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Emergency Plan of Action (EPOA) Ghana: Election Preparedness

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation	Operation n° MDRGH013
Date of issue: 21 November, 2016	Date of disaster: NA
Operation manager (responsible for this EPOA): Mr. Abel Augustinio	Point of contact: Mr. Samuel Kofi Addo, Secretary General, Ghana Red Cross Society
Operation start date: 18 November, 2016	Operation end date: 18 December, 2016
Overall operation budget: CHF 43,841	
Number of people at risk: 2 million	Number of people to be assisted: 25,000
Host National Society presence: 60,000 of volunteers, 50 staff, 10 branches	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies, Swiss Red Cross and International Committee of Red Cross	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: The Electoral Commission of Ghana and the Security Agencies	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

The seventh General Elections of the fourth Republic of Ghana, that is, Presidential and Parliamentary elections, will be held on 7 December, 2016. A total of seven political parties have filed to contest the upcoming elections. In the run up to the elections, allegations have been made amongst the ruling government and opposition parties especially the largest opposition party, the New Patriotic Party, of tampering with voters register. It is alleged that the register contains ineligible foreigners to the advantage of the incumbent government and growing suspicion that the National Democratic Party will tamper with the upcoming elections in order to cling to power. There are concerns focused on the more volatile constituencies in the regions, which are tightly contested between the two biggest parties, which could generate insecurity during the elections.

In Ghana, every election since 1992 has experienced some level of violence, however, the level and intensity of the violence varies from election to election. Although electoral violence may be considered less severe in Ghana than in other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, over the last 20 years there have been a total of 5,707 incidents reported (according to the African Democratic Affairs (CADA)), including assault/violent intimidation; seizure of public property; protests/public disorders; ballot box theft, party property/vandalization as well as voter intimidation and harassment. The last elections, held in 2012, saw electoral violence in in Atiwa, Chereponi, Talensi districts. It is also noteworthy that more than half of the incidences were reported in the pre-election phase, compared with 30 per cent occurring during the election and just over 10 per cent occurring after the election.

This DREF operation plans to assist Ghana Red Cross Society (GRCS) to mobilize, train and deploy volunteers and National Disaster Response Teams to attend rallies and monitor the situation in the run up to the elections. Volunteers will promote peace and nonviolence as well as first aid at election polling centres in identified hotspots on the 7 December. Ghana Red Cross also plans to hold a youth peace rally in the Greater

Accra region. The event will open with official speeches from the Ghana Red Cross President and other high level dignitaries such as the UN country representative, there will be a drama performance by the Red Cross youth, followed by a three kilometre walk around the city of Accra. The whole event will be covered by media both print, radio and television. This rally is part of the work planned by Ghana Red Cross to promote awareness of peace and nonviolence.

This DREF operation is focused on preparedness activities. Should election violence materialize then Ghana Red Cross will then activate its contingency plan for election violence and the operation could be scaled up to respond accordingly.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

The last General elections were held on 7 December, 2012 and the Ghana Red Cross Society (GRCS) provided monitoring of the event, as it had in previous elections. The GRCS has a Contingency Plan for election preparedness based on scenarios to ensure an effective response before, during and after the elections.

GRCS currently has, 55 trained and established District Disaster Response Teams members, plus 30 National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members, 8 Regional Emergency Response Teams (RERT) consisting of 135 members, 53 National Society staff, and five Partner National Society staff.

In the upcoming elections, GRCS will mobilize, train and deploy 200 volunteers as well as staff in some of the hotspots in the four most contentious branches. First aid posts will set up in identified hotspots, these posts will be linked to national ambulance services and health facilities in each district and major towns. There will be a refresher training for the National Disaster Response Team in preparation for the elections. GRCS will also procure personal protective equipment and visibility material such as first aid kits, jackets, Red Cross flags, face masks, gloves, identification cards, etc. GRCS has also planned a youth peace march in the Greater Accra region as well as radio message in the four at-risk regions. Finally, GRCS will update their website with election preparedness messaging, promoting peace and nonviolence and tips for the general public on staying safe should violence escalate.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The International Federation through its cluster representation in Abuja, Nigeria, continues to work closely with the National Society by supporting its staff and volunteers in all activities of the Red Cross and ensuring that management and operational issues are directed and implemented with the principles and core values of the Red Cross movement to reach the needs of the most vulnerable at all levels. The ICRC and the Swiss Red Cross have both received a copy of this plan as well as the GRCS election contingency plan.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The Ghana Red Cross Society will closely coordinate with the Electoral Commission and security agencies in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the Red Crescent Red Crescent Movement.

A National Security Task Force has been established and subcommittees allocated responsibilities. GRCS is a member of the Medical and Welfare subcommittee, which has been convened in preparation for the polls. Other task force/Medical and Welfare subcommittee members are the Ghana Armed Forces, Ghana Police Service, Ghana Prisons Service, Immigration Service, Ghana National Fire Service, Bureau of National Investigations, National Disaster Management Organisation, St. John Medical Service, and National Ambulance Service.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

The following triggers have the likelihood of causing election related violence

- The formation and use of vigilante groups is an emerging phenomenon in the Ghanaian political and electoral system. These groups are used as body guards for political leaders to intimidate voters, especially in the areas considered to be strongholds of opposing parties.
- On 11 October, the Election Commission was at the centre of another dispute when it disqualified 13 of the 17 candidates hoping to run for president. It cited reasons ranging from certain parties' failure to provide evidence that they had a national structure, to individuals signing registration papers for more than one candidate.
- Sensational media reporting is creating unrest and contention. This is exacerbated by the proliferation of FM radio stations, which use insightful language on the air waves and unsubstantiated allegations against politicians' and political parties. This could intensify during vote counting and the announcement of parliamentary and presidential results.
- An opposition party established a monitoring/surveillance mechanism based on the suspicion that the incumbent government has registered Togolese nationals to vote in the coming elections. This action could create a backlash resulting into a clash between parties and their supporters.
- To date, the Electoral Commission and the Police have identified 81 hot spot constituencies and 5,000 hot spot polling stations. In the 2012 election, some 1,000 hot spots were identified. With an increase in the number of hot spots and rising tension, there are fears that this could lead to increased and widespread violence.
- Opposing party supporters are reported to have clashed during a debate organized for parliamentary aspirants on 5 November, again on the 7 November and most recently on 13 November. More clashes are like to occur in advance of the election, and such clashes will escalate tension.
- The open declaration of support by traditional authorities especially chiefs to political party is a worrying development that can generate trouble during and after the elections.

Based upon the risk assessment conducted, GRCS has mapped out flash points across the high-risk regions in the country, namely:

Table 1: Classification of potential risks

S/no.	Region	High Risk	Medium	Low Risk	# Volunteers	# Flashpoints
1	Ashanti				50	10
2	Northern				50	10
3	Volta				50	10
4	Greater Accra				50	10
5	Upper East					
6	Brong-Ahafo					
7	Central					
8	Eastern					
9	Western					
10	Upper West					

The anticipated risks vary from region to region. The above table spells out the regions according to the levels of election-related violence which is always based on the strongholds of the two largest parties, the National Democratic Party and the New Patriotic Party. The remaining regions also have some flash points that experience skirmishes during elections.

Should the situation deteriorate before and after the General Elections it is anticipated that there could result in open conflict. This could materialize as street protests, looting and general insecurity, and may culminate in injuries, death and loss of property as well as the displacement of persons in the hotspots.

Scenario Planning:

Best Case Scenario: Injured people- It is anticipated that most casualties will take place in all the flash points identified in all the regions. It is estimated that up to 10,000 persons will be affected. GRCS will provide first aid services, evacuation and rescue, as it has volunteers all over the areas at risk.

Most Likely Scenario: Loss of lives: It is anticipated that most casualties will take place in all the identified hotspots such as polling stations and that approximately 25,000 persons may be affected by the violence; as winner of elections is declared but the main opposition party refuse to accept results and supporters take to the streets all over the country.

Worst Case Scenario: Displacement: The outcome will be the displacement of people leading to population movement into other safe areas and across the border to neighbouring countries. It is anticipated that about 200,000 persons will be affected.

The sporadic political unrest and attacks on political opponents in the country after the election will result in the internal displacement of about 200,000 people. This will also compel people staying along the border to cross to neighbouring countries such as Togo, Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire. GRCS has a contingency plan which will be activated.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

The goal of this plan is to ensure a rapid, appropriate and effective response in the event of any crisis before and during the elections in the provision of humanitarian assistance.

Proposed strategy

The intervention of the Ghana Red Cross Society will be the mobilization of volunteers and the Emergency Response Teams to provide first aid services to affected persons, evacuation of the injured to hospitals, provision of psychosocial services and assisting relatives to find their missing family members.

I. Pre-election activities

- 1) Establishment and orientation of National Coordination structure
 - Establishment and orientation of staff on Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs)
 - Orientation meeting with stakeholders on Red Cross role and responsibilities during elections in four high risk regions: The Police, Electoral Commission, NADMO, National Ambulance Service, Fire Service, Armed Forces, Immigration, Prison Service, Bureau of National Investigations and St. Johns Ambulance
- 2) Training and orientation of 20 NDRT members in Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Basic First Aid, Assessment using RAMP, Safe Access/security, Code of Conduct, tracing activities. Of the 15 NDRT, three will deploy to Greater Accra, three will deploy to Ashanti and three will deploy to Volta, while six NDRT will deploy to the Northern region. The remaining five NDRT will be on standby.
- 3) Training 200 volunteers and staff in first aid, PSS, Safe Access/Security, Code of Conduct
- 4) Promotion of Red Cross Principles and Values through mass media and the public
 - Conduct five radio slots in the four hotspots regions for discussions aimed at promoting peace and nonviolence and role of Red Cross
 - Procurement and prepositioning of emergency stock: first aid kits and safety and visibility materials for staff and volunteers: T-shirts, nose masks, gloves
 - Peace rally in Greater Accra region involving 1,000 Red Cross youth volunteers.

The purpose of the peace work is part of promotion awareness of nonviolence and peace. The event will open with official speeches from Ghana Red Cross President and other high level dignitaries including the UN country representative, there will be a drama performance by the Red Cross youth, followed by a three kilometre walk around the city of Accra.

- 5) Set up a call centre to for coordination capacity
 - Update GRCS website content on peace and the Red Cross mandate during electionsThe upgraded website will promote the role of Red Cross and its mandate during election time. The upgrade aims to make information on the election easily accessible. Ghana Red Cross intends to upgrade its website to include among other the following features; integrated Facebook and twitter, real time newsfeed and updates, host online family member tracing request, messaging on peace and nonviolence and 'stay safe' tips for the public etc.

II. During elections

- 1) Surveillance by NDRT and volunteers
- 2) Provision of first aid where necessary in hotspots areas in 4 target regions.
- 3) Participation in coordination meetings by National Disaster Response Organization (NADMO)
- 4) Stand by for possible scale up of response using 15-member rapid response surge team

Operational support services

Human resources

GRCS will utilize its network of 200 trained volunteers comprising District Disaster Response Teams, National Disaster Response Team, Regional Emergency Response Teams, National Society and PNS staff in the event of any election related crisis before, during and after the elections. In addition, 20 NDRT will be trained, and 15 NDRT will be deployed as a rapid response team and deployed to the four at risk areas. Some 1,000 GRCS youth volunteers will be mobilized for the peace rally in Greater Accra.

The National Disaster Response Team members will be deployed to hotspots areas to monitor and conduct assessment as and when it becomes necessary. If necessary, the GRCS will also request the deployment of RDRT when the evolving situation become overwhelms the capacity of the National Society.

Logistics and supply chain

The National Society will do local procurement of 1,220 T-shirts, 100 first aid kits for response teams, 5 Red Cross flags, 15 cell phones (provided by HQ and returned to HQ at the end of the operation—the DREF operation will fund related airtime), 220 ID tags, 250 nose masks, 600 gloves, each region will have 150 pieces. The National Society logistics office will work in collaboration with the IFRC representation in Ghana and the IFRC cluster office in Abuja, Nigeria, if required.

Information technology (IT)

The GRCS will use available Information technology such as RAMP to maintain communication with the branches during the operation.

Communications

All Publications relative to the event will be shared both locally and internationally on different platforms including [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Information will be shared continuously with the IFRC Africa Region office for further dissemination with other partners and donors.

Security

Appoint a focal person in the emergency room to prepare daily situation reports, which will be posted on the GRCS web site and communicated to all stakeholders within and outside the Movement.																				
Deployment of 15 NDRT for 5 days to strategic points 3 days before election and 1 departure 1 day after elections																				
Coordinate and collaborate at all levels with government and other related institutions and stakeholders at HQ level.																				
Monitor and evaluate the evolving situation regularly and share information with the key focal persons.																				
Outcome 3: Promotion of the principles and values through mass media																				
Output 3.1 Awareness is raised amongst the general public on the principles and values of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement																				
Activities planned	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12								
Week																				
Upgrade National Society's website																				
Five radio slots in the 4 hotspots regions																				
Peace rally in Greater Accra region involving 1000 Red Cross youth																				

Budget

See annexed budget for details.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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.

DREF OPERATION

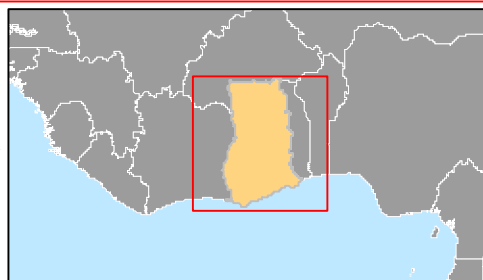
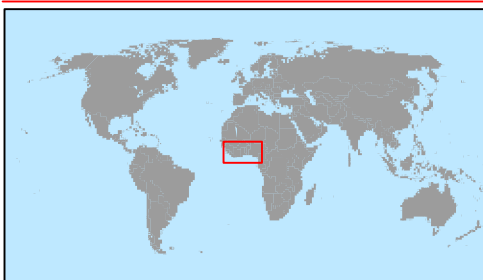
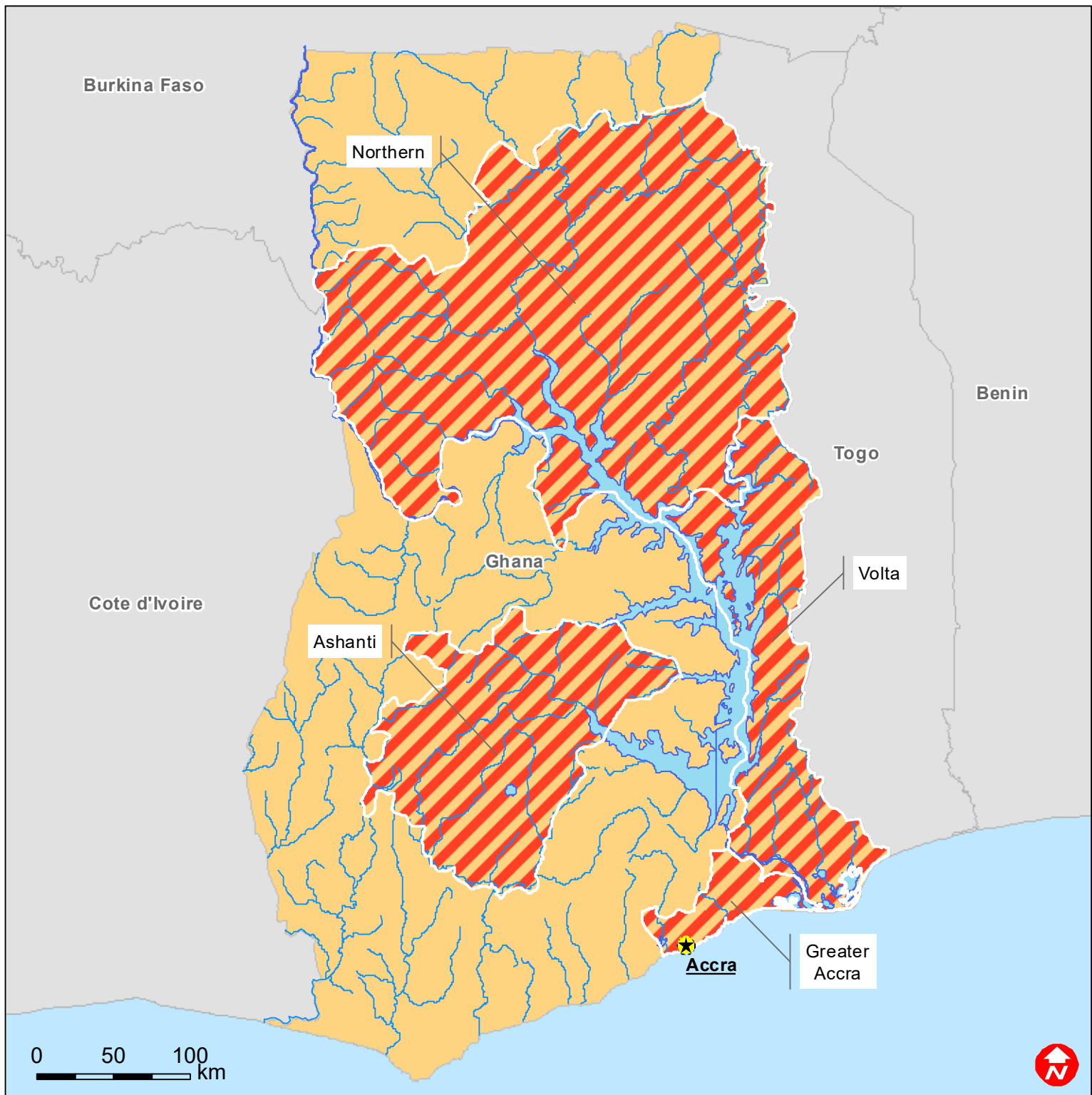
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MDRGGH013 Ghana Election Preparedness

Budget Group	DREF grant budget
Shelter - Relief	0
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	3,735
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Medical & First Aid	9,005
Teaching Materials	0
Utensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	0
Emergency Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	12,740
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	1,500
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,000
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	3,500
International Staff	0
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	4,500
Volunteers	6,150
Total PERSONNEL	10,650
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	9,500
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	9,500
Travel	0
Information & Public Relations	4,200
Office Costs	0
Communications	375
Financial Charges	200
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Support Services	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	4,775
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	2,676
Total INDIRECT COSTS	2,676
TOTAL BUDGET	43,841



Ghana: Election Preparedness



 Affected Regions