel and communication equipment as well as being prepared for potential population movement on border provinces of Senegal.

Movement Coordination

The Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) continue to organize regular briefings, b) provide situation reports on the situation post-election and c) hold meetings with Movement Partners, including IFRC, ICRC, and relevant Partner National Societies. At the branch level, GRCS Branch Officers and Governance coordinate the interventions and report on emerging issues to the Head Office at Kanifing. GRCS maintains constant communication with all other Movement components. Should the situation deteriorate and the worst-case scenario developed as outlined in the Contingency plan, GRCS will consider requesting technical and material support from IFRC through the launch an Emergency Appeal.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The GRCS has an operational partnership with partners such as the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) and UNICEF. GRCS volunteers will work closely with the health facilities in referring cases for further treatment and management in case of any eventualities. The Ministry of Health has promised to support the operation with ambulances and the GRCS will participate in regular coordination meetings with partner during the implementation of this plan.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Following the mapping that was carried out as part of the contingency planning process, the newly updated mapping indicates Banjul, Kanifing Municipality, West Coast and Upper River Region with the high risk followed by LRR, NBR and CRR Branches. The Table below shows the potential risk areas with the corresponding color codes.

Risk Analysis

Regions	Towns at Risk	Level of Risk	Reasons
Kanifing Municipality	Serekunda, Bakau, Tallinding and Bundung	High Risk	This Municipality houses the Election building. The rejection of the election result could influence the reaction from the population
West Coast Region	Brikama, Sukuta, Gunjur, Lamin, Siffoe, Sanyang, Brufut, etc	High Risk	This Region is the region of the incumbent, characterized with a wide spectrum of sentiments.
Banjul City	Banjul	High Risk	Banjul is the seat of the Presidency and the Administrative Capital of the country.
Lower River Region	Soma	Medium 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	Medium 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	Medium 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 the Basse area.

In case of a post-election unrest, volunteers of the GRCS will undertake activities in the field without any major risk due to the Fundamental Principles of Neutrality and Impartiality. In addition, the Gambia Police Force was trained in November 2016 by GRCS on First Aid, arrest and detention and the roles of the GRCS. The training served 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 staff and volunteers on any post elections unrest by providing humanitarian assistance in a well-coordinated manner in compliance with the Fundamental Principles.

Proposed strategy

- To provide First Aid services to affected people in case of unrest.
- To maintain the communication channels and strategy during the operation period.
- To establish guidelines and support families in the case of a need for restoring family links and protecting unaccompanied children.
- Mobilize and coordinate with the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), health facilities as indicated by the MoHSW and UNICEF.
- Deployment of the volunteers and staff for a further 10-day duration.
- To create a surveillance system within the period of the implementation of the DREF.
- To monitor and supervise the implementation of the DREF accordingly both at Headquarters and branch level.

Operational support services

Human resources

For the overall implementation of this DREF operation, 210 volunteers are required and mobilized to be on a standby across the 7 branches. Out of these 210 volunteers, 105 volunteers (15 volunteers per branches) will be on duty to support the Emergency Branch Coordinator, whilst the remaining 105 volunteers will be put on active alert should the need arises. These volunteers are selected and screened to ensure neutrality and impartiality. The 105 volunteers on duty will monitor and support the implementation of the revised Emergency Plan of Action for the post-election phase. The second DREF allocation will be supporting the cost of their deployment for 10 days. The other component of the human resources is the GRCS staff both at the branch level (including seven Emergency Branch Coordinators) and at Headquarters level (SG, Ops Coordinator, Communication officer, PMER Officer, Logistic Officer, Operations Assistant), who will provide the overall supervision and coordination of the operation.

Seven Branch Officers will be the focal points at the branch level and will be supported by one operations coordinator from the national Headquarters. Both National and Branch Coordinators will be responsible for the day to day monitoring and reporting of the situation and volunteers at branch level. They will update the National Society Headquarters on developments in each of the seven branches. The GRCS have only one staff member in each branch and the support of the coordinator is key for they will jointly supervise the volunteers and be preparing reports. Three drivers will also support the implementation of this DREF operation.

IFRC will deploy the CCST Disaster Management Coordinator, Finance Officer and Communications Manager as well as Africa Region IT capacity. This team will provide support to the operation, ensuring that the National Society can implement this response in an efficient and effective way and monitor the developing situation. In addition, 3 key IFRC staff members will participate in the lessons learned workshop.

Communications

The Communication Officer will be responsible for the day to day monitoring and reporting of electronic and print media, as well as social media. The Communication Officer will be supervising the Branch Communication focal points, who will be send regular reports for collation. Timely communication is a key dimension of the overall response. GRCS established a 4-Level Communication System Protocol, with defined roles and responsibilities and deliverables post-election. This involves every one person calling four other persons after receiving information, which gives everybody an equal chance of access to information in a very short time. At the branch level, SMS and WhatsApp Chat Groups have been established to communicate with the volunteers during the response.

Security

The Red Cross volunteers engaged in this operation will renew their commitments to the GRCS Volunteer Code of Conduct. The National Society will continue to monitor the overall environment in the country to identify changes in the security and mitigate risks to volunteers and staff. This will be achieved by: 1) All staff will undertake to the relevant IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses (Personal Security, Security Management, and/or Volunteer Security). 2) A Security Focal Point is appointed by the National Society (an existing senior manager) who will update security and contingency plans (e.g. security plan, relocation plan, medical evacuation plan), advise senior and field level management on staff safety and security, monitor security environment and disseminate security information/advice as required, and monitor safety and security compliance. Security and contingency plans are robust and based on achievable mitigation planning and measures. It remains critical that Red Cross personnel strictly adhere to the humanitarian principles, neutrality, to mitigate security related risks.

IT and Telecom

A mission with an IFRC IT Delegate is ongoing to support the information/communication set up and network between branches and Headquarters.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

An Emergency Operations Coordinator and assistant will be supporting from Headquarters the 7 branches supporting and supervising the deployed volunteers and assisting the Branch Officers in the timely reporting of the DREF implementation. The Communication Officer will support the branch communication focal points in conducting surveillance of the situation in each branch and reporting accordingly. The monitoring of operation activities will be conducted by the GRCS, with technical support from the IFRC Sahel Country Cluster and will focus on the post-election revised Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA). Regular reports updates and final report on implementation will be drafted and shared with the Movement Partners.

A Contingency Plan Review meeting and lessons learned workshop is planned to be conducted together with the IFRC and ICRC team to evaluate this operation and highlight lessons to improve the Contingency Plan Process and update the different scenarios.

Administration and Finance

An updated Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed between IFRC Sahel Country Cluster Office and the GRCS to acknowledge the extension, the Post-Election plan and the budget revision. This MoU will specify the responsibilities of both the GRCS and IFRC within the framework of the implementation of this updated DREF Operation. The GRCS Management and the Financial Department will make sure that the conditions agreed within the updated MoU underlying the use of the DREF allocation are respected in accordance with the DREF procedures.

C. Detailed Operational Plan

Early warning & emergency response preparedness

The following plan of Action gives an overview of the activities undertaken through the preparedness phase.

Outcome 1: Detailed surveillance and analysis of the election-related events in all high and mild risk areas of the country	Outputs	% of achievement
	Output 1.1 Capacity of 210 volunteers and 15 staff is developed for the implementation of the DREF Emergency Plan of Action	100%

Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for supervision by GRCS regional staff member 	x		100%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for supervision by GRCS NHQ staff on the implementation of the operation 	x		100%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for coordination meetings with local authorities to inform them the roles and actions of Red Cross during and after election 	x		100%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First aid and safer access training for 120 volunteers in 4 Branches (LRR, NBR, CRR and URR) 	x		100%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deployment of volunteers 30 per Branch to provide first aid, psychological support and referral of injured to health facilities 	x		100%

Progress towards outcomes
<p>Support for supervision by GRCS regional staff member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each Branch has recruited the number of required volunteers and submitted the list with their identification to the Head Office. Thirteen (13) staff, including seven (7) Branch Officers and the Coordinating Team, have been identified both at national and Branch levels to support the operational plan. <p>Support for supervision by GRCS NHQ staff on the implementation of the operation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terms of Reference for staff in the operation have been developed The EPoA has been reviewed and updated as the situation evolved Meeting with partners have been held Consultation with Branches and modus operandi were agreed upon Situational reports have been drafted and submitted Operational materials were distributed to branches. The support to the training of volunteers was effective Daily review meetings were conducted The Governing Board was updated on activities Joint work was conducted on the different SOPs for both communication and finance to know the modalities of operations during emergencies Monitoring media trends was done daily <p>Support for coordination meetings with local authorities to inform them the roles and actions of Red Cross during and after elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with partners (MoHSW and NDMA) held in late November at Kanifing Head Office as well as at Branch level The alert received from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare has been forwarded to the branch officers <p>First aid, Communication and safer access training for 120 volunteers in four branches (Lower River Region, North Bank Region, Central River Region and Upper River Region)</p>

- Training activities were completed in all the seven Branches and in late November 2016. A total of 210 Red Cross volunteers have been trained (90 supported by ICRC; 120 by IFRC)

Deployment of volunteers 30 per branch to provide first aid, psychological support and referral of injured to health facilities

- Volunteers have been identified, selected, trained and ready for deployment
- 210 Red Cross identity cards have been produced and distributed to the volunteers. This visibility helps to protect Red Cross staff and volunteers and promotes the work of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement

New Activities:

- Support for supervision by GRCS regional staff member (1 supervisor per branch for 10 days)
- Support for supervision by GRCS NHQ staff on the implementation of the operation (6 staff members for 10 days)
- Support for coordination meetings with local authorities to inform them the roles and actions of Red Cross during and after election.
- Continued deployment of 210 volunteers across the country, 105 on duty and 105 put on moderate standby to provide first aid, psychological support and referral of injured to health facilities.
- Continued emergency communications (noting any funds not spent will be returned to the DREF).
- Rent two vehicles, provide fuel and two drivers to support the monitoring and deployment of staff and volunteers across seven at risk branches.
- Facilitate a contingency plan review and lessons learned workshop for GRCS staff and volunteers, IFRC, ICRC and Senegal Red Cross.

Health & care

Outcome 1 The emergency need of the injured population from the election-related event is improved	Outputs		% of achievement
		Output 1.1 Fully equipped first aid bags procured	
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
Procurement of first aid bags (15 bags) and prepositioning them at Branch Level	X		100%
Progress towards outcomes			
The Gambia Red Cross Society has distributed First Aid bags, stretchers and bibs to the branches as per the original EPOA.			

D. Budget

Refer to the attached budget below.

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 (NGO's) 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

16/12/2016

GAMBIA CIVIL UNREST

Budget Group	DREF grant budget	Expenditure CHF
Shelter - Relief	0	0
Shelter - Transitional	0	0
Construction - Housing	0	0
Construction - Facilities	0	0
Construction - Materials	0	0
Clothing & Textiles	1,500	1,500
Food	0	0
Seeds & Plants	0	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0	0
Medical & First Aid	0	0
Teaching Materials	0	0
Utensils & Tools	0	0
Other Supplies & Services	0	0
Emergency Response Units	0	0
Cash Disbursements	0	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIE	1,500	1,500
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	8,299	8,299
Logistics Services	0	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	8,299	8,299
International Staff	0	0
National Staff	0	0
National Society Staff	35,720	35,720
Volunteers	5,115	5,115
Total PERSONNEL	40,835	40,835
Consultants	0	0
Professional Fees	0	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0	0
Workshops & Training	5,603	5,603
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	5,603	5,603
Travel	8,000	8,000
Information & Public Relations	420	420
Office Costs	500	500
Communications	3,850	3,850
Financial Charges	2,000	2,000
Other General Expenses	0	0
Shared Support Services	0	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	14,770	14,770
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	4,615	4,615
Total INDIRECT COSTS	4,615	4,615
TOTAL BUDGET	75,622	75,622