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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Liberia: Elections Preparedness

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation: MDRLR003	Glide n° OT-2017-000127-LBR
Date of Issue: 1 September, 2017	
Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA): Younos Abdul Karim, Head of Country Office.	Point of contact (name and title): G. Ambullai Perry, Director of Programmes
Operation start date: September 1 September, 2017	Expected timeframe: 3 Months
Overall operation budget: CHF 85,027	
Number of people at risk: 100,000	Number of people to be assisted: 10,000
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Liberia National Red Cross Society presence (3,000volunteers, 67staff, 15 Chapters)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation (if available and relevant): IFRC Country Office, ICRC Mission, Canadian RC and Danish RC	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:. The National Election Commission (NEC) and Security apparatus	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Liberia goes to the polls on October 10, 2017. Seventy-three (73) representative seats and a President and Vice President will be voted for by over 2 million registered voters across the country. There are twenty-six (26) registered political parties and ninety-eight (98) independent candidates set to contest the representative seats while twenty presidential candidates have been declared by the Election Commission to contest for the highest seat in the land. The National Election Commission (NEC) has qualified a total of 1,026 individuals to contest the 2017 elections and released the final figure of 2,183,683 from the 2017 Voter Registration Exercise. The National Election Commission (NEC) has official declared campaign open as of 12H01am on Monday, July 31, 2017 and will close at 11:59 pm on Sunday, October 8, 2017. The NEC called on all political parties and independent candidates to take for sale their goods, platform and characters to the electorate and not to engage in violence. The ruling Unity Party endorsed the candidacy of the current vice president to take up the presidency, which has sparked up serious miss-feelings and jittering in the political environment.

Lessons learnt from previous elections indicate that there was no deployment of ambulances service in areas outside Monrovia and there were numerous first aid and emergency medical referral cases. Reference the role the LNRCS has played, it remains cardinal that the deployment of ambulances be considered in 2017 in the six high risk and vote-rich counties of Montserrado, Nimba, Bong, Bassa, Margibi, and Bomi. The number of hotspots and polling centers have increased significantly and with the proliferation of political parties and their candidates, it is eminent that there will be serious needs for emergency transfer of casualties.

As part of its planning strategies, the LNRCS has begun the training of volunteers to be deployed at polling centers at designated hot spots across the country. The LNRCS is also facilitating the training currently taking place at four regional training centers across the country in basic First Aid and IHL.

In Liberia, every election since 2005 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 Liberia than in other countries in the Sub-region. Notwithstanding, with the evolution of pre-election developments, elections violence at a higher level is eminent.

The Liberian Red Cross has been identified as a major partner for emergency assistance during this year's elections. The expectation is to perform auxiliary roles of First Aid, and emergency medical services (referral and transfer) among other things. The Liberian Red Cross is a member of the National Elections Security Management Taskforce. The need to prepare the LNRCS and its partners in advance to appropriately monitor and respond to incidents of emergency including pre- and post-elections violence remains crucial.

The capacity of the LNRCS to adequately prepare for, mitigate and respond to elections violence will depend on collaboration with t Movement and external partners. This DREF operation plans to assist Liberia Red Cross Society (LNRCS) to mobilize, train and deploy volunteers, strengthen Chapter Emergency Response Teams (ERTs), provide basic response equipment and respond effectively to any violence in targeted hotspots. The capacity assistance will allow the LNRCS 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 provide first aid during campaign and rallies and at the same time be posted at election polling centers in identified hotspots on the elections day. As part of the response plan is to provide emergency medical referral and transport services using ambulances belonging to the LNRCS.

This DREF operation is focused on preparedness and response activities. Should election violence spark up, the LNRCS will activate its contingency plan for election violence. and the operation could be scaled up to bigger response accordingly.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

In the last General Elections in 2011 and a subsequent Senatorial Bi-Elections held in 2014, the LNRCS provided first aid emergency services at polling centers and also provided emergency medical services, including transport of critical cases across the country. Currently the LNRCS Contingency Plan on Civil Unrest is under-going revision and a Comprehensive Elections Response Preparedness Plan will be developed. As part of this process, the DM Department is currently working on ERP plan and at the same time, through support of the ICRC, the LNRCS has conducted a Safer Access Frame work sensitization workshop. The workshop brought together stakeholders (staff, Governance, PNSs) to get an overview understanding of the SAF especially at this elections time. Outputs of the workshop are a Work Plan and a Road Map for the process of the response preparedness. There is a Technical Steering Committee headed by the DM Department responsible to coordinate and plan the response operations in close collaboration with senior management, and Movement Partners.

LNRCS currently has 10 trained FA responders at HQ, 35 ERTs in seven Chapters, and 68 National Society staff. There are 15 trained First Aid trainers with approximately 250 trained First Aid volunteers across the country. Six (6) equipped ambulances will be available for emergency transport and referrals to health facilities.

In the upcoming elections, LNRCS planned to mobilize, train and deploy 500 volunteers and some staff in hotspots in the 15 chapters, but specific hotspots pre-identified. First aid posts will be set up in identified hotspots, these posts will be linked to National Ambulance services and health facilities in each location and major towns. There will be a refresher training for the ERTs, First Aiders and HQ emergency response teams in preparation for the elections. LNRCS will also procure safety

equipment and visibility material such as flashlights, tents, rain gear, first aid kits with components, safety jackets, Red Cross flags, face masks, gloves, identification cards, bibs, etc.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The Liberia Red Cross Society will closely coordinate with PNSs and in-country Movement Partners. The In-country Movement partners have already agreed a Partners Coordination mechanism intended to provide consolidated support to the LNRCS during the process. The National Society, with support of the IFRC has completed the pre-positioning of preparedness and response materials in all 15 Chapters. ICRC has already delivered emergency response equipment/kits to 7 Chapters.

The IFRC provides technical and capacity-building support to LNRCS through its Country Office here in Monrovia. The ICRC is also providing financial and technical support to the National Society for Movement Coordination, Capacity-Building including programmes and organizational development, and Communications at HQ and 7 chapters. Danish Red Cross and Canadian Red Cross are working and supporting LNRCS activities in four Chapters (Bomi, Bong, Lofa, and Nimba). ICRC support is likely to focus in the 7 chapters, while IFRC will support the remaining 8 Chapters. This DREF considers all 15 Chapters just in the case all of the needs are not covered by other Movement Partners beside the IFRC. The plan seeks to build on and promote cross-border communication and information-sharing.

Movement Coordination

The Liberia National Red Cross Society (LNRCS) will continue to:

- a) Organize regular briefings and technical steering committee meetings regularly
- b) Provide situational reports on the election and maintain coordination with Movement and external partners
- c) Hold meetings with Movement Partners, IFRC, ICRC, and other external partners including Government Ministries, the National Elections Commission, and Liberia National Police.

The partners have organized an Elections Coordination meeting among themselves. This meeting is intended to plan and provide support to the LNRCS' planning process.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

A National Elections Security Task Force has been established by the Government through and coordinated by the Police. The Taskforce meets regularly to update on elections preparedness activities. The National Elections Commission holds regular meetings with various political parties on elections matters among other things. The LNRCS will work closely with the Ministry of Health on emergency medical services which has been convened in preparation for the polls.

The National Disaster Management Agency remains a part of the coordination through the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The UN Country Team including the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). The UNDP and UNMIL are leading the UNCT's coordination and assistance support to the elections process.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

A national threat mapping and analysis exercise is currently being concluded by the Liberia National Police to identify key hotspots for possible pre and post elections violence. The LNRCS has also conducted a risk and threat analysis in all 15 Chapters. The current situation around the country shows that there are possible counties and or specific districts where elections violence is a major risk.

The National Elections Commission and the Supreme Court are disagreeing on key interpretations of the Code of Conduct which bars political aspirants from running for elected positions who did not resign two years before the elections year. The NEC disqualified a representative candidate, while two presidential candidates who were earlier disqualified have been cleared.

Risk Assessment

The LNRCS has already conducted a risk mapping and an analysis of hotspots in all 15 Chapters. As seen below, there are key Counties (Chapters) ranked high, moderate and low risk considering the level of pre-elections activities and engagement of the local populations and the partisans of different political parties.

Following the risk mapping and analysis that was carried out as part of the contingency planning process, the underneath areas are identified as potential risk areas with the corresponding color code. In addition, the classification takes into account where some of the candidates consider their stronghold, as such factor further heightens the risk of election-related violent events in these places.

Scenario Planning

The DREF Operation is expected to support up to 10,000 people (women, children, security forces, the injured, LNRCS staff and volunteers and residents) depending on the threshold of election-related violent events. The last two elections, the LNRCS provided different sort of assistance not only to the registered voters on election days but a cross section of the population, including residents (those not taking part in the elections but will be engaged in other activities, such as travelling from one point to the others. so the accidents can be addressed. The categories of people to be assisted include: Election police officers, There are more than 5000 polling centers and each center will have a police presence, 6000 registered voters, 3000 residents, 700 volunteers, 25 staff and 75 police officers.

The Operation will:

- a) train volunteers on First Aid, and Safer Access, and provision of first aid treatment.
- b) deploy staff and volunteers one day before the elections, during the elections day and one day after the elections. If there be a run-off, staff and volunteers will be deployed accordingly as the former.
- c) volunteers will also be trained and deployed during the elections to carry on RFL awareness, ready to provide tracing and protection of children.

In case of an election-related violent event, the LNRCS will provide support in keeping with contingency plan. . In addition, the Elections Joint Security Officers will be trained by the LNRCS on awareness and understanding of the mandate of Red Cross during and after disaster or emergencies. This will be supported by the ICRC. This is in continuation of the training of security officer in basic first aid, Red Cross Knowledge and emblem protection in 2016.

The training and awareness will help and support the work of the volunteers and staff working with the security forces during the elections.

There will be different level and indicators for response according to the scenarios.

Scenario description	Key indicators	LNRCS' Actions
Best Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No pre-post elections violence • Elections campaigns are normal • Elections held and results accepted • Normal socio-economic activities remain undisturbed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train volunteers • Conduct simulations exercises • Pre-position identification and response materials to chapters • Prepare ambulances and train crew • Organize response logistics in 6 identified national hot-zones around the country • Identification and sitting of LNRCS First Aid • Organize and establish Control Room and IT/Telecoms system at HQ and Chapters • Establishment of contacts and coordination links with nearby health facilities in hotspots
Most Likely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposing partisans throw verbal attacks at each other • Media campaigns against opposition and ruling parties intensify • Destruction of elections posters by opposing political parties • Restricting some political parties to campaign in a particular region or community • Massive deployment of security forces in different locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment of staff and volunteers in hotspots • Monitoring of hotspots and politically-charged regions • Intensify our emblem protection and identity • Training of volunteers in safety and security • Activate the Elections Preparedness Plan • Routine deployment of ambulances in hotspots • Erection of First Aid Posts in hotspots • Strengthen communication and coordination with health facilities
Worse Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elections violence on the increase • Police brutality leading to deaths and injuries • Elections held and results not accepted and or challenged • Clashes between and amongst rival political parties and groups • Reported cases of deaths and injuries increasing • Population movement and displacement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Massive deployment of LNRCS staff and volunteers in hotspots • Ambulance service • Provision of safe drinking water, temporary shelter, and RFL

B. Operational Strategy and Plan

Overall Objective

To prepare LNRCS for the upcoming 2017 presidential and representatives elections, ready to provide humanitarian assistance in a coordinated manner to address election-related violent events in compliance with the Fundamental Principles.

Proposed Strategy

The LNRCS strategy will focus on the mobilization of volunteers, staff, emergency teams and chapter response teams to provide first aid services to affected persons, evacuation of the injured to health facilities, provision of RFL (assisting relatives to find their missing family members) and psychosocial support services. The activities will include:

- Finalization of the communication and coordination mechanism and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) at the headquarters and chapter level
- To strengthen the capacities on first aid and Safer Access for volunteers involved in the operation
- To provide LNRCS with adequate equipment (first aid and communication materials) and resources (communication and mobility) for responding to the situation
- To procure and preposition essential relief materials in chapters assumed with high risks during the electioneering period. Materials include
- Mobilize and coordinate with the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), health facilities as indicated by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare
- 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 Counties: The Police, Elections Commission, NDMA, Ministry of Health, Armed Forces of Liberia
- Training and orientation of 500volunteers nation-wide in basic first aid, Safer Access Framework, safety and security, the Code of Conduct, internal and external communication, ethics, emblem protection and basic communication
- Train 15 National Surge Response Team members in Safer Access Framework, safety and security, Code of Conduct, Coordination, and Communication
- Promotion of Red Cross Principles and Values through mass media and the public awareness campaign
- Engage community radios in the fifteen chapters to host discussions aimed at promoting peace and non violence and the role of the Red Cross. Procurement and prepositioning of emergency stock: first aid kits and safety and visibility materials for staff and volunteers: nose masks, gloves, safety jackets, stretchers
- Hold a one-day pre-election Peace March in Monrovia and the 15 Chapters involving 500 Red Cross volunteers
- Set up a Call Centre (Control Room) to for communication coordination with the Chapters
- Establish/set up ERTs (40 persons) in eight (8) Chapters
- Participation in coordination meetings organized by the Elections Coordination Committee, National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), etc.
- Stand by for possible scale up of response using 15-member rapid response surge team from HQ

Operational Support Services

Human Resources

For the overall implementation of this DREF operation, 500 volunteers are required across the 15 Chapters with 30 paid staff. The volunteers will be drawn from the chapter's volunteers databases, selected and screened to ensure neutrality and impartiality. Volunteers will be put on standby to support the activation of the Elections Preparedness and response Plan in the most at risk areas. The DREF allocation will train both the volunteers and the 15 surge capacity staff from HQ and the Chapters.

In the worst case scenario, to facilitate rapid response actions that will require the deployment of ERTS from chapters of available ERT capacity from other chapters.. The LNRCS will adapt its HR procedures to recruit and place technical and requisite staff with relevant skills, competencies and qualifications. The process will also consider using our trained ERTs and providing surge support to weaker chapters

The volunteers' insurance will cover all the 500 volunteers who will be recruited and deployed during the operation. The IFRC will deploy one RDRT to support the operation.

Logistics and Supply Chain

- **Procurement plans:** Given the limited time in the lead up to elections, first aid equipment, stock for FA bags will be purchased locally with the IFRC Country Office Logistics and Administration teams directly working with the National Society logistics team in all procedures. The LNRCS will procure essential relief materials for deployment at the six most highly populated chapters for immediate response for 300 families. The items include: plastic mats, woolen blanket, plastic buckets, laundry soap, bath soap, tarpaulins, mosquito nets In case of scenario shift from most likely to worst, there will be a serious need for shelter and additional non-food items. In the case of a population movement, there will be a heightened need for settlement, care and maintenance for the affected population. The LNRCS has regional warehouses of capacities ranging from 200-500 family kits storage. In case of any further scenario shift across the regions, these facilities will be used to decentralize non-food and distribution activities.
- **Logistics and warehousing:** The IFRC Sahel Country Cluster will send the NFIs items for 300 families required for the DREF operation to the LNRCS National Headquarters, and they will then be transported and prepositioned to the risk areas. The Montserrado Chapter Office warehouse will also provide space for pre-positioning.
- **Transport and fleet needs:** The National Society will rent one vehicle for the operations for one month to support the operation. GRCS owns two vehicles, which will also be pre-positioned in the interior of the country.

Information Technology & Telecommunications (IT/Telecoms)

The ICRC had provided in 2016, fourteen (14) VHF radios for emergency response. These radios will be deployed in 7 Chapters for effective coordination of field information. IFRC has in place an inventory of basic IT and Telecom equipment that will be used to establish the Control Room while there will be need for additional equipment. The current LNRCS Radio Room will be upgraded and activated for the DREF Operation. The use of internet and telephone facilities during the operation will be charged from the DREF allocation.

Communication

Timely communication is a key dimension of the overall response. The communication protocol will define roles and responsibilities for internal and external communication. How to deal with the media will be one of the key elements in this communication protocol.

Security

All Red Cross volunteers engaged in this operation will sign the LNRCS volunteer Code of Conduct and a Behavior Contract. The National Society will monitor the overall environment in the country prior and during the operation to identify changes in the security situation and mitigate risks to volunteers and staff. All volunteers and staff involved in the operation will participate in Safer Access training, facilitated by the ICRC and LNRCS DM teams. It remains critical that Red Cross personnel strictly adhere to the humanitarian principles, particularly neutrality, to mitigate safety and security related risks. All staff and volunteers will be identified by jackets and bibs. The bibs will be uniformed and coded only for election purpose. The bibs will immediately be retrieved by the chapters a day following the elections.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, & Reporting (PMER)

The monitoring of operational activities will be conducted by the LNRCS programme team with technical support from the IFRC Country Office through an RDRT. The monitoring will focus on the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) and regular updates and final report on implementation.

The IFRC Africa PMER office in collaboration with the Country Delegation Team will work with the LNRCS programme team to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for use in the Operation. The LNRCS headquarter team will monitor the procurement, warehousing, dispatch and distribution of all program materials using the existing LNRCS monitoring and reporting tools. The team will also conduct supervisory visits to activity locations and compile monitoring reports for each action. Assessment, distribution and Operations reports will also be received and analyzed by the headquarter operations team to ensure standardized interventions and beneficiary accountability.

LNRCS Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team will develop a monitoring and evaluation plan for the project to ensure all objectives are achieved as per the work plan. Field evaluation visits will also be conducted to the project areas and periodic reports shared.

Administration and Finance

All administrative and financial transactions will be led by the IFRC Country Office closely working with the LNRCS Management. LNRCS role in this arrangement will be to implement planned activities and provide credible reports to the IFRC.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Early Warning & Emergency Response Preparedness

Outcome 1: To improve NS capacity to respond to election related violence													
Output 1.1: LNRCS staff and volunteers are trained, equipped and ready to provide emergency first aid, emergency transfer/transport, communication, RFL and PSS support to populations in high risk areas to elections violence													
Planned Activities (August-October)	SEPTEMBER					OCTOBER					NOVEMBER		
	wk1	wk2	wk3	wk4	wk5	wk1	wk2	wk3	wk4	wk5	wk1	wk2	
1.1.1 Mobilize 500 volunteers The mobilization of volunteers will be during the pre-election period and this can further continue during the post election period.													
1.1.2 Set up and equip Elections Control Room (includes assessing the NS' IT/Telecom capacities)													
1.1.3 Procure/produce response equipment including visibility materials (45 first aid kits, 500 gloves, 500 nose masks, 10 stretchers, 500 bibs, 500 ID forms, 15 RC flags, etc)													
1.1.4 Conduct training for 500 LNRCS volunteers in Code of Conduct, first aid, PSS, safer access framework,													
1.1.5 Conduct training for 15 National Surge Response Team members in psychosocial support, first aid, code of conduct, SoP, communication, coordination, safety & Security and safer access, etc.													
1.1.6 Preposition Chapters' response materials													
1.1.7 Establish and train 40 ERTs in eight (8) Chapters													
Outcome 2: Strengthen LNRCS participation and engagement in national coordination													
Output 2.1: LNRCS recognized as a national actor in the elections process and its mandate and roles respected													
2.1.1 Engage with key elections actors and explain the mandate and role of the Red Cross during and after the elections													
Outcome 3: Promotion of the principles and values through mass media													
Output 3.1: LNRCS creates increased public awareness of its principles and values through public engagement and non-violent elections sensitization													
3.1.1 Hold one-day Peace Matches in Monrovia and the 15 Chapters capitals													
3.1.2 Conduct 20 series of radio slots/discussions on the													

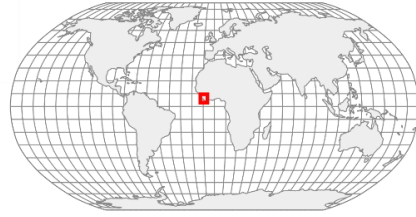
roles of the Red Cross during and after the elections (5 in Monrovia; 15 in all Chapters)													
3.1.3 Hold pre-post elections briefings with volunteers and staff engaged in the process (both at HQ and the Chapters)													
Outcome 4: Operation implementation is well planned, coordinated and monitored with the Chapters													
Output 4.1: The continued monitoring and assessment of the election process informs the implementation of the operation													
4.1.1 Monitor and evaluate the evolving situation regularly and share information with the key focal persons													
4.1.2 Submit regular reports on the implementation													
4.1.3 Conduct supervision of high risk chapters in collaboration with IFRC													

D. Budget

Budget Group	
Shelter - Relief	8,723
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	8,772
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Medical & First Aid	9,547
Teaching Materials	0
Utensils & Tools	2,714
Other Supplies & Services	407
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	30,163
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles	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	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	0
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	0
International Staff	0
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	3,877
Volunteers	14,054
Total PERSONNEL	17,931
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	16,477
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	16,477
Travel	0
Information & Public Relations	15,266
Office Costs	0
Communications	0
Financial Charges	0
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Office and Services Costs	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	15,266
Partner National Societies	
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Supplementary Services	
Recovery	5,189
Total INDIRECT COSTS	5,189
TOTAL BUDGET	85,027



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
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Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
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Liberia: Election Preparedness

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Map data sources: OCHA, ICRC, IFRC

0 50 100 150 200 km



Contact Information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

In the Liberia Red Cross Society office: G. Ambullai Perry, Director of Programmes, Email- ambullai.perry@liberian-redcross.org, Tel: +231 7703 69308

In the IFRC country office:

- Younos Abdul Karim, Head of Country Office, +231777589111, Younos Abdul KARIM [Email- Younos.KARIM@ifrc.org](mailto:Younos.KARIM@ifrc.org)

In the African Region:

- Farid Abudulkadir, Head of Disaster Crisis Prevention, Response and Recovery Department; phone: +254731067489; email: farid.aiywar@ifrc.org
- Rishi Ramrakha, Head of Regional Logistic Unit; phone +254 733888022; fax +242 202 712 777; email rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- In the IFRC regional office for Africa: Kentaro Nagazumi, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Coordinator, Nairobi; phone: +254731 984117 or +81 90 86899793; email: Kentaro.NAGAZUMI@ifrc.org

In the IFRC Geneva:

- **IFRC Geneva:** Alma Alsayed, Senior Officer, Response and Recovery; phone: +41 22 730 4566; Email alma.alsayed@ifrc.org

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

- Fiona Gatere, PMER Coordinator Africa Region; phone: +254 780771139; Email: Fiona.Gatere@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 (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and peace.