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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

Côte d'Ivoire: Elections Preparedness

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

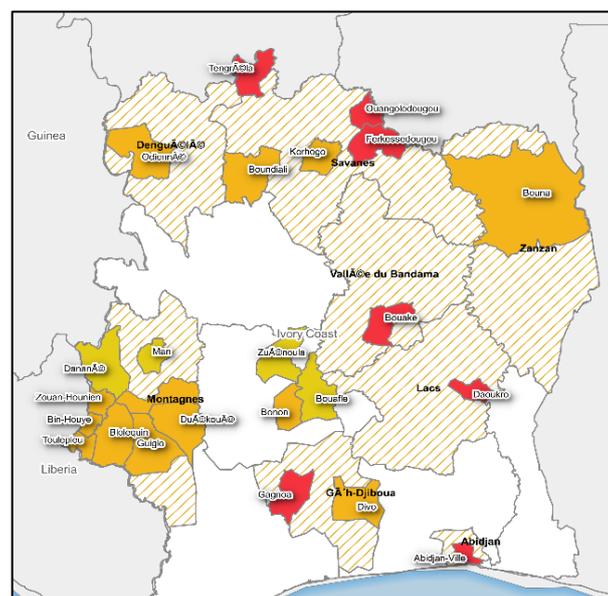
DREF Operation n°	MDRCI013	Glide n°:	N/A
For DREF; Date of issue:	06 October 2020	Expected timeframe:	3 Months
Operation Start date:	05 October 2020	Expected end date:	31 January 2021
Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Yellow			
DREF allocated: CHF 169,568			
Total number of people at risk	30,000 people based on Contingency Plan Scenario	Number of people to be assisted:	6,000 people
At risk provinces:	10 districts (Provinces) Abidjan, Vallée du Bandama (Gbeke), Lacs, Savanes, Lôh-Djiboua, Denguélé, Savanes, Zanzan, Montagnes and Sassandra - Marahoué	Provinces/Regions targeted:	26 localities in the 10 at risk Districts
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of Volunteers, staff, branches): The CRCI has 85 local committees spread over the entire Ivorian territory with approximately 9,000 Volunteers of which 1305 are active. The CRCI has a staff capacity of 110.			
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: IFRC, ICRC, Netherlands Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross			
Other Partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Civil Protection Department Ivory Coast. In the scenario selected, the CRCI will be the only structure to intervene in the field and sometimes, it will support the funeral directors' services for the collection of bodies.			

<Please click [here](#) for the final financial report and click [here](#) for the contacts>

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Over recent years, Côte d'Ivoire has faced a wave of protests related to the presidential elections. These frustrations and resentments remain palpable and tensions have continued since the start of the process leading to the October 2020 elections. The military uprisings of 2017 in Bouaké and the community conflicts in the localities of Gandié in 2018 and Danané, Zouan-Hounien, Bin-Houyé, Duékoué and Béoumi in 2019 indicate instability of the social climate. Other catalysing factors, including the debates on the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and the electoral code have greatly contributed to the fragile and volatile social climate which is currently being experienced in country.



Map of Côte d'Ivoire, indicating hotspot areas and their alert levels ©IFRC

Indeed, since the start of 2020, alert levels have changed from Yellow to Red, where they currently stand. The withdrawal of the incumbent President from the presidential race on 5 March 2020 and the appointment of the former Prime Minister, as a candidate of the ruling party on 12 March 2020 reduced tensions during the first quarter of the year. However, tensions increased again on 8 July 2020 when the nominated candidate of the ruling party unexpectedly died leaving the seat of candidate for the 2020 presidential elections vacant. The President then announced his candidacy for the 2020 presidential elections on 6 August 2020, during the traditional statement to the Ivorian nation by the President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

Since this announcement, the country has experienced intermittent socio-political unrest with meetings and protest marches suppressed by the army. According to news reports, these protests have to date, resulted in the deaths of twenty (20) people and many more wounded, in addition to one (1) person kidnapped. Tensions escalated to a Red alert level on 17, September 2020, when the list of candidates for the presidential elections was published. Further on the 30 September 2020, the opposition stated they will not accept the election results by [resigning from the IEC](#), as they believe the ruling party has put in place rigging of the elections. This statement has worsened the political climate in the country and tensions with potential violence are anticipated before, during and after the elections. This requires NS to ensure that its volunteers are set to face an eventual outbreak of violence and fulfil their mandate to support people in times of crisis.

These series of events, combined with the exacerbating factors listed above, point to the potential of a major crisis in the country that could have serious humanitarian consequences requiring a response from the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the run up to the election, in addition to the post-election period. The national society needs to take all the preventive measures to prepare and respond to the anticipated impact that these events will have on the humanitarian situation before, during and after the elections.

The election timeline is in the process of being defined, however critical dates around which tensions could occur currently include:

- Publication of validated candidates list: 16 October 2020.
- Election Day: 31 October 2020
- Election Results: TBC

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society Response Action

The CRCI has acquired experience in the management of emergency situations resulting from presidential elections. This experience, particularly from the 2015 elections, has resulted in lessons learned that CRCI will implement in the activities foreseen by this DREF (covering 26 localities).

In September 2020, CRCI organized various workshops financially and technically supported by ICRC for staff and volunteers from several priority areas on the following:

- Contingency Plan Review Workshop
- Safety and Security in Emergency Situations workshop for 15 volunteers and staff members
- RFL in emergency situations have been organised in Yamoussoukro
- Emergency simulation exercises, one in the north and the other in the south, have been organised for the end of September and early October, and will include modules on safety and security.

The CRCI has also increased the number of local committees and consequently the number of volunteers and active volunteers. It now has 85 local committees throughout the country, 63 of whom are full time, with 9,000 volunteers of whom 1,305 are active.

Lessons learnt from previous elections operations

- The National Society followed a set of pre-defined processes identified in the last [election preparedness DREF operation](#), to ensure that they are better prepared for the upcoming one, if unrest occurs. This includes the following:

- Drafting, finalization and validation of the Contingency Plan - This was only finalized in September due to the COVID-19 situation and the diversion of National Society response to the pandemic.
 - Sharing of contingency plan with all CRCI field offices to ensure they are aware and know how to quickly activate and operationalize the contingency plan closer to the election period, during and after.
 - Financial support to ensure strong communication has been taken into consideration this year to ensure that team leaders and the HQ are well coordinated during the election period.
 - The contingency plan is set to be revised closer to the election period to reflect the situation on the ground. In addition, a lessons learnt workshop has been put into place to analyse and evaluate the effectiveness of the contingency plan and will be an opportunity to update the contingency plan to ensure lessons learnt are accurately captured and reflected.
- In addition, this year, a multi-sectoral assessment has been included in the plan and budget to ensure NS is able to quickly analyse the impacts of the election and inform whether a scale up of the operation is required or not. This was not done in the previous elections.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in country

The IFRC provides technical and financial support to CRCI operations through its West Coast Cluster (CCST) Office located in Abuja, Nigeria. As part of the NS preparedness plans to the upcoming elections, IFRC has provided technical support to CRCI in developing this plan of action and through this DREF operation, will provide the following support:

- (i) **Prior to the elections:** implementing simulation exercises for first aiders/team leaders, psychosocial trainings, and security, safety and security trainings. First aid responders will also be deployed across 26 hot spot localities for at least 10 days.
- (ii) **During the elections:** continuing to provide financial and operational support for the deployed first aiders
- (iii) **Pre- and Post-election:** support will continue to be provided to the deployed responders for a period of 9 days to monitor the situation and respond as needed.

IFRC Operational support will include communication, internet, fuel, vehicle rental, emergency operation centre food and fuel supplies etc as detailed in this operation.

The ICRC, through its regional delegation in Abidjan, supports the CRCI in its organizational development and emergency preparedness. It also carries out activities to restore family links in partnership with the NS. The ICRC provides technical, financial and logistical support to the CRCI for its preparation for the October elections, by supporting, among other things, workshops to update the contingency plan, simulation exercises in priority areas, training of volunteers (safety / security, communication, RFL), the acquisition of first aid kits and identification equipment, the maintenance of radio equipment and the deployment of volunteers for 3 days. The ICRC has also donated two vehicles to the CRCI and will provide additional vehicles and drivers during the election period.

Within the framework of the CRCI/ICRC cooperation, the ICRC supports the CRCI each year in its emergency preparedness and response activities. This year, as part of the management of humanitarian situations that would result from the 2020 presidential elections, the ICRC has committed to provide financial support for several training courses (dead body management, RFL in emergency situations, Safety/Security/Emergency Simulation Exercise, revision of the contingency plan for the 2020 presidential elections, etc.).

The Netherlands Red Cross will be providing funding for the Personal Protective Equipment for the staff and volunteers who will be involved in the election process. In addition, the Swedish Red Cross may provide additional funding to cover gaps found in the contingency plan budget.

Overview of other actor's actions in country

The National Civil Protection Department Ivory Coast will provide humanitarian support in the event there is election violence and there is displacement as a result. They have developed a contingency plan in which they outline the support that they will provide in the event there is election violence and conduct trainings with CRCI volunteers. The NS and National Civil Protection are both part of the National Crisis Committee and the National Society has no restrictions of movement in the event of election violence.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

The pre-electoral situation has been punctuated by acts of violence and civil unrest. There is a high risk that the elections for 2020 may result in increased tensions and violence across the country. There is a possibility that the authorities might use military forces to quell the protests. Some 26 localities in 10 districts including **Abidjan, Vallée du Bandama (Gbeke), Lacs, Savanes, Lôh-Djiboua, Denguélé, Savanes, Zanzan, Montagnes** and **Sassandra - Marahoué** have been identified as hotspots with varied risk levels, ranging from **HIGH (1); MEDIUM (2)** and **LOW (3)** as indicated in the table. The 26 localities in which NS will focus during this operation are **Abobo, Yopougon, Cocody, Bouaké, Daoukro, Ferkessédougou, Ouangolo, Tengréla, Boundiali, Korhogo, Gagnoa, Odienné, Boundiali, Korhogo, Bouna, Duékoué, Toulepleu, Guiglo, Bangolo, Blolequin, Zouan-Hounien, Bin-Houyé, Man, Danané, Divo, Bonon, Bouaflé** and **Zuénoula**. To note, other parts of the country, still considered not at-risk could rapidly be highlighted as being at risk. If this occurs, CRCI will update accordingly.

Given that these presidential elections are going to take place within the volatile social, security and health contexts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the following scenarios are anticipated:

HOT SPOT LOCALITIES FOR CÔTE D'IVOIRE 2020 ELECTIONS INCLUDING RISK LEVELS			
N°	District	Hot spot Localities	Risk Level
1	Abidjan	Abobo	1
		Yopougon	1
		Cocody	1
2	Vallée du Bandama (Gbeke)	Bouaké	1
3	Lacs	Daoukro	1
4	Savanes	Ferkessédougou	1
		Ouangolo	1
		Tengréla	1
		Boundiali	2
5	Lôh-Djiboua	Korhogo	2
		Gagnoa	1
6	Denguélé	Odienné	2
7	Savanes	Boundiali	2
		Korhogo	2
8	Zanzan	Bouna	2
		Duékoué	2
9	Montagnes	Toulepleu	2
		Guiglo	2
		Bangolo	2
		Blolequin	2
		Zouan-Hounien	2
		Bin-Houyé	2
		Man	3
		Danané	3
		Divo	2
10	Sassandra - Marahoué	Bonon	2
		Bouaflé	3
		Zuénoula	3
			3

Identified hotspot localities for 2020 Elections ©CRCI

- **At the population level:** Injuries, missing persons, gender-based violence, deaths, victims and psychologically affected-families are expected.
- **At the level of responders (Volunteers):** Psychological disorders, possibly resulting in injuries and deaths if health and safety recommendations are not respected.
- **At the level of CRCI staff:** Threats, physical attacks, kidnappings, possibly injuries and deaths if health and safety recommendations are not respected. Staff immobilised at the CRCI headquarters (lack of food and fuel reserves).
- **At the Movement level:** Threats, physical attacks, kidnappings, abuse by armed persons.
- **In terms of intervention equipment:** Insufficient or no care given to victims due to lack of material or lack of first aid kits. Vehicles inoperable due to lack of maintenance, insufficient fuel (total closure of fuel stations)
- **In terms of internal communication:** communication deficit due to insufficient and deteriorated radio bases and handsets.
- **At the level of external communication:** lack of information from the field to headquarters and from headquarters to the field and general information lock down
- **At the coordination level:** information not shared or only partially shared by the PCO due to lack of capacity as well as the deterioration of radio bases and handsets as well as inadequacy of communication unit and/ or break down of the communication's public facilities.

The needs according to each stakeholder and area of focus are listed below. Some of these needs will be met by IFRC while others will require additional support from other donors. The specifics of IFRC support is outlined in the Operational Strategy section and are based on the most urgent needs to ensure CRCI is ready to intervene if necessary.

- **Ivory Coast Army:** require information on how CRCI functions in times of emergency, listing of volunteers and staff to give them access to work areas, bibs, warrants, awareness sessions with military

- **Health/rescue:** training/recycling of volunteers in 26 identified hotspot localities with first aid/psychological aid, COVID-19, Safety/Security, RFL, simulation exercises
 - Equipment emergency first-aid kit
 - Dead body management (DBM): training on the management of mortal remains as CRCO supports the local authorities in the collection of corpses as the Ns has received the mandate for DBM, just like it did in the 2011 elections.
- **Logistics:** maintenance and fuel for the headquarters. The CRCI has a fleet of vehicles of low capacity with 6 land cruisers in more or less good condition and 2 vehicles in good condition, received from the ICRC.
- **NS HQ:** Provision of food in regards a potential confinement and stock of fuel in case petrol stations close
- **Internal Communication:** CRCI's radio room network is old and in need of upgrades. To overcome this deficiency CRCI wishes to acquire 6 fixed HF radio bases+ antennas, 4 mobile HF bases and antennas and 10 to 20 portable "Motorola " radios.
- **External communication:** Purchase of reload cards for volunteers and PCO members, Canal Horizons re-subscription from headquarters to have access to the news in case local channels cannot broadcast, use of social networks
- **Coordination:** Procure and purchase of radio bases and handsets, purchase of reload cards for volunteers and PCO members.
- **Monitoring/Evaluation:**
 - Multisectoral needs assessment (rapid, detailed, continuous).
 - Economic Security Assessment (EcoSec) including recycling of Volunteers with the tablets (Kobo collect)
 - Mission to monitor activities
 - Lessons Learned Workshop
 - Daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly coordination meetings.

Targeting

Based on CRCI's Contingency plan, it is estimated that about 30,000 people living in the 26 identified hotspot locations are at risk of being affected in the event of pre or post electoral crisis. As such, CRCI will initially focus its actions on targeting some **6,000 people or 1,000 HH** (20% of population estimated at risk) Abobo, Yopougon, Cocody, Bouaké, Daoukro, Ferkessédougou, Ouangolo, Tengréla, Boundiali, Korhogo, Gagnoa, Odienné, Boundiali, Korhogo, Bouna, Duékoué, Toulepleu, Guiglo, Bangolo, Bolequin, Zouan-Hounien, Bin-Houyé, Man, Danané, Divo, Bonon, Bouaflé and Zuénoula, which have been identified as hotspot areas for this elections. These locations are located in 10 districts as detailed under risk analysis.

Scenario planning

Based on all of the above, and in accordance with CRCI contingency plan for the Presidential elections 2020, CRCI have developed 3 scenarios as seen in below table. To note, the current operational plan is based on the Most likely scenario.

Scenario	Humanitarian consequence	Potential Response
<p style="text-align: center;">Scenario One</p> <p><i>Description:</i> The electoral process is going more or less smoothly. The elections are taking place with some contestation without major humanitarian consequences. One candidate is declared the winner; activities continue.</p> <p><i>Early warning indicators:</i></p>	<p>Some minor injuries on limited number of people due to electoral tension, nervousness and provocation among supporters of the candidates for the presidential elections.</p>	<p>CRCI rescuers react promptly and effectively in providing care to injured persons with minor physical trauma. No evacuation.</p> <p>Activities are implemented as laid out in this DREF operation, with no need for second DREF allocation.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The IEC is consensual, - Commitment by candidates to a code of good conduct, - Peaceful countryside, - The decisions of the Constitutional Council are accepted. <p><u>Localities concerned:</u> All hotspot localities.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Scenario Two</p> <p><u>Description:</u> Contested electoral process. Some candidacies have been rejected by the CIS, which is accused of partisanship by the opposition. Despite the challenges, elections are being held according to schedule. The campaign was marred by violence, voting took place with some unrest at some polling stations and election materials were ransacked. The ruling party candidate was declared the winner. The opposition contested the results and called for public demonstrations. However, the results are announced. There is a split in the army: the two groups clash. The civilian population is impacted. There are clashes between ethnic groups. Due to the nature of the crisis (political military), only the CRCI is on the ground to take care of victims.</p> <p><u>Early warning indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CIS contested, - Contested voter register, - Opposition protest march, - Massive deployment of law enforcement agencies, - Preventive displacement of populations. <p><u>Localities concerned:</u> All hotspot localities.</p>	<p>There are population movements in some localities.</p> <p>In one week, about 10,000 people are declared internally displaced with 300 injured and around ten deaths, 1,000 cases of separation from families and several reported cases of GBV.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Care for approximately 300 wounded ▪ Research and family reunification activities ▪ Treatment of GBV cases ▪ Psychological support (Flight and population) ▪ Support for undertakers <p>This DREF operation is updated with a reviewed strategy and potentially a request for second allocation</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Scenario Three</p> <p><u>Description:</u> Electoral process not completed. A large movement of protests against the electoral process is taking place. All opponents form a bloc with their supporters and take to the streets in a forceful raid demanding the resignation of the government. The government will requisition the army to restore order by all possible means. A popular uprising ensues.</p> <p><u>Early warning indicators:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mass arrests of political leaders and demonstrators, - Opposition proceedings, - Massive deployment of law enforcement agencies, - Preventive mass displacement of populations from hot zones, - Assassination of political leaders. <p><u>Concerned localities:</u> All hotspot localities.</p>	<p>Number of casualties increase with approximately 1 million internally displaced persons within 2 weeks, 20,000 injured, 500 dead, 3,000 cases of family separation and several reported cases of GBV.</p>	<p>CRCI teams get overwhelmed and request Surge support from IFRC and/or ICRC rapid response teams</p> <p>This DREF operation is updated with a reviewed strategy and potentially a request for second allocation or the launch of an Emergency Appeal.</p>

Operation Risk Assessment

The 2020 Presidential elections represent a big risk for the Ivorian population and for the entire sub-region. The death of the former Premier and the return of the President into the political arena, the lack of consensus around the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and the Electoral Code are elements which point to a potential socio-politico-military crisis. Based on this, a pre/post electoral crisis with great humanitarian consequences is expected. The Electoral Contingency Plan of the CRCI initially indicated an Orange alert level. However, if the candidacy of key opposition leaders is declared invalid, the situation could escalate to a Red alert.

Operations will be managed by CRCI volunteers, supported by local committees and headquarters. These presidential elections are taking place in a very worrying health and security context. This (most likely) scenario, according to which this operation has been planned, closely resembles that of 2010/2011. The warring forces will still be the armed forces with a huge impact on the civilian population.

As a reminder, CRCI recorded eleven (11) volunteers lost since the beginning of the crisis in 2002, including six (6) during the 2010/2011 post-election crisis. Particular emphasis will therefore be placed on the safety and security of volunteers in emergency situations. As a result, modules on safety and security will be inserted to the volunteer recycling sessions planned in 10 districts during the preparedness activities.

In addition, these Presidential Elections are taking place during the CoVid 19 pandemic. The CRCI has not experienced any deaths of volunteers linked to CoVid 19 disease, but neighbouring countries have. Special emphasis will be placed on the health, safety and protection of the volunteers in the field, including holding modules on the "Proper Application of control measures in the Field" during the volunteer recycling sessions preparation phase.

The CRCI's National Safety and Security Focal Point will strictly monitor these 2 themes throughout the operation as of October, after the publications of the electoral lists on October 16, 2020.

B. Operational strategy¹

Overall Operational objective:

To prepare CRCI to intervene in the event of unrest caused resulting from the 2020 presidential elections and establishment of a safe and secure environment. To achieve this, CRCI will implement actions in the areas of DRR, Health and PGI to ensure it is set to reach at least 6,000 people or 1,000 HH in the 26 localities identified as hotspots.

Proposed Strategy:

In light of the scenarios described above which takes into consideration the CRCI Contingency Plan and lessons learned from the 2010 elections, the proposed operational strategy looks into the three key phases (pre-election, during election, and post-election period).

1. PRE-ELECTION PHASE

For this phase, main activities will include training, coordination, Procurement & NS Operational Costs and First Aid Responders Deployment & PSS Support to be implemented as follow.

a) Training

- **Volunteer Refresher and Simulation Exercise:** Organize a refresher simulation exercise in the 10 districts which cover the 26 hotspot localities. The trainer involved in the two simulation exercises, will be funded by the ICRC and will conduct a training at the end of September for the North, and at the beginning of October for the South.
 - # Volunteers (first aid responders): 5 Vol x 26 localities = 130 volunteers, who will then cascade knowledge to their teams
 - # of Days: 2 (1 in the North and 1 in the South) - the trainings will be held simultaneously in the 10 locations
 - # Team Leaders: 26
- **Security & Safety:** Due to the very fragile health and security context, the focal points in the 26 priority localities will receive specific training on "Safety and Security". This will be delivered as a module during the volunteer recycling sessions.

¹ The plan should be prepared by the National Society, with support from the Secretariat technical departments and support services.

- **COVID-19 Best Practice Trainings:** Trainings will also be given on "the correct application of the COVID-19 barrier measures in the field". This training will be done during the refresher courses and simulation exercises that will be organized in their localities before the elections.
- **PSS Training:** Trainings will also be offered on Psychological First Aid, self-care for staff and volunteers and safe referrals.

It is expected that these trainings (mentioned above) will be cascaded to the overall number of volunteers and team leaders deployed on this operation:

- #Volunteers (first aid responders 2 Vol x 26 localities= 52
- # Team Leaders: 26

b) Coordination

- **Operational Command Post:** Set-up an internal inter-service crisis management unit at the CRCI headquarters or any other location to be decided by the Secretary General. This operation centre will be managed 24/7 during the peak periods. Per diems will be provided for 12 people x 16 days.
- **Coordination with Government:** Meet with the Ministry of the Interior and the Army general staff to re-explain the mandate and mission of the CRCI as an auxiliary of the public authorities but independent, impartial and neutral in the implementation of its humanitarian actions; presentation of the Red Cross bibs that will be used by the staff and volunteers for the Presidential elections.
- **Establishment of Communication Channels:** Ensure proper and regular communications lines are set-up with the authorities to ensure the safety of volunteers in the field and allow for the volunteers and staff to operate within the Red Cross mandate.

c) Procurement & NS Operational Costs

The following items will be procured prior to the election day to ensure NS visibility during operations:

- Bibs: 310 bibs will be procured by IFRC for the volunteers in the 26 zones.
- First aid kits: Two (2) equipped First Aid Kits will be acquired and transferred to each of the 26 priority locations in addition to the kits provided by ICRC. Stretchers will also be provided for each location.
- CRCI Flags: Two (2) large pennants will be acquired and transferred to each of the 26 priority locations and 2 large masts for the headquarters to ensure good visibility for the CRCI headquarters. That is a total of sixty (52) large flags and 2 masts.

The below National Society Operational costs will equally be taken into account in this DREF budget to ensure NS is able to deploy per needs:

- Vehicles: Pre-position 8 vehicles strategically around the 26 priority locations. The ICRC will support the CRCI during these elections with 7 fuel-equipped vehicles. IFRC through this DREF will support 2 Vehicles to be rented for 2 months and per diems will be financed for drivers and the security lead. Funding for vehicle maintenance will also be provided on a needs-basis.
- Fuel: Build up a reserve of fuel (diesel) at the CRCI headquarters for two (2) months. This provision will enable the supply of CRCI vehicles to continue field operations in case petrol stations are closed.
- Airtime for mobile phones: Will be provided in order to strengthen the NS, establish communicates at the CRCI HQ and for the security/safety team. Airtime will be provided for the 26 Team Leaders, security officers and at the HQ.
- Internet & TV subscription: To access timely news information on the election coverage
- Command Post Office Equipment: Establishment of fixed phone line, purchase of printer cartridges.
- Food kit: security trunks containing food reserves, mainly canned food, food heating equipment, long-life protein foods, medicines will be purchased for the CRCI headquarters for staff who are on call or immobilized.

d) First Aid Responders Deployment & PSS Support (10 days)

- Deployment of all first aid responders to 26 localities. Per diems and medical coverage will be funded for a period of 10 days before the election for 520 Volunteers and 26 team leaders.
- PSS for Volunteers: Provide psychological First Aid to the CRCI's first-aid workers and the staff members who manage the crisis.

e) Protection

If the elections lead to widespread violence and displacement, the affected population will be at a higher risk of protection concerns. Indeed, sexual and gender-based violence and violence against children are often heightened in civil unrest contexts. As such, the elderly, persons with disabilities, women, girls and children will require support in the event of violence and displacement. The following activities will therefore be implemented by the NS as a preparedness measure:

- Organise a basic training for 52 volunteers (1 per hotspot) and 2 staff from HQ on protection principles, including Child Protection (CP), Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and Safe Identification and referral.
- Ensure that referral pathways are identified and shared for all hotspot localities with branches for SGBV cases including e psychosocial support
- Volunteers, staff and contractors sign, are screened for, and are briefed on child protection policy/guidelines. Briefed and sign Code of Conduct. Briefing to include prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

2. DURING ELECTIONS

First Aid Responders Deployment Support (1 day)

On election day, volunteer will be deployed with the below tasks

- **First Aid Post Coverage:** Support provided to deployed first aid responders, including per diems and medical coverage during the day of the election for 520 Volunteers and 26 team leaders
- **First Aid Post Coverage:** Provide care to the possible victims of the demonstrations linked to the 2020 Presidential elections, promptly, effectively, and as humanely as possible during the pre, during and post-election period.
- **Monitoring:** Conducted by the CRCI DM team.
Provide PFA to people distressed due to demonstrations (including making safe referrals for severe cases identified).

3. POST-ELECTIONS PHASE

a) First Aid Responders Deployment Support:

First Aid Post Coverage: Support provided to deployed first aid responders to monitor the situation for an additional 9 days. Per diems and medical coverage for 520 Volunteers and 26 team leaders will also be provided for this period.

b) Assessments

- **Multisectoral Needs Assessment:** Per diems, including transport, provided for rapid, detailed, continuous needs assessment
 - # Volunteers (first aid responders): 20 Vol x 26 localities = 520
 - # of Days: 1
 - # Team Leaders: 26
- **Economic Security Assessment (EcoSec)** including refresher trainings for Volunteers on use of Kobo Collect tablets

c) Lessons Learnt: Organize a lesson learned and experience sharing workshop to ensure that lessons for future operations are captured.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA): CEA will be mainstreamed throughout the election preparedness and response to guarantee maximum and meaningful participation of the affected communities. CRCI will work ensure that through active communication both with Government and communities, it has access to hotspots before, during and after the elections. This is essential as without this two-way communication between the Red Cross and other stakeholders, it will be impossible to operate, should conflict arise.

A feedback mechanism will be setup, through which CRCI will address all complaints through its existing system and structure. Volunteers will receive orientation on management of information in the crisis cell including community feedback and rumours management. Community feedback will be documented, responded to, and used throughout the operation to adapt the response to community needs and improve our services.

Operational Support Services

Human resources

This DREF operation is expected to involve the following human resources:

- CRCI Headquarters: Between 12 to 20 people.
- CRCI Branches: 520 volunteers, and 26 team leaders.
- To support the Election Preparedness DREF, the IFRC Abuja CCST will provide support to the NS alongside other departments such as logistics, HR, finance, PMER and security whom will work closely with the NS to ensure all relevant systems for a successful operation are in place.

Logistics and Supply Chain

Local procurement of PPE's and the financial service provider will be done by the CRCI in accordance with the operation's requirements, and aligned to the IFRC's logistics standards, processes and procedures. The IFRC Logistics Officer based in Abuja with RO will give remote logistics support. IFRC will provide all the technical guidance and support to the NS to ensure compliance to IFRC standards whilst at the same time building the capacity of the NS logistics unit. As per the election preparedness the procurement components are:

- Visibility materials (Acquisition of bibs)
- Safety PPE (PPE's that can be procured locally example hand sanitizers, face masks and hand sanitizers)
- Other PPE procured globally (from Coca Cola funds) will be used along with the locally procured PPE's
- First Aid Kits

Finance and Administration

Through its Finance Department, the IFRC will provide necessary support to the operation to review and validate budgets, bank transfers, technical assistance to the National Society regarding expense justification procedures and the review and validation of operational invoices.

Security

Current IFRC security phase in Cote d'Ivoire is at orange. Generally, due to residual antagonism between ethnic and political groups dating back to exactions committed during the 2010-11 conflict, there remains a credible potential for ethnically or politically motivated violence, particularly at sensitive times such as election. Personnel should take precautions against petty crime and highway banditry, especially when travelling by road in western and northern rural areas. Central residential and business districts of Abidjan (Lagunes) are safe during daylight hours but caution should be exercised everywhere after dark due to the risks posed by crime. Western border areas are subject to sudden, if localised outbreaks of ethnic violence and to the criminal activities of gunmen, including former militias, who engage in highway banditry. Demobilised former rebels also engage in highway banditry in the north, particularly in the vicinity of the borders with Burkina Faso and Mali.

RISK ZONES

Areas within 18 miles (30km) of the Liberian border in the Montagnes and Bas-Sassandra districts: **HIGH**

Western border areas have the most volatile security environment, even if security force deployments in the region over the past years have improved capabilities. Gunmen, including former militias, engage in criminal activities such as highway robberies, using vast forested areas and the proximity of the porous border with Liberia to elude the security forces. The border region was heavily affected by the post-election conflict in 2010-11; tension between ethnic groups, fuelled by conflict over land or resources, retains the potential to degenerate into localised outbreaks of violence.

Northern areas within 25 miles (40km) of borders with Mali and Burkina Faso and Comoe National Park: **HIGH**

We advise against all but essential travel to Cote d'Ivoire's northern border regions, comprising all areas within 25 miles (40km) of Burkina Faso and Mali as well as the entirety of Comoe National Park due to the significant threat posed by militants. Armed groups operating across the border have been able to stage incursions into these zones, posing an elevated risk of violence and kidnapping in these areas.

Tight security management and field management measures should be in place prior to implementation of activities. Overland travel outside the capital requires stringent journey planning and management. To reduce the risk, active risk mitigation measures must be adopted. This includes situation monitoring and implementation of minimum-security standards. All RCRC personnel actively involved in the operations must have completed the respective IFRC security e-learning courses (i.e. Stay Safe Personal Security, Security Management, or Volunteer Security). Classified RED areas remains no go areas for IFRC and NS staff operating under this program.

All security measures of both the Movement and the Government will be strictly respected by all volunteers and staff involved in the operation in order to reduce risks. These measures include the respect of visibility through the wearing of Red Cross Bibs and regular communication on all the movements.

Should there be a drastic shift in the country's security situation, a Security Risk Assessment must be conducted in all programme states to proffer accurate and clear mitigation measures to be put in place prior to program implementation. Regular briefings will be organized to remind volunteers and staff on their behaviour and safer access. Coordination will be maintained between the NS, IFRC and ICRC to ensure that all security measures are respected.

The security management as part of this operation will be based on the RCRC Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values. In addition, the following actions related to security will be implemented:

- Regular security updates will be organized, and information disseminated.
- Real time monitoring of field activities through the CRCI information management system.
- The use of other IT means of contact system to ensure communications during follow-up missions.
- All staff and volunteers must have undergone the Stay Safe security course and abide by the Code of conduct.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

The CRCI through its PMER department, will oversee all operational, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting aspects of the operation in the 26 localities covered for the election. The responsibility for day-to-day monitoring of the operation will be with the 10 district branches covering the hotspot areas and supervised by the CRCI headquarters to ensure appropriate accountability, transparency and financial management of the operation. Operation updates will be issued to report progress of the implementation.

A lesson learned workshop will be conducted towards the end of operation to reflect on lessons learned from the operation and a report of the workshop will be produced and disseminated widely. IFRC CCST office in Abuja through the PMER Senior officer will also provide technical support in programme management to ensure that the operational goals are met.

C. Detailed Operational Plan



Disaster Risk Reduction

People targeted²: 6,000

Male: 3,600

Female: 2,400

Requirements (CHF): 53,192

Needs analysis: Given the current political situation, it would be relevant for CRCI to be well-prepared if election violence takes place and there is displacement. As a result, the contingency plan will need to be updated to reflect the evolving circumstance and a needs assessment will need to take place after the elections in case there is displacement.

Risk analysis: The approach in which to perform the assessment will need to be thought through given the COVID-19 situation.

P&B Output Code	DRR Outcome 1: Communities in high risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster	# of simulation exercise performed (Target: 10)															
	DRR Output 1.1: Communities take active steps to strengthen their preparedness for timely and effective response to disasters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of volunteers and staff recycled and who undergo the simulation exercise (Target: 130 volunteers and 26 TL) # of rapid assessments conducted (Target: 1 in each hotspot) # of EcoSec assessments conducted (Target: 1 in each hotspot) 															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP001	Update the contingency plan the 2 nd week of October																
AP001	Undertake a fact-finding mission + meet the Ministry of the Interior and the Armed Forces Staff and other the relevant entities																
AP001	Training/retraining 5 Volunteers + 1 Team Leader from each of the 26 priority localities																
AP001	Procure and purchase 52 pennants																

² Reference to the guidance on counting people targeted guidance

AP001	Procure and purchase 2 large Masts																		
AP001	Multisectoral needs assessment (rapid, detailed, continuous)																		
AP001	Economic Security Assessment (EcoSec) including recycling of Volunteers with the tablets (Kobo collect)																		



Health

People targeted: 6,000

Male: 3,600

Female: 2,400

Requirements (CHF): 81,185

Needs analysis: Provide first aid to the victims of the violence or other physical ailments before, during and after the elections and to protect the staff, volunteers and individuals from Cov19.

Risk analysis: There are great possibilities that some people might be hurt, wounded, attacked during public demonstration or during retaliations activities by partisans from different factions. Others could be victims of GBV and will need to be referred to the proper authorities.

P&B Output Code	Health Outcome 2: The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment	# of people supported through the first aid response (Target: at least 20 per locality)															
	Health Output 2.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities.	# of first aid response stations setup (Target: 26)															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP022	Provide care to the possible victims of the demonstrations linked to the 2020 Presidential elections, promptly, effectively and as humanely as possible during the pre, per and post-election period.																
AP022	Deal with cases of RFL and GBV																
AP022	Procure and purchase of 310 Red Cross Bibs																
AP022	Procure and purchase of 52 equipped Election first aid kits (2 per localities)																
AP022	Set up an internal interdepartmental crisis management unit.																
AP022	Identify the places for the setting up of First Aid Stations																

AP022	Install the First Aid Stations on the eve of the elections and maintain them 1 day after the Presidential elections- possibly longer in case of issues																		
P&B Output Code	Health Outcome 6: The psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened	# of volunteers and staff who have received Psychological First Aid (Target: 520 volunteer and 26 TL)																	
	Health Output 6.1: Psychosocial support provided to the target population as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of volunteers and staff trained in Psychological First Aid (Target: 52 volunteers and 26 TL) # of volunteers and staff briefed on COVID-19 preventive measures and safety and security (Target: 26 volunteers and 26 TL) # of team meetings for volunteers and staff involved in the operation (Target: 1) # of people reached with Psychological First Aid services 																	
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
AP023	Training workshop for volunteers of 26 localities (2 volunteer /locality) Psychological First Aid and self-care skills																		
AP023	Set up psychological support (collective emotional debriefing) for the CRCI's first-aid workers and the staff members who managed the crisis. This session will include modules on "the correct application of barrier measures in the field" and "Safety and Security" and will target 26 volunteers + TLs from all target localities Provide PFA to people distressed due demonstrations.																		
P&B Output Code	Health Outcome 7: National Society has increased capacity to manage and respond to health risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of volunteers equipped with PPE (Target: 546) # of monitoring missions conducted by NS coordination to field (Target: 3) # of Lessons learned workshops conducted (Target: 1 LLW) 																	
	Health Output 7.1: The National Society and its volunteers are able to provide better, more appropriate, and higher quality emergency health services																		
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
AP021	Procure and purchase face masks																		
AP021	Procure and purchase disposable gloves																		
AP021	Procure and purchase hydroalcoholic hand gel																		
AP021	Mission to monitor activities																		
AP045	Lessons learned and experience sharing workshop + Review/Revision of contingency plan																		



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People targeted: 546

Male: 218

Female: 328

Requirements (CHF): 1,406

Needs analysis: CRCI will mainstream PGI throughout the response. The intervention will take into consideration the different vulnerable groups and their potential special needs during the intervention. Vulnerable groups that have been identified are persons with disabilities, ill, elderly, children and women. CRCI works to ensure the Dignity, Access Participation and safety of vulnerable groups and will sensitize their staff and volunteers engaged in the interventions on PGI.

Risk analysis: TRCS will ensure all the sectors mainstream protection, gender and inclusion throughout the intervention and ensure participation of the target groups.

Population to be assisted: The operation will focus on training and preparing CRCI volunteers and staff on minimum standards for PGI

Program standards/benchmarks: The operation will seek to meet SPHERE standards and PGI minimum standards in emergencies.

P&B Output Code	Protection, Gender & Inclusion Outcome 1: Communities become more peaceful, safe and inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.								# of staff and volunteers oriented in PGI guideline based on the specific needs (Target: 546)								
	Protection, Gender & Inclusion Output 1.1: Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.																
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP031	Organise a basic training for 520 volunteers and 26 staff on protection principles, including Child Protection (CP), Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and Safe Identification and referral.																
AP031	Mapping and strengthening and sharing of SGBV referral pathways																
AP031	Volunteers, staff and contractors are screened, briefed on and sign, 1.Code of conduct 2.Child protection policy/guidelines 3.PSEA																

Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF): 33,785

P&B Output Code	S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform						# of volunteers insured (Target: 546 volunteers)										
	Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected						# of volunteers provided with food (Target: 546 volunteers)										
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP040	Identify and/or update the listings of volunteers involved in the health coverage of the 2020 Presidential Elections, considering IFRC and ICRC insurance.																
	Provide insurance for coverage for 520 volunteers and 26 team leaders																
AP040	Set up safety food /equipment trunks at CRCI headquarters																
P&B Output Code	Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of volunteers trained on CEA (Target: 26 volunteers) # of community feedback reports generated (Target: 3 reports) % of community feedback responded to (Target: at least 80%) 										
		Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
AP084	Community feedback systems (including rumour and/or perception tracking) are established, and feedback acted upon and used to improve the operation																
AP084	Orientation to volunteers on management of the EOC including feedback and rumour management																
P&B Output Code	Output S2.2.5: Shared services in areas such as IT, logistics and information management are provided						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of crisis management centre set-up (Target: 1 crisis management centre) # of communication cards prepositioned (Target: 50 cards) # of vehicles set ready for deployment (Target: 8 vehicles) 										

	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP042	Set up an internal interdepartmental crisis management unit.																
AP042	Purchase and transfer communication units (5000fx2) in each of the 26 priority locations + phone top up credits for the security staff																
AP042	Update the various telephone directories and addresses (home, hospitals...) and distribute to whom it concerns																
AP042	Purchase to build up a reserve of fuel (diesel) at the CRCI headquarters for two (2) months.																
AP042	Purchase emergency supplies: food in case of lock down																
AP042	Pre-position 8 vehicles strategically around the 26 priority locations in addition to the 7 ICRC vehicles.																

D. Funding Requirements

Overall budget requirement for this DREF operation is CHF 169,568 as detailed in attached budget. To note, as the operation is mainly to prepare NS at this stage, volunteer costs are being considered as direct operational costs.

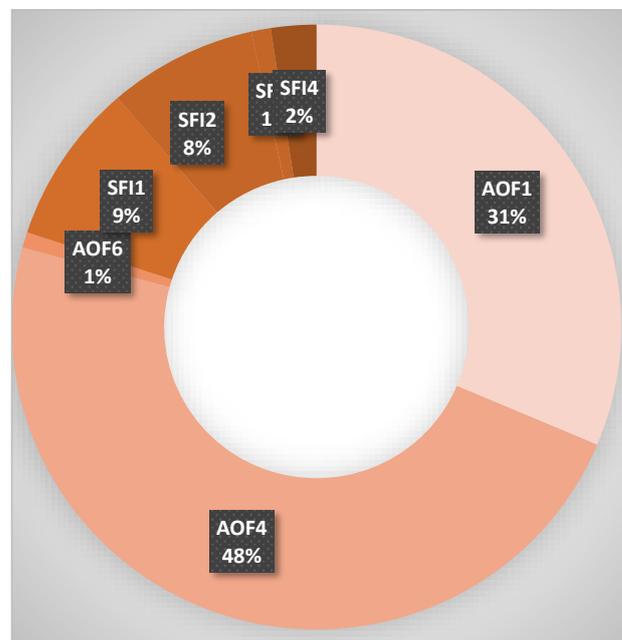
DREF OPERATION

MDRCI013 - COTE D'IVOIRE - ELECTIONS PREPAREDNESS

02/10/2020

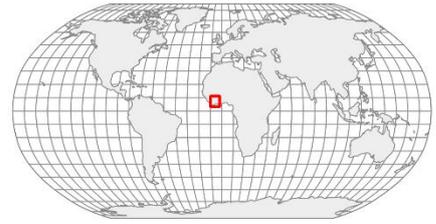
Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Medical & First Aid	7,590
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	7,590
Transport & Vehicles Costs	8,745
Logistics Services	1,320
Logistics, Transport & Storage	10,065
National Society Staff	4,950
Volunteers	73,831
Personnel	78,781
Workshops & Training	47,520
Workshops & Training	47,520
Travel	8,118
Information & Public Relations	3,713
Office Costs	165
Communications	1,617
General Expenditure	13,613
DIRECT COSTS	159,218
INDIRECT COSTS	10,349
TOTAL BUDGET	169,568

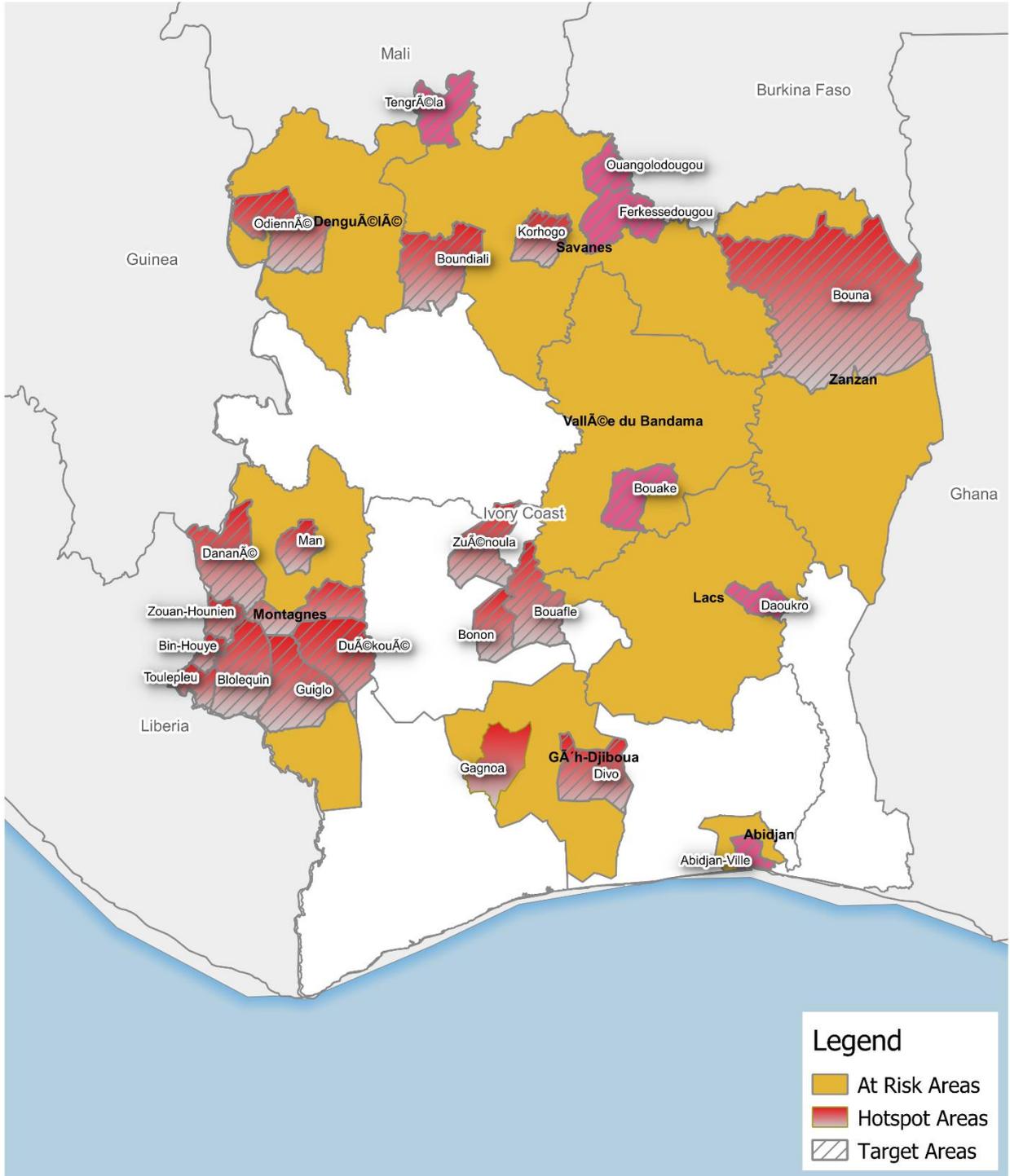


Budget by Area of Intervention

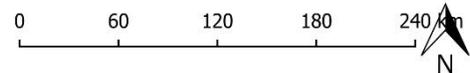
AOF1	Disaster Risk Reduction	53,192
AOF4	Health	81,185
AOF6	Protection, Gender and Inclusion	1,406
SF11	Strengthen National Societies	14,596
SF12	Effective International Disaster Management	13,355
SF13	Influence others as leading strategic partners	1,757
SF14	Ensure a strong IFRC	4,077
TOTAL		169,568



Côte d'Ivoire : Elections Preparedness



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.
 Map data sources: GADM, CIV RC, IFRC. Map produced by: IFRC Africa Regional Office, Nairobi



Reference documents



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

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For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

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For Performance and Accountability support (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 (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**.