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Emergency Plan of Action (EPOA) Cote d'Ivoire: Ebola virus disease preparedness

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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| DREF operation | Operation n° MDRCI006; Glide n° EP-2014-000039-CIV |
| Date of issue: 19 April 2014 | Date of disaster: 23 March 2014 |
| Operation manager (responsible for this EPOA): Zakari Issa, Regional water and sanitation coordinator, IFRC West Coast regional office | Point of contact: Virginie O. NIANGORAN, Head of programmes, Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross |
| Operation start date: 19 April 2014 | Expected timeframe: Three months, ends on 18 July 2014 |
| Overall operation budget: CHF 60,950 | |
| Number of people affected: Communities at risk in Sipilou, Ouaninou, Koro, Touba, Grabo, Danané, Zouan hounien, Toulepleu, Bloléquinn, Tai and Tabou | Number of people to be assisted: Up to 50,000 individuals (10,000 households) |
| Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): 200 volunteers | |
| Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: IFRC, ICRC, and French Red Cross | |
| Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Ministry of Health | |

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

A fast-spreading outbreak of Ebola virus disease is affecting several countries in West Africa. With cases registered since February and March, Guinea and Liberia have registered up to 150 and 20 cases respectively with more than 100 deaths in Guinea and ten in Liberia. With affected regions of Macenta, Gueckedou, N'Zerekore and Kissidougou in Guinea and Lofa, Nimba, Margibi and Montserrado regions in Liberia, additional suspected cases have been reported in Sierra Leone and Mali and laboratory identification is ongoing to determine its nature.

To date, no treatment or vaccine is available for Ebola virus disease, which kills between 25% and 90% of its victims, depending on the strain of the virus. The disease is transmitted by direct contact with blood, faeces or sweat, or by sexual contact or unprotected handling of contaminated corpses.

This is the first time an outbreak of this size is being experienced in West Africa.

Since the confirmation of the Ebola virus disease in Guinea, the IFRC with the National Societies have developed response strategy. The strategy includes supporting the National Societies of the affected countries and countries with a physical border to the affected countries.

The main activities the IFRC is supporting the affected National Societies include:

- Strengthening National Society volunteer and coordination networks through logistics and training support
- Clinical case management, support with isolation and life-support
- Contribution to epidemiological investigation and epidemic control measures
- Case finding, contact tracing, disinfection and dead body management
- Information, education and communication to the population and reduction of stigma
- Psychosocial support; coping with crisis, grief and loss

The main activities the IFRC is supporting the National Societies with a physical border to the affected countries include:

- Preparedness for response through volunteer training in communication around epidemics and behavioural change
- Supporting Ministries of Health in prevention activities and social mobilisation
- Pre-positioning personal protective equipment and related training
- Adaption and dissemination of information, education and communication material linked with community social mobilization activities

The proposed activities in Cote d'Ivoire follows the regional response framework's support to neighbouring National Societies.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

Epidemic prevention is a priority of the Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross in the context of risk management as stated in the Strategic Plan of the society.

The National Society has several experiences on the prevention of epidemics, including the avian flu outbreak in 2006, the swine flu in 2009 and the various epidemics of meningitis. As an auxiliary to public authorities under the Ministry of Health, Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross has worked closely with the national health authorities. The National Society has 76 branches across the country with over 4,300 active volunteers.

The risk of spread of the Ebola virus disease in Cote d'Ivoire is high because the country is sharing Guinea borders and has numerous exchanges with that currently affected country. It is therefore necessary to conduct prevention activities at the community level for risk reduction. The high risk of Ebola virus disease in the neighbouring regions to Guinea has promoted the National Society to conduct preparedness activities alongside the Ministry of Health and Social Action.

Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross has expertise in preparedness and response related to epidemics over the past years and is in the midst of reinforcing the branches along the border with Guinea.

Movement Coordination

The Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross is supported by the IFRC through its West Coast regional office, the ICRC and the French Red Cross; on the 7 April 2014, a Red Cross Red Crescent Movement is held with the Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross, the IFRC, ICRC and the French Red Cross to discuss and harmonise position on the response to the EVD crisis and according to the Ministry of Health strategy.

At the onset of the alert for Ebola virus disease, the Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross has been keeping all Movement actors informed of activities of the Ministry of Health and Social Action and themselves. IFRC West Coast regional office is supporting in information gathering and dissemination.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

A National Committee for the response against the Ebola virus disease was set up by the Ministry. It includes the key structures of the Ministry namely, the National Institute of Public Health, the Institut Pasteur, Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, United Nations agencies such as WHO, UNICEF, UNOCI as well departments of the Ministry of the Interior. In this committee, the Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross and IFRC are part of the commission of awareness and prevention.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Needs Assessment

Due to the newly apparition of the Ebola virus disease, the population has limited knowledge, including mode of transmission and proper behaviour to avoid risks. Due to the highly-infectious nature of the disease many people are fearful and it is important to reduce rumours and misconceptions related to risks.

Although there is no confirmed cases in Côte d'Ivoire, some suspected cases are presented as follow by the Ministry of health. The figures were presented during the humanitarian Forum meeting held at OCHA on 16 April in Abidjan. Sample of the suspected cases are still being analysed.

Risk Assessment

The Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross is committed to do its utmost to support the Ministry of Health around social mobilisation to prepare the population and prevent any outbreaks in Senegal. On reducing risks for staff and volunteers, the Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross will ensure that personal protective equipment is properly used.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

The overall objective is to prepare the Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross through reinforcement of volunteers and material for a possible outbreak and also to undertake social mobilisation activities alongside the Ministry of Health. The volunteer reinforcement and social mobilisation activities will occur in the regions that border Guinea. The social mobilization activities will increase knowledge of risk and promote prevention behaviour.

Proposed strategy

The proposed strategy is in line with the IFRCs strategy for neighbouring countries of Guinea as well as the strategy of government of Côte d'Ivoire. The activities will focus on:

- Preparedness for response through volunteer training in communication around epidemics and behavioural change
- Supporting Ministry of Health in prevention activities, epidemiological surveillance and social mobilization
- Pre-positioning personal protective equipment and related training
- Adaption and production of information, education and communication material linked with community social mobilisation activities

Operational support services

Human resources

The Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross will deploy 200 volunteers, 3 trainers from the staff and 3 NDRTs to the different departments of Sipilou, Ouaninou, Koro, Touba, Grabo, Danané, Zouan hounien, Toulepleu, Bloléquinn, Tai and Tabou. A Regional Disaster Response Team member will be deployed to support the Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross with training volunteers and social mobilisation activities.

Logistics and supply chain

The specialized personal protective equipment kits will be procured by IFRC to ensure they meet the necessary standards. All other necessary items will be procured locally.

The Red Cross of Côte d'Ivoire will use two 4x4 available in its fleet and, if necessary, use its warehouses located in the region. The national society will apply its procurement plan for the management of procurement and supply (in accordance with the procedures and rules). The purchase will be in coordination with the West Coast regional office.

Communications

The CRCI will use its internet website to share achievements of this operation. Visibility of the work of Red Cross volunteers will be ensured during the operation through local media and visibility material. A proper documentation and reporting to allow for lessons learnt will be ensured as well. The Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross will provide regular updates on the operation.

Security

Security risks, will be reviewed and responded to accordingly. IFRC has prepared a security brief for its staff deployed to the country, and close consultation will be carried out with the Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross and ICRC who have permanent presence in the country.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

While continuous monitoring is being covered by the National Society's local branches, the Côte d'Ivoire Red Cross at the headquarter level, in close cooperation with the IFRC West Coast regional office, will monitor the progress of the operation and provide necessary technical expertise. At least two field missions

supported by the operation will be carried out, with budgeted costs including accommodation and per diems for technical staff and the drivers.

The monitoring and reporting of the operation will be undertaken by the National Society. Brief weekly updates will be provided to the IFRC on general progress of the operation, and regular monitoring reports will provide detailed indicator tracking.

Administration and Finance

The National Society has a permanent administrative and financial department, which will ensure the proper use of financial resources in accordance with conditions to be discussed in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross and the IFRC West Coast regional office.

Management of financial resources will be effective according to the procedures of the National Society and DREF guidelines.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Early warning & emergency response preparedness

| Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Output 1.1: The capacity of Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross to prepare for potential Ebola response is strengthened | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activities planned | Week / Month | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| Train 200 volunteers and supervisors in epidemic control for volunteers | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Procure personal protective equipment and train volunteers on their use | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Monitor and report on activities carried out | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Output 1.2: Increased public awareness about EVD (signs and symptoms, transmission risk factors, actions for suspected cases, its prevention and control measures) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activities planned | Week / Month | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| Distributions of information, education and communication in at risk communities | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Organise community discussions | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Radio broadcasting | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Social mobilisation with dissemination of key messages on Ebola virus disease prevention | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Output 1.3 Community epidemiological surveillance is set up / enhanced | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Activities planned | Week / Month | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| Participate in information and coordination meetings with authorities | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Set up / enhance community monitoring committees for disease surveillance | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Epidemiological control and monitoring through community disease surveillance | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Budget

Annex 1 below.

MDRCI006

| Budget Group | Multilateral Response | Budget CHF |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Shelter - Relief | 0 | 0 |
| Shelter - Transitional | 0 | 0 |
| Construction - Housing | 0 | 0 |
| Construction - Facilities | 0 | 0 |
| Construction - Materials | 0 | 0 |
| Clothing & Textiles | 0 | 0 |
| Food | 0 | 0 |
| Seeds & Plants | 0 | 0 |
| Water, Sanitation & Hygiene | 480 | 480 |
| Medical & First Aid | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Teaching Materials | 5,500 | 5,500 |
| Utensils & Tools | 0 | 0 |
| Other Supplies & Services | 0 | 0 |
| Emergency Response Units | 0 | 0 |
| Cash Disbursements | 0 | 0 |
| Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES | 10,980 | 10,980 |
| Land & Buildings | 0 | 0 |
| Vehicles Purchase | 0 | 0 |
| Computer & Telecom Equipment | 0 | 0 |
| Office/Household Furniture & Equipment | 0 | 0 |
| Medical Equipment | 0 | 0 |
| Other Machinery & Equipment | 0 | 0 |
| Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT | 0 | 0 |
| Storage, Warehousing | 0 | 0 |
| Distribution & Monitoring | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Transport & Vehicle Costs | 8,500 | 8,500 |
| Logistics Services | 0 | 0 |
| Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE | 10,500 | 10,500 |
| International Staff | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| National Staff | 0 | 0 |
| National Society Staff | 0 | 0 |
| Volunteers | 16,500 | 16,500 |
| Total PERSONNEL | 22,500 | 22,500 |
| Consultants | 0 | 0 |
| Professional Fees | 0 | 0 |
| Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES | 0 | 0 |
| Workshops & Training | 3,850 | 3,850 |
| Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING | 3,850 | 3,850 |
| Travel | 1,500 | 1,500 |
| Information & Public Relations | 4,000 | 4,000 |
| Office Costs | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Communications | 1,900 | 1,900 |
| Financial Charges | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Other General Expenses | 0 | 0 |
| Shared Support Services | | |
| Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES | 9,400 | 9,400 |
| Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery | 3,720 | 3,720 |
| Total INDIRECT COSTS | 3,720 | 3,720 |
| TOTAL BUDGET | 60,950 | 60,950 |
| NET DREF NEEDS | 60,950 | 60,950 |



Côte d'Ivoire: Ebola virus disease (EVD) preparedness

