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DREF Operation update

Mali: Preparedness for Ebola

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation	Operation N° MDRML010;GLIDE n° EP-2014-000039-MLI
Date of issue: 17 July 2014	Date of disaster: N/A
Operation manager: Aissa Fall	Point of contact: Aissa Fall, Health Manager
Operation start date: 19 April 2014	Expected timeframe: 3 months. This has since been extended by a further 45 days
Overall operation budget: CHF 57,715	
N° of people affected: At-risk communities of Bamako, Kayes, Koulikoro and Sikasso; up to 8 million people	No of people to be assisted: Up to 50% of at-risk communities of Bamako, Kayes, Koulikoro and Sikasso
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): 200 volunteers from branches of Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso and Bamako	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: IFRC and Mali Red Cross	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Ministry of Health	

Summary: CHF 57,715 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 18 January, 2014 to support the Mali Red Cross Society (MRCS) in conducting EVD epidemic preparedness activities for up to 50% of at-risk communities of Bamako, Kayes, Koulikoro and Sikasso.

On 21 March 2014, an outbreak of the Ebola virus disease (EVD) was declared in Guinea. 134 suspected cases of febrile illness and 83 deaths in districts of Forest Guinea region, with a fatality rate of 69 per cent were recorded. Since the confirmation of the Ebola virus disease in Guinea, a regional response framework has been envisaged. The regional response framework has included supporting the National Societies of the affected countries and countries with a physical border to the affected countries. The high risk that an Ebola outbreak occurred and spread in countries bordering Guinea has justified the need to conduct preparedness activities in Mali. Indeed, given the devastating impact the Ebola epidemic can have if not controlled or prevented, Mali Red Cross Society, supported by the IFRC reinforced the capacities of its volunteers with the purpose of undertaking social mobilisation activities in order to reduce the risks related to Ebola and thereby improve preparedness / prevention activities alongside the Ministry of Health.

This operation was expected to be implemented over three months, and completed by 18 July, 2014. However, due to an absence of a Logistics Officer in the Sahel Regional Representation and the related gap to handle the aspect of procurement and shipment process, there has been a delay in processing with procurement and shipment of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in country. Therefore, there is a need to extend this DREF for 45 days in order to complete the remaining activities essentially linked to the shipment process and the final evaluation of the operation. The DREF operation will be then completed on 31 August 2014. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation.

The major donors and partners of the DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the USA, as well as DG ECHO, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) the Medtronic, Zurich and Coca Cola Foundations and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the Mali Red Cross Society would like to extend many thanks to all partners for their generous contributions. Details of all donors can be found on www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/Active/MDR00001.pdf

Coordination and partnerships

Mali Red Cross has been supported by the IFRC through its Sahel Regional Office, located in Dakar, Senegal. Other support has been provided by the ICRC, Danish, Swiss, Spanish, Belgium, French and Canadian Red Cross Societies. Regular Movement Coordination meetings and joint-activities occurred. At the onset of the alert for Ebola virus disease, the Mali Red Cross has been keeping all Movement actors informed of activities of the Ministry of Health and Social Action and themselves. IFRC Regional Office has been supporting in information gathering and dissemination.

It is worth mentioning that the authorities in Mali have set up a platform for a possible outbreak of Ebola virus disease as well as an isolation centre. The regular surveillance system has been strengthened with a screening system set up in Kourémalé and at the Bamako Sénou airport. Suspected cases have been under investigation for laboratory confirmation. World Health Organisation has provided the authorities with personal protective equipment and is providing additional technical assistance.

Operational implementation

Overview

Following the DREF allocation, the RDRT deployed by IFRC conducted the training of 16 trainers/supervisors coming from the four target areas (Bamako, Kayes, Koulikoro and Sikasso). Equipped in knowledge the trained Red Cross volunteers replicated the training sessions in the respective target areas. Therefore a total of 200 Red Cross volunteers (16 superviseurs and 184 participants) have been trained. The training activities were followed by the social mobilization ones. A total of 200 awareness posters were distributed to volunteers for the social mobilization activities. Each volunteer was assigned to conduct at least 10 awareness activities. This operation has enabled the National Society to take responsibility in social mobilization, awareness raising, and prevention messaging and beneficiary communication.

Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced	
Output 1.1 : The capacity of Mali Red Cross to prepare for potential Ebola response is strengthened	
Activities planned	Implementation
Train 200 volunteers and supervisors in epidemic control for volunteers	Done
Procure personal protective equipment and train volunteers on their use	Please see the summary section
Monitor and report on activities carried out	Done
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	Implementation
Distribution of information, education and communication in at risk communities	Done
Organise community discussions	Done
Radio broadcasting	Done
Social mobilisation with dissemination of key messages on Ebola virus disease prevention	Done
Output 1.3: Community epidemiological surveillance is set-up/enhanced	
Activities planned	
Participate in information and coordination meetings with authorities.	Done
Set up/ enhance community monitoring committees for disease surveillance	These two activities have not been achieved by the National Society as the Ministry of Health has similar activities and has been conducting them.
Epidemiological control and monitoring through community disease surveillance	

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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 Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.