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## Emergency Plan of Action (EPOA) Liberia: Margibi Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF Operation</b>	<b>MDRLR002</b>
<b>Date of issue:</b> 12 July 2016	<b>Date of disaster:</b> 29 June 2016
<b>Operation manager (responsible for this EPOA):</b> Younos Abdul Karim, IFRC Liberia - Head of Country Office	<b>Point of contact:</b> Linette Tariro Jonhera, IFRC Liberia - Acting Programme Coordinator
<b>Operation start date:</b> 8 July 2016	<b>Expected timeframe:</b> 31 August 2016
<b>Overall operation budget:</b> CHF 75,155	
<b>Number of people affected:</b> 15,431	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b> 2,500 (500 families)
<b>Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches):</b> 2,500 volunteers, 216 staff, 15 branches.	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation (if available and relevant):</b> Danish Red Cross, German Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Committee of Red Cross.	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> Liberia Refugees, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), Ministry of Health (MOH), Save the Children, United Nations Children`s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Food Programme (WFP) and World Health Organization (WHO)	

## A. Situation analysis

### Description of the disaster

From 29 June 2016, Upper and Lower Margibi County in Liberia experienced widespread flooding, which affected more than 15,000 people (15,431) in 49 communities. Flooding started during the early morning hours following torrential rain in the northern parts of the country causing the banks of Du River in Lower Margibi and Benla Creek in Upper Margibi to overflow. Liberia has a record of floods in the last ten years and is among the wettest countries in West Africa and the world. Among the 49 communities currently affected, damage of numerous homes has been reported, and more than 10,000 people have been made homeless. It is reported that the flooding has contaminated water sources and latrines have collapsed, while pre-existing health sector weaknesses worsened by the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak still remain and access to health care services is poor, increasing the risk of diseases following the floods. The flood-affected population are staying in public buildings (churches, mosques and schools) with limited access to sanitation, which is resulting in an increase in open defecation. The floods have also caused damage to crops (vegetables and root crops).



LNRCS staff and volunteers distributing NFIs to flood affected households. Photo: LNRCS

As of 8 July, the flooding had not receded and the water table continued to rise. Meteorological forecasts indicate that the rains will continue with the number of people affected expected to increase and affect Margibi and also Montserrado (including the capital of Monrovia).

## **Summary of the current response**

### **Overview of Host National Society**

The Liberian Red Cross Society (LNRCS) is leading the response operation through the provision of financial, material and technical support in collaboration with other Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement partners. The LNRCS has mobilized members of its Disaster Management (DM) and Health departments and 50 volunteers (Margibi Chapter and the Mamba-Kaba Branch) to conduct rapid assessments, and provide assistance to the affected population including: first aid, food and non-food items (NFIs), health/hygiene promotion and psychosocial assistance.

Since 2014, an Emergency Appeal operation has been on-going in response to the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak – and the NS is ensuring that any capacities that have been strengthened and lessons learned from this are being incorporated within the current response to the floods.

### **Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country**

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) provides technical support to the LNRCS through its Liberia Country Office, which is based in Monrovia, and Africa Region Office, in Nairobi, Kenya. The EVD Emergency Appeal (MDRLR001) is supporting a number of IFRC delegates in Liberia including: Head of Country Office, Programme Coordinator (Acting), Procurement Officer and Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT), who can provide technical support to the NS in response to the flooding if required. The IFRC Liberia Country Office has released NFIs from pre-positioned stocks (sourced from EVD recovery stocks). On 1, 3 and 6 July 2016, alerts were issued using the IFRC disaster management information system (DMIS), which indicated the intention of the LNRCS to request international assistance to the floods through an allocation from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). On 4 July 2016, an Operational Strategy Call convened with representatives from the IFRC Liberia Country Office, Africa Region and Geneva levels; and it was agreed that a DREF allocation was an appropriate modality to support the NS response.

The IFRC is also coordinating the support of RCRC Movement partners. The Movement is part of the coordination mechanisms at national level, meeting every day at 14:30 and the county structure meeting every day at 10:00. The Danish Red Cross (DRC), German Red Cross (GRC) and International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) have provided initial logistical support and NFIs co ICRC, Danish and German Red Cross Societies initially provided logistical support and NFIs comprising items including: blankets, buckets, hygiene kits, jerry can, mosquito nets and tarpaulins to complement the initial distributions being carried out.

### **Overview of non-RCRC actors in country**

Following the floods, the coordination of the response has been led by the Government of Liberia (GoL) through the National Disaster Relief Commission (NDRC) / Ministry of Internal Affairs. The NDRC is also coordinating resource mobilization along with partners. The GoL has set up an Operational Command Centre in Lower Margibi County where the coordinating Steering Committee headed by the County Superintendent Chairs. The Armed Forces of Liberia is providing search and rescue, transportation of food and water to communities that are cut-off and trapped by the floods.

The LNRCS has been allocated interventions in the following sectors: data collection and information management, health, NFIs/shelter, and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH). Key UN agencies far involved in the response include UNICEF, UNDP, WFP and WHO; and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO) include: Save the Children. It is expected that more INGOs will become involved in the response. Partners have requested the Command Centre to provide data on the needs that would lead to their responses. It is expected that more UN and INGOs will become involved in the response as more data becomes available.

## **Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning**

As of 8 July 2016, the LNRCS has conducted rapid assessments in 15 of the 49 communities that have been identified as affected in Lower Margibi (40) and Upper Margibi (Nine), with this process continuing in the remaining 34 communities, as well as in Montserrado County where new flooding has now been reported. The LNRCS rapid

assessments has used tools including: key informant interviews, observation and a review of the available secondary data from assessments carried out by other stakeholders.

Based on findings from the assessments completed, the immediate needs in the communities are: blankets, clothes, food and cooking utensils, mosquito nets, personal hygiene materials, shelter, clean water (jerry cans and buckets, water purification tablets). It is reported that the elderly, children, pregnant and lactating women are among the most vulnerable in the affected communities.

Following the completion of the remaining assessments, the LNRCS will reconsider the scope of the response required to address the immediate needs of the flood-affected population, specifically in the areas of health, NFIs/shelter and WASH.

### **Risk Assessment**

Experience shows, especially from the EVD and other previous emergency operations in Liberia, that coordination is always a challenge from the beginning. It is assumed that there could be poor mechanism for effective coordination and information sharing which would impact implementation of planned activities. As Liberia prepares for general and presidential elections in 2017, this disaster situation could be exploited by politicians to showcase themselves by showing up with donations to communities where already the LNRCS might be working with vulnerable people and this might compromise service delivery.

In an unstable economy, change in prices, and supply chain are important considerations. Inefficient customs procedures are significant risk factors in the implementation of response interventions.

Since the rainy season is just beginning, it is possible if no action is taken to ensure that sanitation structures (e.g. drains and gutters) are not cleaned, and then flooding could extend beyond Margibi into other areas of the country. Already, some suburbs of Monrovia started reporting flooding in more than six communities. As per the intention to conduct a more detailed needs and gaps assessment, it is possible that the DREF operation will be extended into new areas if required.

### **Beneficiary selection:**

Through this DREF operation, an initial 500 families (approximately 2,500 people at an average of five family members) will be targeted in 15 communities (12 in Lower Margibi; three in Upper Margibi), based on the following criteria: the chronically ill, elderly, female-headed households, lactating mothers and under-five children, and pregnant women. Please note that the number of beneficiaries to be assisted is based on the current response capacity of the NS. Other stakeholders are also involved in the response and will cater for the rest of the caseload.

LNRCS will ensure that the DREF operation is aligned with the IFRC's commitment to realize gender equality and diversity by adapting beneficiary selection criteria that targets women headed-households, people with disabilities. Other aspects considered will include prevention of sexual violence and gender-based violence, and the protection of children.

## **B. Operational strategy and plan**

### **Overall objective**

Immediate survival needs of the flood-affected population are met through the provision of essential emergency relief, shelter, health, water and hygiene promotion assistance, targeting a total of 500 families (2,500 people), in Margibi County, for an initial period of two months.

### **Proposed strategy**

The DREF operation aims to support the LNRCS to provide a total of 500 families (approximately 2,500 people) with emergency relief assistance, and outcomes, outputs and activities planned are based on the initial information provided by the rapid assessments that have been completed in the affected communities. As the situation evolves, the expansion of the DREF or launch of an Emergency Appeal may be requested, as determined by scale of the

operation and needs arising by sector following the completion of assessments. However, the initial DREF operation will support the costs of the response incurred to date, and will include the following:

- Reimbursement of costs incurred in the rapid assessments being carried out in Margibi and Montserrado Counties (per diem for staff and volunteers; communications).
- Procurement/distribution of first aid kits to volunteers (five); and provision of first aid services (including referral to health services) in the affected communities.
- Distribution/replenishment of means to treat and store safe water: comprising: water sachets (16,000 pcs) and chlorine tablets (24,000 sachets), as well as buckets (300 pcs) and jerry cans (300 pcs) for storage.
- Replenishment of equipment issued by volunteers for environmental sanitation activities, comprising boots (50 pcs – one pc per volunteer), heavy duty gloves (50 pcs – one pc per volunteer), shovels (five), trash bags (200 pcs - four pcs per volunteer) and wheelbarrows (five).
- Distribution /replenishment of hygiene related NFIs, comprising: bath soap (800 pcs), bath towels (800 pcs), condoms (1,000 pcs), hand sanitizer (480 pcs), hygiene pads – for women (335 pcs), laundry soap (800 pcs), shower slippers (800 pcs), toothbrushes (1,000 pcs) and toothpaste (300 pcs).
- Distribution/replenishment of NFIs and shelter items, comprising: blankets (800 pcs), clothing – children, men and women (nine bales), kitchen sets (800 pcs), mosquito nets (800 pcs), shelter tool kits (190 pcs), sleeping mats (800 pcs) and tarpaulins (380 pcs).
- Distribution/replenishment of food rations, comprising: 1,500kg of rice.

The NFIs supported through the DREF operation will be complemented by those released by other RCRC partners to ensure that all 500 families receive the same quantity/quality of items. The DREF allocation will replenish only those released by the IFRC. Please refer to Additional activities will also be carried out in complement of the DREF operation through the on-going MDRLR001 EVD Emergency Appeal.

As part of the LNRCS' "*One-Programme Approach*" an integrated response strategy is in place involving staff from all departments and programmes, supporting the DREF operation in their respective areas of specialty. Currently, the LNRCS Communications and PMER teams are leading the IM group, beneficiary communications are active in community assessment and engagement processes while IT, Logistics, PSS, Health, are strongly supporting in their respective functions. This approach promotes effective coordination and implementation of response interventions. All LNRCS actions will be guided and adhere to the minimum standards (SPHERE).

## **Operational support services**

### **Human resources**

The DREF operation will require the mobilization of personnel, including the following LNRCS staff and volunteers:

- A total of 70 volunteers (Margibi (50) and Montserrado (20) will be mobilized. The volunteers will be mobilized for 20 days in Margibi County and 10 days in Montserrado County to conduct rapid assessment, registration of beneficiaries, distribution of NFIs and sensitization on their use, health/hygiene promotion and psychosocial support. Each volunteer will receive a daily per diem, and be issued with a rain jacket. Volunteer insurance will be covered through the IFRC global insurance policy via the MDRLR001 EVD Emergency Appeal.
- A total of 30 staff will be mobilized to support the rapid assessments, supervision of volunteers and coordination with other stakeholders. The staff will be mobilized for five days. Each staff member will receive a daily incentive, and be issued with a rain jacket.

The IFRC Liberia Country Office will provide technical support to ensure that the DREF operation is implemented in accordance with the Emergency Plan of Action, and agreed conditions of the DREF. The need for deployment of additional surge support (RDRTs, ERUs, Consultants, Delegates etc.) is not a priority in this initial response but may be requested in a worst case scenario.

### **Logistics and supply chain**

The IFRC Procurement delegate is supporting the DREF operation and has compiled a list of needs and is also coordinating logistical support. To ensure timely assistance to affected communities, a hub is being set up in the affected area near the International Airport.

**Procurement plans** – mobilize local in-country RCRC Movement partners to contribute to the operation; go through the LNRCS procurement procedures if the need arises to do in-country procurement of materials. This process will be strongly supported and monitored by the IFRC Liberia County Office. Replenishment of NFIs will be carried out by the IFRC procurement delegate in collaboration with NS counterparts; and will be sourced from the IFRC Dakar Country Cluster based in Senegal. Costs for the transportation of the items from Dakar – Monrovia have been budgeted, including loading/offloading, delivery to the affected communities and distribution.

**Warehouse and storage plans** – set up an outlet at the operational site, near the International Airport that will allow goods/items to be easily accessed and distributed to beneficiaries; improve warehouse procedures that would not impede timeliness. A mini-warehouse as an outlet for stocking of basic materials for response will be done in the affected area. The GoL, through UNICEF has identified a site to set up rub halls for logistical support. The General Services Agency (GSA) is also working with the government's Operational Command Centre to set up logistics hub in the area.

**Transport and fleet needs** - currently the LNRCS has vehicles adequate for the implementation of the DREF operation. The provision of fuel, servicing, and payment for additional drivers that could be required in the future remain a critical need. Fuel and servicing/maintenance of the available vehicles is a major challenge to the LNRCS for immediate and future response operations.

### **Communications**

The LNRCS and IFRC will use different media options to promote the operation and profile of the NS. These options and channels include both electronic and print media. Regular publications, press releases, media conferences are among some of the options. The LNRCS Facebook page, official website and the IFRC website including other information portals available in the Movement in addition to traditional and social media networks will be used to promote the operation and profile the LNRCS.

### **Security management**

With the presence of the Armed Forces of Liberia and the Liberia National Police on-site in the affected areas, security threats/risks will be minimal. Possible issues of security are theft of beneficiaries' items and household materials left in their homes that could not be taken along with them, especially those in temporary settlements in schools, etc. In any case of security threat to staff, volunteers, assets and beneficiaries, the LNRCS Security Focal Point will immediately contact the LNRCS Management and further the management will contact the Government Command Centre, and refer to the Police. All LNRCS staff and volunteers involved in the DREF operation are expected have completed the online *STAY SAFE Volunteers* security course.

### **Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)**

The LNRCS PMER Unit will support all planning, monitoring and evaluations of the DREF operation.

- PMER already leading on Monitoring and Evaluation will provide coaching for key NS staff involved in DREF operation on the use of basic short-term tools
- Technical support to PMER and other NS staff involved in the operation will be provided
- IFRC Country Office supports LRCS PMER and DM units

Accountability to Beneficiaries, as a new and emerging way of working with beneficiaries has been adopted and the LNRCS will ensure a strong beneficiary complaint and feedback mechanism. This will consider transparent communication, participatory monitoring and evaluation at all levels of the operation. Disaggregated data (sex, age, gender and diversity) will be collected and shared to improve service delivery to the vulnerable and marginalized. Community engagement before, during and after each activity will inform decision-making on the quality of the services provided by the LNRCS. Participatory assessment, monitoring, and evaluation will be important components of appropriate beneficiary engagement processes.



## Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

<b>Outcome 3: Immediate risk of waterborne disease is reduced through the provision of safe water supply and hygiene promotion in Margibi County over a period of two months</b>									
<b>Output 3.1: Target population in the affected area is provided with access to safe drinking water supply (Target: 500 families / 2,500 people)</b>									
Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Provide safe drinking water (Target: Water sachets (16,000 pcs))									
Distribute/replenish means to treat water at household level; and provide demonstration on their use (Target: Chlorine tablets (24,000 sachets)).									
Distribute/replenish means to store water at household level (Target: Buckets (300 pcs) and jerry cans (300 pcs)).									
<b>Output 3.2: Target population in the affected area is provided with improved sanitation conditions (Target: 500 families / 2,500 people)</b>									
Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Equip volunteers with sanitation related equipment (Target: 50 volunteers - boots (50 pcs – one pc per volunteer), heavy duty gloves (50 pcs – one pc per volunteer), shovels (five), trash bags (200 pcs - four pcs per volunteer) and wheelbarrows (five).									
Conduct environmental sanitation activities in the affected area (Target: 15 communities)									
<b>Output 3.3: Target population in the affected areas are provided with hygiene promotion, which meet Sphere standards (Target: 500 families / 2,500 people)</b>									
Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Distribute/replenish hygiene related items (Target: bath soap (800 pcs), bath towels (800 pcs), condoms (1,000 pcs), hand sanitizer (480 pcs), hygiene pads – for women (335 pcs), laundry soap (800 pcs), shower slippers (800 pcs), toothbrushes (1,000 pcs) and toothpaste (300 pcs).									
Conduct health and health and hygiene promotion in the affected area (Target: 500 families / 2,500 people in 15 communities)									

## Shelter and settlements (and household items)

<b>Outcome 4: Immediate shelter and settlement needs of the target population in Margibi County are met over a period of two months</b>									
<b>Output 4.1: Target population is provided with Non-Food Items (NFIs) and emergency shelter items (Target: 500 families / 2,500 people)</b>									
Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Distribute/replenish NFIs and emergency shelter items; and provide demonstration on their use (Target: Blankets (800 pcs), clothing – children, men and women (nine bales), kitchen sets (800 pcs), mosquito nets (800 pcs), shelter tool kits (190 pcs), sleeping mats (800 pcs) and tarpaulins (380 pcs).									

## Food security, nutrition and livelihoods

<b>Outcome 4: Immediate food needs of the target population in Margibi County are met over a period of two</b>									
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months									
Output 4.1: Target population provided with appropriate food rations (Target: 500 families / 2,500 people)									
Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Distribute/replenish food rations (Target: 1,500kg rice)									

## Budget

See Budget attached

# DREF OPERATION

12/07/2016

## Liberia: Margibi Floods (MDRLR002)

Budget Group	DREF grant budget	Expenditure CHF
Shelter - Relief	17,100	17,100
Shelter - Transitional	0	0
Construction - Housing	0	0
Construction - Facilities	0	0
Construction - Materials	0	0
Clothing & Textiles	1,125	1,125
Food	750	750
Seeds & Plants	0	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	1,280	1,280
Medical & First Aid	15,423	15,423
Teaching Materials	0	0
Utensils & Tools	10,890	10,890
Other Supplies & Services	0	0
Emergency Response Units	0	0
Cash Disbursements	0	0
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>46,568</b>	<b>46,568</b>
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
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Storage, Warehousing	0	0
Distribution & Monitoring	5,000	5,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	10,500	10,500
Logistics Services	0	0
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>15,500</b>	<b>15,500</b>
International Staff	0	0
National Staff	0	0
National Society Staff	3,000	3,000
Volunteers	4,500	4,500
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>7,500</b>
Consultants	0	0
Professional Fees	0	0
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Workshops & Training	0	0
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Travel	0	0
Information & Public Relations	400	400
Office Costs	0	0
Communications	100	100
Financial Charges	500	500
Other General Expenses	0	0
Shared Support Services	0	0
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	4,587	4,587
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>4,587</b>	<b>4,587</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>75,155</b>	<b>75,155</b>