

Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Benin: Ebola Virus Disease Preparedness

DREF Operation	Operation n° MDRBJ014
Date of issue: 27 August 2014	Date of disaster: 20 July 2014
Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA): Zakari ISSA, West Africa Regional Water and Sanitation Coordinator	Point of contact: Dr Derdone GNONLONFOUN, Health Coordinator, Benin Red Cross Society
Operation start date: 27 August 2014	Expected timeframe: 3 months
Overall operation budget: CHF 50,204	
Number of people affected: 14 zones at risk	Number of people to be assisted: 1,000,000
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): 90 Volunteers, 2 staff, 14 branches.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: Netherlands Red Cross	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Ministry of Health, the Ministry of the Interior through the ANPC	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Since February 2014, when first cases were reported in Guinea, the virus of Ebola continues to spread dangerously in the countries of West Africa despite the ongoing efforts undertaken by the authorities to stop the disease from spreading. As of August 18, WHO has recorded a total of 2473 cases attributed to the disease Ebola, with 1350 death detailed for each country as follow: Guinea 579 cases with 396 deaths, Liberia 972 cases with 576 deaths, Nigeria 15 cases with 4 deaths, Sierra Leone 907 cases with 374 deaths.

For the moment the response of humanitarian organizations does not seem to be able to curb the spread of the virus, and WHO is concerned on the work that needs to be done to be able to control the spread of the disease and to succeed in reversing the trend. It remains difficult to reach people for support, or to convince them to seek for treatment. There is still perplexity over the existence of the disease among the community. To date, all West African countries are on alert; some have closed their land borders and stopped air flights to/from the affected countries.

It is the first time Benin prepares for Ebola. Its population as its health facilities have limited knowledge of the mode of transmission measurements and prevention. Since the beginning of the outbreak, the Benin government has initiated several measures to prevent the occurrence and prepare the response to this epidemic through:

- Strengthening of epidemiological surveillance throughout the country and especially in the border areas with Nigeria and at the airport.
- Strengthening of health checks at land, sea and air borders.
- Increased vigilance in emergency departments of public hospitals and in private health facilities.
- Installation of facilities to isolate affected persons.

Health authorities in Benin have activated the national platform for disaster risk reduction to reflect on the situation through meetings held at the Ministry of Interior and Public Security.

The Red Cross of Benin aims, through this plan, to support the government of Benin in contributing to the prevention of the epidemic and to prepare for a potential response to the disease.

Summary of the current response

Overview of the Host National Society

Prevention and response to epidemics are among the priorities of the Benin Red Cross in accordance with its strategic plan. The National Society, as auxiliary to public authorities under the coordination of the Ministry of Health, has experience in the prevention of epidemics, as was the case during the cholera epidemics in 2012 and 2013. The National Society was also member of the national platform for reducing disaster risks organised by the Council of Ministers on 30 December 2011 and has worked closely with the structures and services of the Ministry as part of prevention activities. The National Society has 67 local committees across the country with about 13,000 active volunteers. The Health focal point of the Benin Red Cross participates in the meetings of the national platform for disaster risk reduction held at the Ministry of Interior and Public Security. The Benin Red Cross is involved in the pillar communication to undertake social mobilisation activities to increase knowledge of risk and promote prevention behaviour. Volunteers from local branches located in municipalities with a border with Nigeria have been put on alert for sensitization particularly of Porto Novo and Cotonou.

The risk of spread of the Ebola epidemic in Benin is high because of the large trade flows between Benin and Nigeria through hundreds of crossing points on the border.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The Netherlands Red Cross is present in country and since early September has been implementing a project focused on diarrhoea treatment which will be carried on for the next 3 years.

Coordination within the Movement

IFRC always supports the Benin Red Cross as part of outbreak management. The support will be coordinated through the West Coast Regional Office based in Abidjan and Africa Zone Office in Nairobi. Netherlands Red Cross is also ready to provide support if needed.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

No external actors at the moment.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Needs Assessment

The risk of spreading the disease in Benin is high because of its proximity to Lagos, Nigeria, where 16 Ebola cases with 5 deaths have been confirmed as of 20 August 2014. Porto Novo and Cotonou are only a few kilometres away from the border with Nigeria and there is high mobility between the two countries on a regular basis.

High risk identified communities around Cotonou and Porto Novo will be targeted through this plan of action through the dissemination campaign. Specific groups of individuals will be targeted in the regions who are able to act as multipliers to spread dissemination messages to others. There is a need to prepare the country through reinforcement of volunteers and disseminating material and information for a potential outbreak; also undertake social mobilisation activities alongside the MOH to increase knowledge of risk and promote prevention behaviour.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

The overall objective is to prepare the Benin Red Cross through staff and volunteers training, awareness raising and social mobilisation activities alongside the Ministry of Health and ensure the prepositioning of personal protective equipment when possible, in coordination with other actors. The social mobilisation activities will increase knowledge of risk and promote prevention behaviour.

Proposed strategy

Benin Red Cross intends to support the government's efforts through training and deployment of 90 volunteers to conduct the activities of sensitization and information. Volunteers from local branches located in municipalities with a border with Nigeria have been put on alert for sensitization particularly of Porto Novo and Cotonou.

The Benin Red Cross staff will be sensitized on the Ebola virus and hygiene materials will be distributed to support initiatives to promote hygiene conditions. If the situation changes, the NS will require surge capacity to assist the operation. The response will be reviewed within four weeks to assess its effectiveness.

The strategy identifies the following key points of action:

1. Awareness raising, information sharing and communication linked to community social mobilisation activities..
2. Strengthening of epidemiological surveillance in collaboration with the health zones of the municipalities concerned.
3. Coordination and integration of activities with Ministry of Health and other key actors if any (e.g. World Health Organisation, Centre for Disease Control, Médecins Sans Frontières);
4. Participation in the coordination of the national response.
5. Pre-positioning personal protective equipment and related training as to how to use it.

Operational support services

Human resource

The Benin Red Cross Society will train and mobilize 90 volunteers (6 volunteers per municipality), under the supervision of 11 NDRT to be able to carry on the activities within this Emergency Plan of Action. It is important that volunteers and staff not engage in treating or handling suspected cases or deaths at a community level without proper training and support services.

The National Society will monitor the operation involving two technical staff from headquarters (DM plus Head of Health). In addition 1 RDRT will be deployed, to support in the preparedness of key activities. Additional support from the IFRC country office will be also sought, to provide technical support tracking site visits.

Logistics and supply chain

The Red Cross Benin will rent a 4x4 vehicle to conduct monitoring and evaluation trips for two months. It will apply its procurement plan for managing procurement and supply (in accordance with agreed procedures). The acquisitions will be done in coordination with the Regional Office to comply with the DREF guidelines. All other supplies will be procured locally except for the Personal Protection Equipment (PPE).

Communications

The Benin Red Cross 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 Benin Red Cross will provide regular updates on the operation.

Communication and community awareness will focus on decreasing fear and raising awareness on the transmission methods and alertness of communities for an appropriate response. Key stakeholder groups and opinion leaders (taxi drivers, religious leaders, traditional birth attendants, community leaders and teachers) will be targeted as change agendas on social mobilisation and communication activities.

Where possible and relevant, cross border communication and information sharing will be undertaken amongst neighbouring National Societies and Ministries of Health.

Information technology (IT)

The National Society will use the internet and GSM networks for communications to keep in touch with teams and communities. VHF radios (30km radius) will also be at disposal.

Security

Benin is a stable country, there is no registered risks for volunteers. However, caution is needed to ensure that volunteers and staff working on the operation will work in safe conditions and be adequately insured.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

While continuous monitoring is being covered by the National Society local branches, the Benin Red Cross at the head quarter level in close cooperation with the IFRC regional office will monitor the progress of the operation and provide necessary technical expertise.

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.

The operation will be coordinated by the National Health Coordinator under the supervision of the Secretary General. The health coordinator and focal point of the Federation will coordinate and monitor the implementation of the project in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and stakeholders. Regular reports on the implementation will be produced and transmitted.

Administration and financial management

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 Benin Red Cross and the IFRC West Coast Office. The management of financial resources will be done according to the NS procedures and to the DREF Guidelines.

C. Detailed Operational Plan

Early warning & emergency preparedness

Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced													
Output 1.1: The capacity of Benin Red Cross to prepare for potential Ebola response is strengthened													
Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Train 90 volunteers and supervisors in epidemic control for volunteers													
Train NS Staff													
Purchase and pre-positioning of 110 personal protection equipment kits (100 Light PPE and 10 Heavy Duty PPE) in three relevant departments and train volunteers on their use													
Procure Hygiene - Hand sanitizer gel and Dettol, disinfectant, chlorine													
Monitor and report on activities carried out													
Lessons learnt workshop on the Ebola prevention campaign													
Update the contingency plan of the Benin Red Cross													
Output 1.2: Increased public awareness about EVD (signs and symptoms, transmission risk factors, actions for suspected cases, its prevention and control measures) in the Porto Novo, Cotonou and the 14 areas bordering with Nigeria													
Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Identification of community leaders and conduct targeted sensitisation activities													
Production of 10,000 assorted IEC materials (posters, fliers)													
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	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													
Follow-up meetings with the local authorities (health districts, prefectures and town councils)													

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 (NGOs) 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.

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Saving lives, changing minds.



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

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

DREF OPERATION

27/08/2014

Benin: Ebola Virus Disease Preparedness (MDRBJ014)

Budget Group	DREF grant budget
Shelter - Relief	0
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	0
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	240
Medical & First Aid	5,500
Teaching Materials	0
Utensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	0
Emergency Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	5,740
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles Purchase	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	9,900
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	9,900
International Staff	12,000
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	0
Volunteers	150
Total PERSONNEL	12,150
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	4,250
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	4,250
Travel	7,500
Information & Public Relations	5,000
Office Costs	500
Communications	1,100
Financial Charges	1,000
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Support Services	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	15,100
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	3,064
Total INDIRECT COSTS	3,064
TOTAL BUDGET	50,204