

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) GHANA ELECTION PREPAREDNESS

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation: MDRGH013	Glide no. XXXXX
Date of issue: 26 April 2017	Date of disaster: 15 November, 2016
Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA): Mr. Abel Augustinio	Point of contact: Mr. Saladin Mahama, Disaster Management Coordinator, Ghana Red Cross Society
Operation start date: 16 November, 2016	Operation end date: 9 December, 2016
Overall operation budget: CHF 43,841	Expected timeframe: 19 days
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 were successfully held on the 7th of December, 2016. The final results were finally released on 9th of December, 2016 amidst anxiety and desperation within the ranks of the largest opposition party, National Patriotic Party and the incumbent ruling party the National Democratic Party. A total of seven political parties had filed and contested the elections, however, the contest was keenly between the ruling National Democratic Congress and the New Patriotic Party.

In the run-up to the elections, allegations and counter allegations were peddled between the ruling government and opposition parties especially the largest opposition



Ghana Red Cross volunteer in action during community sensitisation. Courtesy GRCS

party, the New Patriotic Party, in respect of the compiled voters register to be used for the elections. It was alleged that the register contained foreigners to the advantage of the incumbent government, the growing suspicion that the National Democratic Party was poised to rig the elections and cling to power.

The existence of more volatile constituencies in the regions especially where there is a presence of the two biggest parties could generate insecurity during the elections.

It was against this background that the GRCS activated its drafted election contingency plan and mobilized, trained and deployed volunteers before, during and after the elections to provide first aid services in the unlikely event of any election related violence.

The IFRC therefore provided an amount of 43,841 Swiss francs upon request from the GRCS to support the operational plan in respect to the election.

On 7 December 2016, polls began at 7.00 am and ended at 5.00 pm except for two areas, Afram Plains and Jaman North Constituencies. Voting in the former was extended by five hours, whilst voting in the latter was done on 8 December, 2016. This arrangement had to be done because of delay in the repositioning of electoral materials.

The New Patriotic Party, the largest opposition party held a press conference on 8 December 2016 and declared itself victorious and appealed to the incumbent president to concede, whilst collation of the results was still ongoing with tension building up in several constituencies. However, it did not take long when President Dramani Mahama came out to concede defeat. The chairperson of the Electoral Commission finally addressed the nation and announced the collated results of the polls and this went a long 53.85% and the incumbent President Dramani Mahama of the National Democratic Party (NDC) got 44.40% out of an estimated total population of 15,712,499 legible voters. A total of seven political parties contested the elections. In general, the elections were peacefully without any serious incidents.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

Even though the Ghana Red Cross Society (GRCS) has been involved in the monitoring of national elections in the past, it is this election for the first time that has been supported by a drafted contingency plan, which took into consideration some scenarios to ensure effective preparedness and response to any election related violence or incidence in some selected flashpoints in four high risk regions. A contingency workshop and the subsequent drafting of the election contingency plan were funded by the Netherlands Red Cross.

The following activities were undertaken with support of the IFRC DREF support and guided by the contingency plan:

Mobilisation of 200 volunteers in the 4 support regions, training of volunteers and staff, refresher training for national disaster response team (NDRT), Procurement of first aid kits, procurement of Red Cross flags, procurement of identification tags for volunteers and staff, procurement of T-shirts for volunteers, organisation of peace march prior to the elections, procurement of hand gloves and nose masks, organisation of meeting on standard operating procedures (SOPs) and coordination mechanisms, regional Stakeholders meeting on the roles



Peace walk in Ho, Volta region. Courtesy GRCS

and responsibilities of the Red Cross and Monitoring of the election process.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC Abuja Country Cluster and WASH delegate in Ghana worked very closely with the GRCS by supporting its staff and volunteers in all activities and ensuring that management and operational issues were directed and implemented with respect to the principles and core values of the Red Cross Movement. The GRCS also established contact and shared information with the ICRC and the Swiss Red Cross in respect of the preparedness plan. The ICRC and Swiss Red Cross also technical and financially supported the GRCS Election contingency plan.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The GRCS collaborated with the Electoral Commission in the selection of the polling stations that were classified as high risk or flash points, the security agencies such as the police and the military during the elections. Others included the UNDP and the EU Election Monitoring Team. The GRCS was also a member of the Medical and Welfare subcommittee which comprised 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 GRCS took several factors into consideration in putting together the preparedness plan towards the elections. There were high levels of concerns about activities of the rank and file of political parties in their bids to win power. It was therefore realized that there were several triggers such as the formation of vigilante groups in some political parties that became intimidating. The Electoral Commission was seen as a stooge by some political parties especially the biggest opposition party, being brought in to manipulate the results to keep the incumbent in power again. Sensational media reportage was rife both in the print and electronic media which were also the cause of intemperate language. The identification of 81 hotspot constituencies and 5,000 hotspot polling stations by the Electoral Commission and the security agencies was a situation that could build up anxiety, fear and suspicion. There were reported cases of clashes between supporters of political parties which built up further tension and rancour in to the elections. The openly declaration of support by traditional authorities especially chiefs to political party was a worrying development that can generate trouble during and after the elections.

It was based upon the above risk factors that the GRCS was able to map out flash points in all the 10 regions in the country and brought out the 4 high risk regions as Ashanti, Northern, Greater Accra, and Volta regions; two medium risk regions being Upper East and Brong Ahafo, and low risk Central Eastern, Western and Upper West regions.

Considering the situation at the time after having identified the factors, GRCS prepared the plan based on the following scenarios to respond in the event of any crisis:

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 20,000 persons will be affected. GRCS will provide first aid services, evacuation, rescue, psychosocial support (PSS) 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 expected about 200,000 persons will be affected.

However, having monitored effectively the election process with other partners and stakeholders based on the proposed scenarios, the ultimate was the first scenarios.

Needs analysis:

The election operation was based on three areas of intervention, namely, high risk, medium risk and low risk as a result of the risk analysis and corroborated by other stakeholders. In the 4 regions tagged as high risk that is Greater Accra, Ashanti, Northern, and Volta which covered by the DREF support.

These were the strongholds of the incumbent and the biggest opposition which could cause security problems. There were also security concerns during the political campaigns leading to the elections where in some cases there were reported clashes between supporters of rival political parties. There was good collaboration between the security agencies as the GRCS was recognized as a stakeholder in situations of emergencies. In spite of the tensions that built up leading to the elections virtually no serious violence took place.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

The overall objective of the plan was to ensure rapid, appropriate and effective response in the event any crisis before, during and after the elections in the provision of humanitarian assistance.

Proposed strategy

The GRCS strategy focused on the mobilization of volunteers and all emergency teams to provide first aid services to affected persons, evacuation of the injured to hospitals and clinics, provision of psychosocial support and assisting relatives to find their missing family members. Activities in the strategy included the following:

- Establishment and orientation of a national coordination structure
 - Establishment and orientation of staff on 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
- Training and orientation of 30 NDRT member's SOPs, basic first aid, assessment using RAMP, safe access/security and the code of conduct.
- Training 200 volunteers and staff on first aid, PSS, safe access/security, code of conduct
- Promotion of Red Cross Principles and Values through mass media and the public awareness campaign
 - Conduct five radio slots in the four hotspots regions for discussions aimed at promoting peace and no violence 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 march in Greater Accra region involving 1,000 Red Cross youth volunteers
- Set up a call centre to for coordination capacity and updating GRCS website content on peace and Red Cross mandate during election
- Surveillance by NDRT and volunteers
- Provision of first aid where necessary in hotspots areas in four target regions.
- Participation in coordination meetings by National Disaster Response Organization (NADMO) and simulations
- Stand by for possible scale up of response using 30-member rapid response surge team

Operational support services

Human resources

The GRCS effectively utilized its network of trained volunteers comprising District Disaster Response Teams, Regional Emergency Response Teams, National Disaster Response Team, National Society and PNS staff during the operation

Logistics and supply chain

The procurement of logistics was done locally and distributed to the various areas of operations. This activity was carried out in close collaboration with the IFRC.

Communications

Information on the elections was also posted on Facebook and Twitter through the Communication Department.

Security

The GRCS personnel worked and coordinated closely with the security agencies, Electoral Commission, local authorities and stakeholders during the elections. There were no problems of access to volunteers, supervisors and staff in the line of their duty throughout the process.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER)

There was continuous monitoring both at the headquarters and regional levels. The GRCS headquarters was led by the Secretary General and other senior staff supported by the IFRC WASH delegate in Ghana, whilst the regions were also led by the respective regional managers. An Emergency Operation Centre was set-up and run by a focal person and was in charge of receiving and processing information and producing reports.

Administration and Finance

The day to day financial issues was handled by the administration and finance manager and supported by the IFRC Representative to ensure quality and best practice.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Early warning & emergency response preparedness

Outcome 1: To improve NS capacity to respond to election related violence
Output 1.1: GRCS volunteers are trained, equipped and ready to provide emergency first aid and PSS support to population in Regions at risk of election related violence
Activities planned
1.1.1 Mobilize 200 volunteers
1.1.2 Procure volunteers equipment (100 first aid kits, 500 gloves, 250 nose masks, and 1230 T-shirts, and 230 ID, 5 RC flags, etc.
1.1.3 Hundred (100) First Aid kits will be procured and made readily available at the identified locations.
1.1.4 Refresher training for the 200 volunteers and staff on psychosocial, first aid and safer access, etc.
1.1.5 Establish 30 member made up of NDRT as a rapid response surge team ready to be deployed country wide and provide refresher training in Rapid Assessment using RAMP for safer access, psychosocial support and tracing.
1.1.6 Participate in information and coordination meetings for continuous assessment of situation.
Achievements
1.1.1 200 volunteers were mobilized in the 4 high risk regions supported by the DREF. Additionally, 200 volunteers were mobilized in the rest of the 6 medium and low risk regions
1.1.2 Procured 200 first aid kits, 600 gloves (soft and hard), 250 nose masks, 1,440 T-Shirts, 230 ID tags, 07 Red Cross flags and 03 banners
1.1.3 Procured 200 first aid kits and distributed among the targeted locations
1.1.4 200 volunteers in 4 regions covered by the DREF support were trained, equipped and deployed. Whilst a total of 302 volunteers were also deployed in the rest of the 6 regions
1.1.5 Refresher training for 20 NDRT members on PSS, rapid assessment, safer access, etc.
1.1.6 The Red Cross participated in information and coordination meetings at the Headquarters and Regional levels.

Outcome 2: Operation implementation is well planned, coordinated and monitored with regional branches.
Output 2.1: The continued monitoring and assessment of the election process informs the implementation of the operation
Activities planned
2.1.1 Deployment of 15 NDRT for 5 days to strategic points 3 days before election and 1 departure 1 day after elections
2.1.2 Coordinate and collaborate at all levels with government and other related institutions and stakeholders at HQ level.
2.1.3 Monitor and evaluate the evolving situation regularly and share information with the key focal persons.
2.1.4 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.
Achievements
2.1.1 15 NDRT members were deployed in the high-risk areas to support the deployed volunteers for two days
2.1.2 Coordination of the election activities and collaboration with both stakeholders of government and non-government such as the security agencies and the European Union monitoring team was quite effective. Cooperation with stakeholders at the NHQ and the regional branches was great. A meeting on SOPs and coordination mechanisms was held at the NHQ for the staff.
2.1.4 The data and information officer was placed at GRCS headquarters to receive and manage all information to and from the field through WhatsApp messenger. Information on the process were also posted on Facebook and twitter accounts of the NS.
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
3.1.1 Five (05) radio slots in the 4 hotspots regions
3.1.2 Peace march in Greater Accra region involving 1000 Red Cross youth
3.2.3 Production and distribution of 1230 T-shirts
3.2.4 Upgrade National Society's website
Achievements
3.1.1 Radio discussions on the role and responsibilities of the Red Cross before and during the elections were carried out in the regions with emphasis on the fundamental principles and principles and values of the Movement
3.1.2 Peace march/walk events were organized in Greater Accra, Volta and Ashanti regions with a total of about 7,500 people participating (Greater Accra region – 5,000; Volta region – 500; and Ashanti region – 2,000)
3.1.3 A total of 1220 T- shirts were produced and distributed to participants of the peace march in Greater Accra region and 220 T-shirts for volunteers and NDRT members.
3.1.4 National Society's website has been upgraded: redesigned and redeveloped, modified and amended all contents of the website, replicated, configured and deployed website templates

D. Budget: See annexed budget for details. The balance will be returned to DREF fund.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

In Ghana:

- Samuel Kofi Addo, Ghana Red Cross Society; Phone: +233 20 698 3284; email: kofiaskaddo@hotmail.com;

IFRC Head of Cluster, West Coast:

- Momodou Lamin Fye, Head of Cluster, West Coast Region; Abuja, Nigeria; phone: +2348186730823; email: momodoulamin.fye@ifrc.org
- Terrie Takavarasha, Regional PMER & PRD Coordinator; Abuja Cluster, Mobile: +234 (0) 909 865 1252; email: terrie.takavarasha@ifrc.org

IFRC Geneva:

- Christine South, Operations Quality Assurance Senior Officer; phone: +41.22.730.45 29; email: christine.south@ifrc.org

IFRC Africa Region:

- Farid Aiywar, Disaster Management Coordinator for Africa; Nairobi; phone: +254 (0)731 067 489; email: farid.aiywar@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Zone Logistics Unit (ZLU):** Rishi Ramrakha, Head of zone logistics unit; Tel: +254 733 888 022/ Fax +254 20 271 2777; email: rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- In Africa Region: Fidelis Kangethe, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Coordinator; Nairobi; phone: +254714026229; email: fidelis.kangethe@ifrc.org

Please send all pledges for funding to zonerm.africa@ifrc.org

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

- Yusuf Ibrahim, Acting PMER Coordinator, Telephone: +254 732 412 200; Email: yusuf.ibrahim@ifrc.org

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.

www.ifrc.org

Saving lives, changing minds.



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

MDRGRH013 - Ghana - Election Preparedness

Timeframe: 18 Nov 16 to 18 Dec 16

Appeal Launch Date: 18 Nov 16

Final Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2016/11-2017/2	Programme	MDRGRH013
Budget Timeframe	2016/11-12	Budget	APPROVED
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		43,841				43,841	
B. Opening Balance							
Income							
Other Income							
DREF Allocations		43,841				43,841	
C4. Other Income		43,841				43,841	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		43,841				43,841	
D. Total Funding = B +C		43,841				43,841	

* 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		43,841				43,841	
E. Expenditure		-43,628				-43,628	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		213				213	

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRGH013 - Ghana - Election Preparedness

Timeframe: 18 Nov 16 to 18 Dec 16

Appeal Launch Date: 18 Nov 16

Final Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2016/11-2017/2	Programme	MDRGH013
Budget Timeframe	2016/11-12	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

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)			43,841			43,841		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Clothing & Textiles	3,735						3,735	
Medical & First Aid	9,005		8,792			8,792	213	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	12,740		8,792			8,792	3,948	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	1,500						1,500	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	2,000		3,383			3,383	-1,383	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	3,500		3,383			3,383	117	
Personnel								
National Society Staff	4,500		2,925			2,925	1,575	
Volunteers	6,150		9,898			9,898	-3,748	
Total Personnel	10,650		12,823			12,823	-2,173	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	9,500		6,423			6,423	3,078	
Total Workshops & Training	9,500		6,423			6,423	3,078	
General Expenditure								
Travel			1,628			1,628	-1,628	
Information & Public Relations	4,200		5,246			5,246	-1,046	
Office Costs			313			313	-313	
Communications	375		1,635			1,635	-1,260	
Financial Charges	200						200	
Other General Expenses			723			723	-723	
Total General Expenditure	4,775		9,544			9,544	-4,769	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recove	2,676		2,663			2,663	13	
Total Indirect Costs	2,676		2,663			2,663	13	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	43,841		43,628			43,628	213	
VARIANCE (C - D)			213			213		

Disaster Response Financial Report**MDRGH013 - Ghana - Election Preparedness**

Timeframe: 18 Nov 16 to 18 Dec 16

Appeal Launch Date: 18 Nov 16

Final Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2016/11-2017/2	Programme	MDRGH013
Budget Timeframe	2016/11-12	Budget	APPROVED
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 management	43,841		43,841	43,841	43,628	213	
Subtotal BL2	43,841		43,841	43,841	43,628	213	
GRAND TOTAL	43,841		43,841	43,841	43,628	213	