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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

Guinea Bissau: Ebola Virus Preparedness

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF	Operation n° MDRGW002
Date of Issue: 4 May, 2015	Glide n° EP-2014-000039-GNB
Operation start date: 8 October, 2014	Operation end date: 8 January, 2015
Host National Society: Red Cross Society of Guinea Bissau	Operation budget: CHF 49,168
Number of people affected: 850,000 (based on last general population census in 2009)	Number of people assisted: 400,000 (direct and indirect beneficiaries in the regions of Bafata, Gabu, Oio and the district of Sao Domingo).
National Societies involved in the operation: Red Cross Society of Guinea Bissau and Spanish Red Cross.	
Other partner organizations involved in the operation: Civil Protection, Médecins sans Frontières, Ministry of Health, United Nations Children's Fund, World Food Programme, and the World Health Organization.	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

In February 2014, there was an outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Guinea, which has spread to Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone, and most recently Mali, causing untold hardship and hundreds of deaths in these countries. As of 16 April 2015, a total of 25,791 cases, and 10,689 deaths, which were attributed to the EVD, had been recorded across the most affected countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), an outbreak of the EVD was also reported, but is considered of a different origin than that which has affected West Africa.

Guinea Bissau has been categorized as "high risk country" by the World Health Organization (WHO), because of its borders with Guinea, in particular the localities of Gabu and Oio, as well as Bafata and Sao Domingo, which border Senegal. In addition, since the borders were not closed, the circulation of people to and from these countries presented a risk of the transmission of EVD to the Guinea Bissau population. Due to the risk of the transmission of EVD from the neighbouring countries of Guinea and Senegal, the Ministry of Health (MoH), was prompted begin preparedness and sensitization activities. The Red Cross Society of Guinea Bissau (RCSGB) was committed to supporting the MoH with the implementation these activities.

Summary of response

Overview of Host National Society

Since the confirmation of the EVD in Guinea, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) with the 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. On 8 October, 2014 CHF 49,168 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the RCSGB with EVD preparedness activities for a period of three months, specifically the regions of Bafata, Gabu, Oio, and the district of Sao Domingo. Through the DREF, the RCSGB has contributed to the MoH efforts in accordance with its National Plan of Action (PoA) to prevent EVD in Guinea Bissau through taking responsibility of activities in the areas of social mobilization/ awareness raising, and beneficiary communication.

This DREF has been replenished by AECID and the Canadian Red Cross/Government). The major donors and partners of the DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the USA, as well as DG ECHO, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) the Medtronic, Zurich and Coca Cola Foundations and other corporate and private donors.

The IFRC, on behalf of the Red Cross Society of Guinea Bissau would like to extend many thanks to all partners for their generous contributions. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

[<click here for the final financial report and here for the contact details >](#)

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) provided support through its' Sahel regional representation in Dakar, Senegal, as well as through its zone office in Nairobi, Kenya. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the IFRC and RCSGB, which outlined the parties responsibilities to implement the activities planned within the DREF operation. An IFRC Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) member was deployed for two months to support the effective implementation of the DREF operation. Other Red Cross Red Crescent partners in country included: International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and Spanish Red Cross Society; however their support was not directly related to the DREF operation.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

Following the EVD outbreak in the region, the MoH established an EVD committee, which comprised all humanitarian actors in Guinea Bissau, including the RCSGB, Non-Governmental Agencies (NGOs), and United Nations (UN) agencies. The MoH also established five sub-commissions:

1. Communication commission;
2. Medical aspects commission (with support from the WHO);
3. Medical analysis laboratory commission;
4. Epidemiological control commission;
5. Awareness and sensitization commission (with support from the RCSGB)

In addition, Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) established an isolated site in the S. Mendes hospital in Bissau, which includes rooms for potential suspect cases as well as confirmed cases; and a room for the management of potential dead bodies with support and collaboration from both the MoH and the WHO. MSF carried out EVD preparedness activities in the south of Guinea Bissau, outside of the areas targeted through the DREF operation. Technical committees trained by the MoH and its partners also were set up in each region.

On 15 December 2014, an agreement was signed between the RCSGB and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to provide EVD preparedness activities for six months in four regions, specifically: Bulama, Gabu, Kinara and Tombali.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Guinea has not experienced EVD in the past, and the population has limited knowledge of the virus and due to the misconceptions around it, social mobilization / awareness raising activities are required to address the population's fears and misconceptions surrounding it, specifically related to transmission and behaviors required to avoid risk. In addition, the weak borders, and exponential increase of EVD in neighbouring Guinea, further contributed to the risk of transmission.

The RCSGB in accordance with the National Plan of Action (PoA) to prevent EVD, has implemented the DREF operation in the regions of Bafata, Gabu, Oio; and the district of Sao Domingo, which were selected since they were more exposed to EVD risk as have borders with affected countries (Guinea and Nigeria).

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall Objective

The overall objective was to prepare GBRCs through reinforcement of volunteers and material for a possible outbreak and also to undertake social mobilization in order to reduce risk and improve preparedness / prevention activities alongside the MoH.

Proposed strategy

The proposed strategy was in accordance with the IFRCs response and preparedness strategy for countries in the region, and specifically those that bordered those countries where cases had been reported. The activities focused on:

- Preparedness for response through volunteer training in communication around epidemics and behavioral change;
- Supporting Ministries of Health (and other actors) 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.

Operational support services

Human resources (HR)

Through this DREF operation, 130 volunteers were mobilized, 520 team members, four supervisors and one national EVD focal point were mobilized, in addition to five MoH staff members, which carried out the activities planned. As noted, an IFRC RDRT was deployed for two to support the effective implementation of the DREF operation, and specifically those related to Epidemic for Control (ECV) training, and social mobilization activities.

Logistics and supply chain

The Spanish Red Cross present in country provided some logistics support in putting at the operational team disposal a Land Cruiser car.

Communications

Communication and visibility of the activities planned within the DREF operation was ensured through two radio broadcasts of interviews with the secretary general (SG) in the headquarters of the RCSGB; as well as media coverage of three of the four ECV trainings that were carried out. The RCSGB communications department in collaboration with the MoH communication commission prepared a series of EVD messages and spots were developed in the national languages (Creole and Portuguese); and sent to community radio stations. Regional communication focal points as well as WatSan NDRT were responsible for leading radio programs in partnership with the community radio stations, reported to the national head of communications and RDRT. A monitoring schedule was established by the RDRT to support the regional teams with these activities.

Security

Although Guinea Bissau has just come out of a political crisis which was followed by the recent presidential elections, the country experienced stability during 2014; however, with the presence of the international force of inter position (ECOMIB) in country, this stability remains fragile. No security incidents were reported during the implementation of the DREF operation in the four areas.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER)

Continuous monitoring and reporting was carried out jointly between the RCSGB national EVD focal point and the RDRT in all the target areas. Weekly updates were then shared with the IFRC Sahel regional representation. In addition, the RCSGB president and secretary general carried out monitoring missions to three of the four regions. The MoH also carried out monitoring missions in Bafata and Gabu regions to assess the impact of the activities carried out within the DREF operation, in relation the National PoA to prevent EVD.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Early warning & emergency response preparedness

Early Warning & emergency response preparedness																																																	
Outcome: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced																																																	
Output 1.1: The capacity of Guinea Bissau Red Cross to prepare for potential EVD response is strengthened																																																	
Activities planned																																																	
1.1.1	Train volunteers and supervisors in epidemic control for volunteers (Target 130 volunteers + 10 MoH staff members)																																																
Achievements																																																	
1.1.1	In total, 130 volunteers, four supervisors, one national EVD focal point, and five MoH staff received training on the use of the ECV manual, which equates to 100 per cent of the intended target (130 volunteers + 10 MoH staff. Please note that five MoH staff were involved in a polio vaccination campaign, and were therefore substituted with relevant RCSGB staff involved in the implementation of the DREF operation. Each volunteer cascaded the training to four volunteers, to form a team of five volunteers – as such, in total 650 volunteers, comprising 130 teams of five received training on the ECV manual; and then carried out social mobilization / awareness raising activities including the dissemination of EVD related messages to the population. The 130 volunteers that received the original training acted as team leaders. The EVD training was organized in collaboration with the MoH and medical centre staff in the four target areas, with technical assistance provided by MSF, the RDRT and the WHO. Please note that the ECV training was in accordance with the National PoA to prevent EVD that had been designed by the MoH.																																																
Output 1.2: Increased public awareness about EVD (signs and symptoms, transmission risk factors, actions for suspected cases, its prevention and control measures)																																																	
Activities planned																																																	
1.2.1	Distributions of information, education and communication in at risk communities																																																
1.2.2	Organize community discussions (Target: 75 community discussions)																																																
1.2.3	Radio broadcasting (Target: 15 radio broadcasts)																																																
1.2.4	Dissemination of key messages on EVD prevention (Target: Four at-risk target areas)																																																
Achievements																																																	
1.2.1	In total, 1,750 information, education and communication materials (1,100 posters and 650 flyers) were distributed, which equates to 116 per cent approx. of the intended target (1,500). In addition, preventative materials including gresyl (200 bottles), chlorine (169 bottles), soap (200 units), megaphones (10 units) and batteries for megaphones (15 boxes) were also allocated to volunteers to assist them with the activities planned. Please refer to “Table 1: Distribution of IECS; and prevention materials by area” for further information on this.																																																
<p>Table 1: Distribution of IECS; and prevention materials by area</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Areas</th> <th>Posters</th> <th>Flyers</th> <th>Gresyl</th> <th>Chlorine</th> <th>Soap</th> <th>Megaphone</th> <th>Batteries</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bafata</td> <td>200</td> <td>150</td> <td>45</td> <td>40</td> <td>45</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gabu</td> <td>200</td> <td>100</td> <td>55</td> <td>41</td> <td>55</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OIO</td> <td>300</td> <td>150</td> <td>45</td> <td>40</td> <td>45</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>San Domingo</td> <td>400</td> <td>250</td> <td>55</td> <td>48</td> <td>55</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>1100</td> <td>650</td> <td>200</td> <td>169</td> <td>200</td> <td>10</td> <td>15</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Areas	Posters	Flyers	Gresyl	Chlorine	Soap	Megaphone	Batteries	Bafata	200	150	45	40	45	2	3	Gabu	200	100	55	41	55	2	3	OIO	300	150	45	40	45	2	4	San Domingo	400	250	55	48	55	4	5	Total	1100	650	200	169	200	10	15
Areas	Posters	Flyers	Gresyl	Chlorine	Soap	Megaphone	Batteries																																										
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San Domingo	400	250	55	48	55	4	5																																										
Total	1100	650	200	169	200	10	15																																										
1.2.2	In total, RCSGB volunteers carried out 1,281 community discussions, which equates to 1,708 per cent of the intended target (75), which was possible due to the increase in the number of volunteers that received ECV																																																

training (650).

- 1.2.3 In total, 15 radio broadcasts were carried out, which provided sensitization to the public on the EVD, which equates to 100 per cent of the intended target (100). In addition, spots were also broadcast on television channels. Please refer to the “Communications” section for more information.
- 1.2.4 In total, 237,596 people (91,419 men; 98,363 women; and 47,814 children) were directly reached with EVD prevention messages through a range of means including community discussions (1,281), individual interviews (1,768) and household visits (23,245), which equates to 59 per cent approx. of the intended target (400,000). Please note however that this does not include those members of the population that were reached through radio / television broadcasts, which is unknown, and it can be therefore expected that the intended target was achieved, if not exceeded.

Table 2: Number of people reached through social mobilization / awareness raising activities by area

Areas	Men	Women	Children	Total
Bafata	28,513	29,547	16,558	74,618
Gabu	20,624	20,845	4,947	46,416
Oio	17,593	20,089	9,485	47,167
San Domingo	24,689	27,882	16,824	69,395
Total	91,419	98,363	47,814	237,596

Table 3: Dissemination of key messages on EVD prevention activities by area

Areas	Number of households visits	Number of community discussions	Number of individual interviews
Bafata	7,032	350	387
Gabu	4,058	372	288
Oio	5,663	219	863
San Domingo	6,492	340	230
Total	23,245	1,281	1,768

Output 1.3 Community epidemiological surveillance is set up / enhanced

Activities planned

- 1.3.1 Participate in information and coordination meetings with authorities
- 1.3.2 Set up / enhance community monitoring committees for disease surveillance.
- 1.3.3 Epidemiological control and monitoring through community disease surveillance.
- 1.3.4 Monitor and report on activities carried out

Achievements

- 1.3.1 The RCSGB has been an active member of the MoH EVD committee, which is chaired by the prime minister, as well as the sub-committees (Communications, Epidemiological control, and awareness and sensitization), which was also established. During the implementation of the DREF operation, the RCSGB participated in information and coordination meetings held by the EVD committee and sub-committees.
- 1.3.2 The RCSGB established community monitoring committees for disease surveillance comprised of volunteers several target areas and villages. Check points in borders were equipped with monitoring devices for epidemiological control. In addition, 1,038 washing devices were also installed enable the population to be able to wash their hands, and thus mitigate the risk of EVD.
- 1.3.3 Please refer to “Activity 1.3.2”.

1.3.4 Please refer to the “PMER” section.

Challenges

Key operational challenges included:

- Communications: Social mobilization / awareness raising activities were carried out during a period where communities were busy with the preparation of Christmas and End of year’s feast hence it was challenging to mobilize them.
- RCRC/Agency Coordination: The ECV training coincided with a polio vaccination campaign hence the low implication of the MoH staff.

Lessons learned

Lessons learned included:

- Early Warning & emergency response preparedness: Cascading of ECV training to additional volunteers enabled washing devices to be installed, which was not planned, and other intended targets to be exceeded.

D. THE BUDGET

There was an overall underspend of CHF 9,731 against the approved budget of CHF 49,168. This balance will now be reimbursed to the DREF.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

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For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

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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 Disaster 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.

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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

Disaster Response Financial Report**MDRGW002 - Guinea Bissau - Ebola Virus Preparedness**

Timeframe: 08 Oct 14 to 08 Jan 15

Appeal Launch Date: 08 Oct 14

Annual Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2014/10-2015/3	Programme	MDRGW002
Budget Timeframe	2014/10-2015/1	Budget	BUDGET9
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget		49,168				49,168	
B. Opening Balance							
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		49,168				49,168	
C4. Other Income		49,168				49,168	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		49,168				49,168	
D. Total Funding = B + C		49,168				49,168	

* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

II. Movement of Funds

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance							
C. Income		49,168				49,168	
E. Expenditure		-39,437				-39,437	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		9,731				9,731	

Disaster Response Financial Report

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Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
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III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)			49,168			49,168		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Clothing & Textiles	1,300						1,300	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	1,280		704			704	576	
Teaching Materials	3,090		5,164			5,164	-2,074	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	5,670		5,867			5,867	-197	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicles Costs			3,315			3,315	-3,315	
Logistics Services	3,000						3,000	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	3,000		3,315			3,315	-315	
Personnel								
International Staff	12,000		6,276			6,276	5,724	
National Society Staff	3,895		3,953			3,953	-58	
Volunteers	11,850		12,256			12,256	-406	
Total Personnel	27,745		22,485			22,485	5,260	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	1,060		1,404			1,404	-344	
Total Workshops & Training	1,060		1,404			1,404	-344	
General Expenditure								
Travel	4,500		3,531			3,531	969	
Information & Public Relations	1,590		1,035			1,035	555	
Office Costs	501						501	
Communications	1,101		123			123	978	
Financial Charges	1,000		-730			-730	1,730	
Total General Expenditure	8,692		3,959			3,959	4,733	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recove	3,001		2,407			2,407	594	
Total Indirect Costs	3,001		2,407			2,407	594	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	49,168		39,437			39,437	9,731	
VARIANCE (C - D)			9,731			9,731		

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Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

IV. Breakdown by subsector

Business Line / Sub-sector	Budget	Opening Balance	Income	Funding	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Deferred Income
BL2 - Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people							
Disaster response	49,168		49,168	49,168	39,437	9,731	
Subtotal BL2	49,168		49,168	49,168	39,437	9,731	
GRAND TOTAL	49,168		49,168	49,168	39,437	9,731	