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Emergency Appeal Operation Update

Africa- Ebola Coordination and Preparedness

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency Appeal n° MDR60002	Glide n° EP-2014-000039
Operations update n° 1 Date of issue: 18 September 2014	Timeframe covered by this update: 19 August – 17 September 2014
Start date: 19 August 2014	Expected timeframe: 9 Months
Appeal budget: CHF 2,893,667	Appeal coverage: 3%
Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: No DREF allocated for this Appeal	
Number of people being assisted: Coordinated support to over 32 million people	
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): This regional appeal focuses on immediate regional support on those countries with existing country level appeals and responses, but is setting up preparedness actions for the risk of a wider spread of the disease	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: Guinea Red Cross Society, Liberia Red Cross Society, Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, Nigeria Red Cross Society, Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross Society, Mali Red Cross Society, Senegal Red Cross Society, the many Partner National Societies supporting the operations, IFRC and ICRC	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Medecins Sans Frontieres, World Health Organization, UNICEF, the Governments of Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria	

This Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 2,893,667 to enable the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to supplement and to support the current country-level Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) Emergency Appeals and preparedness operations supported by the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) targeting over 32 million people.

As significant needs for ongoing Ebola response still remain and continue to evolve, this Operation Update wishes to confirm the need to support the IFRC and the national societies in their activities to help the population affected by this unprecedented epidemic.

Summary

An uncontrolled outbreak of Ebola virus is currently underway in several countries in West Africa (Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, with limited cases reported in Nigeria and Senegal as well). This is the largest Ebola outbreak ever reported, both in terms of case numbers and geographical spread. It's also the first time the disease has affected large cities. Capital cities of these nations are affected. It is clear that the rate at which the virus is spreading is increasing. Indeed, initial analysis indicates that the virus may be approaching an exponential growth rate, and could be doubling approximately every three weeks. There are well-founded concerns that the outbreak could kill thousands more before it can be brought under control. Such is the



Red Cross volunteers in Liberia are on the frontline in Ebola virus dead body management activities. Photo: IFRC

extent of uncertainty around the evolution of the outbreak that estimates of total impact vary amongst the world's most prominent infectious disease institutions. To date, according to the latest WHO figures, over **2,500** people have died from Ebola and over **5,000** cases have been confirmed across the region.

On 20th August 2014, the IFRC launched an [Emergency Appeal](#) seeking to strengthen and scale up operations support, coordination, communication, capacity building and preparedness for at risk countries in the region and to prepare for the potential spread of Ebola outbreak to other countries in Africa and beyond. Support for the safety and security of RCRC volunteers and staff has been given prominent priority, before, during and after deployment.

The IFRC Africa Ebola Management Unit based in Guinea supplements and coordinates the operations of the following Emergency Appeal operations for Ebola response:

- [Guinea Revised Emergency Appeal](#)
- [Liberia Revised Emergency Appeal](#)
- [Sierra Leone Revised Emergency Appeal](#)
- [Nigeria Emergency Appeal](#)

Strategies are tailored to individual countries, and are based on 5 pillars: Beneficiary Communication and Social Mobilization; Contact Tracing and Surveillance; Psychosocial Support; as well as Dead Body Management, Burials and Disinfection. Additionally, coordination helps tie together these approaches –and the efforts of different actors.

Additionally, the IFRC Africa Ebola Management Unit backstops and coordinates smaller preparedness operations financed under the IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF)¹:

- [Mali preparedness DREF](#)
- [Cote d'Ivoire preparedness DREF](#)
- [Cameroon preparedness DREF](#)
- [Togo preparedness DREF](#)
- [Benin preparedness DREF](#)
- [Central African Republic preparedness DREF](#)
- [Senegal preparedness and response DREF](#)
- [Chad preparedness DREF](#)
- [Gambia preparedness DREF](#)

Japanese and Canadian Red Cross societies have already pledged financial support for this appeal and discussions are advanced with several partners that are expected to come to fruition in the coming weeks. IFRC thanks partners for their support and underscores the continued need for additional funding to be able to carry out essential operations support functions under this appeal.

¹ There is another response operation financed under the DREF to combat an unrelated Ebola outbreak in [Democratic Republic of Congo](#)

Coordination and partnerships

IFRC convened 'Forum on Ebola Communication and Prevention' meeting in Dakar, Senegal, on 8-9 September, 2014; which was co-organized with UNICEF, WHO, ECOWAS, BBC Media Action and West Africa Democracy Radio (WADR). The participant agreed and committed to the following action point;

- Take urgent communication and social mobilization actions to help national and regional authorities stop the Ebola outbreak at the earliest in affected countries, and prevent further spread of the disease anywhere;
- Mitigate the effects of the epidemic, including broader social and economic impacts, through coordinated information dissemination, targeted communications and advocacy, and effective social mobilization;
- Act upon the voice of the community by scaling up two-way engagement, and ensure social mobilization remains at the top of all prevention and epidemic control plans;
- Implement and monitor these commitments and attached framework through collective accountability and strengthened coordination at all levels.

The IFRC Ebola Coordination unit is leading all movement coordination meetings and consultations with movement partners consisting of ICRC, Guinea Red Cross, French Red Cross and the Danish Red Cross. This is meant to ensure a coordinated and harmonized approach to combat the Ebola epidemic in the country and the region at large.

Operational implementation

Since March this year, the IFRC has expanded its Ebola preparedness and response activities to thirteen countries in West Africa (see links above). The preparedness DREF operations help ensure that communities are prepared with knowledge about the disease should the epidemic spread. In total, the IFRC is helping National Societies to respond with programmes totalling CHF 34.7 million aimed at helping more than 37 million people.

Initial funding for this Coordination Appeal has recently been received and the operation has begun to achieve set objectives. In particular, the Regional Coordination of the IFRC Ebola Response team is currently operational and has the following positions in place in Guinea:

- Head of Operations (HEOPs)
- Deputy HEOPs
- Beneficiary Communication (Bencom) Delegate
- Communication Delegate
- HR
- Reporting Officer
- Resource Mobilisation Delegate
- Information Management Delegate
- Finance Delegate and Unit support staff
- Logistic Delegate
- Regional Ebola Technical Advisor

These staff will ensure the Ebola coordination unit supports the National Societies and other PNS in harmonizing a Movement approach to the Ebola epidemic. An Ebola briefing package/presentation has been finalized and will be used for orientation of all incoming delegates.

Security Assessment both for delegates and volunteers in the region is ongoing. A number of security incidents involving Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers in the field have been reported in Guinea and IFRC has called on to the respective Government to ensure safety of volunteers.

A staff health assessment has been conducted between 6-18 September 2014.

As the Ebola outbreak is growing at an exponential rate, supplies tend to get depleted faster than anticipated. Global markets for essential items such as PPE, Chlorine and Body Bags are also being depleted, and in order to avoid being compelled to use non-standard items, there is a need for IFRC to ensure that the logistics set up, procurement, supply chain and supply is in place to ensure that the operations can run without interrupted supplies, which would put RC staff and volunteers at risk.

The sourcing of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) is becoming increasingly competitive amongst the various actors, there is need to agree a long term plan for the consistent supply of this equipment. The fleet needs are constantly expanding as the outbreak continues and the need for us to increase the coverage of social mobilization activities At all times we need to ensure correct implementation of IFRC logistics procedures.

Discussions are ongoing with AZO logistics department to conduct a logistic assessment. The purpose of this mission is to ensure a robust and coordinated supply chain and logistics program is planned for and implemented across the region and for each country operation.

Regional Coordination

Resource mobilization remains a continuous challenge especially for non-medical activities. Huge efforts are, however, put into ensuring funding for all five priority pillars. Without solid interventions within these we will not be able to stop the Ebola outbreak. Contact tracing, disinfection of houses, management and burials of the extremely infectious dead bodies, psychosocial support and first and foremost solid communication and awareness raising activities with the people in the affected areas are as important as ensuring treatment. Without all of these the disease will continue its spread unhindered. Furthermore, it is of vital importance to ensure a common approach and harmonized methodologies and messages across the region. Therefore a strong regional coordination is necessary.

The current funding level is not enough to ensure the above mentioned priority areas, so donors are strongly encouraged to consider funding this regional coordination and preparedness appeal.

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 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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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.