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## Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Guinea Bissau: Ebola preparedness

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF Operation n°</b> MDRGW002	<b>Glide n°</b> EP-2014-000039-GNB
<b>Date of issue:</b> 8 October 2014	<b>Date of disaster:</b> N/A
<b>Operation manager:</b> Aissa Fall, IFRC Sahel Health Manager	<b>Project manager :</b> Aissa Fall
<b>Operation start date:</b> 8 October 2014	<b>Expected timeframe:</b> 3 months, October 2014 - January 2015
<b>Overall operation budget:</b> CHF 49,168	
<b>Number of people affected:</b> 850 000 (based on last general population census 2009)	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b> 400 000 beneficiaries in the regions of Bafata, Gabu, Oio and the district of Sao Domingo (borders with Senegal and Guinea)
<b>Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches):</b> 130 volunteers, 8 CDRT members and 1 national coordinator, 10 Ministry of Health members of staff.	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> ICRC, Spanish Red Cross	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> Civil Protection, Ministry of Health, MSF, UNICEF, WFP and WHO	

<click [here](#) for the DREF budget, [here](#) for the map of the affected area and [here](#) for contact details>

## A. Situation analysis

### Description of the disaster

A fast-spreading outbreak of the Ebola virus disease (EVD) is affecting several countries in West Africa. In February 2014, there was an outbreak of the virus in Guinea, which has since spread to Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone and causing untold hardship; and hundreds of deaths in these countries. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), an outbreak of the EVD has also been reported. As of 8 October 2014, a total of 6,737 cases, and 3,061 deaths had been recorded, which were attributed to the EVD. In Guinea, 1,103 cases and 668 deaths have been registered, with the regions of Macenta, Gueckedou, N'Zerekore and Kissidougou most affected. In Senegal, one confirmed case has been reported, along with 73 confirmed contacts. It is the first time an outbreak of this size is being experienced in West Africa; and the number of cases is expected to increase exponentially.

The virus has continued to spread across borders in West Africa. To date, no treatment or vaccine is available for EVD, which kills between 25 and 90 per cent of 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. Efforts to stop the ongoing spread and bring the epidemic to an end are gaining in commitment and capacity; however the risk of further spread, both within the affected countries and more widely is also a real possibility and needs to be planned for appropriately.

Guinea Bissau has been categorized as “high risk country” by WHO, because of its borders with Guinea , in particular the localities of Gabu and Oio, as well as Bafata and Sao Domingo, which border Senegal. The borders are not closed and circulation of persons and goods is a factor of risk aggravation.

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

The main activities implemented by IFRC to support 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.

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 mobilization;
- Pre-positioning personal protective equipment and related training (but not through this DREF operation budget);
- Adaption and dissemination of information, education and communication material linked with community social mobilization activities.

Please note that the DREF operation is not supporting the development of a Guinea Bissau Red Cross Society (GBRCS) / IFRC contingency plan for EVD; and the proposed activities will followed the agreed regional response frameworks support to neighbouring National Societies.

## **Summary of the current response**

### **Overview of Host National Society**

Guinea Bissau is vulnerable to disasters including recurrent epidemics including Cholera, Measles and Yellow Fever. The Guinea Bissau Red Cross (GBRCS) has experience of preparing for and responding to these epidemics, however its last experience of an epidemic outbreak was in 2009. The GBRCS has placed disaster risk management and preparedness as top priority in its activities in community preparedness and resilience.

The high risk of the EVD in the neighbouring countries of Guinea and Senegal has encouraged GBRCS to conduct preparedness and sensitization activities in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH); as well as reinforce its branches in border areas.

This DREF operation will be implemented in accordance with the Plan of Action of the MoH; through the mobilization of GBRCS volunteers to support the MoH activities in coordination with local stakeholders.

### **Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country**

IFRC supports GBRCS through its Sahel regional office for all activities linked to disasters (preparedness, response, recovery and DRR). The ICRC supports GBRCS with all conflict activities related (contingency planning for elections and internal conflict) trainings and other support linked to ICRC mandate (principles and values sensitization on IHL). The Spanish Red Cross is also supporting Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WatSan) interventions in the central regions of the country, as well as in island areas.

### **Overview of non-RCRC actors in country**

The MoH are coordinating a survey committee with all humanitarian actors in Guinea Bissau, including Non-Governmental Agencies (NGOs) and United Nations (UN) agencies. GBRCS is an active member of this committee. The MoH has established two sub commissions; one for medical aspects with the support of WHO; and one for awareness and sensitization with support of the Red Cross Movement.

District level trainings have been organized by GBRCS with support from MoH and medical centre staff, with technical assistance provided by MSF and WHO. The MoH will send 10 members of staff to participate in training, which will be carried out through this DREF operation. The training will follow the framework that has been designed by MoH and will replicate the training that has already been carried out.

## **Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning**

### **Needs Assessment**

As Guinea Bissau has not experienced the EVD previously, the population has limited knowledge, including mode of transmission and proper behaviour required 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. The sanitary system is not well organized and would be challenged severely in case of contamination by EVD. With the weak borders and the exponential increase of EVC in Guinea, the risk is very high

### **Risk Assessment**

The DREF operation will be targeted in four localities, which have been selected (regions of Bafata, Gabu, Oio and the district of Sao Domingo) since they are more exposed to EVD risk as have borders with affected countries (specifically Guinea and Senegal).

GBRCS is committed to do its utmost to support the MoH around social mobilization to prepare the population and prevent any outbreaks in Guinea Bissau; as well as ensure that personal protective equipment is used properly to reduce the risks for staff and volunteers.

## **B. Operational strategy and plan**

### **Overall objective**

The overall objective is to prepare GBRCS through reinforcement of volunteers and material for a possible outbreak and also to undertake social mobilization in order to reduce risk and improve preparedness / prevention activities alongside the MoH.

### **Proposed strategy**

The proposed strategy is in line with the IFRCs response strategy for neighbouring countries of Guinea and Senegal. The activities will focus on:

- Preparedness for response through volunteer training in communication around epidemics and behavioural change;
- Supporting MoH in prevention activities and social mobilization;
- Dissemination/adaptation of information, education and communication (IEC) material linked with community social mobilization activities and messaging for radio communication campaigns.

### **Operational support services**

#### **Human resources**

GBRCS plans to deploy 130 existing volunteers and supervisory staff to the field. These mobilized volunteers and staff will carry out the activities outlined in this DREF operation Plan of Action. IFRC will support the GBRCS through the deployment of a Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) member for the two months to facilitate the trainings and support with the social mobilization activities.

GBRCS volunteers will be trained on Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) and EVD ; then deployed in selected communities for a period of 15 days (regions of Bafata, Gabu and Oio, and the district of Sao Domingo) to sensitize the population through public awareness activities (community mobilization, dissemination of messages to key stakeholders (local health workers, traders, taxi drivers etc.) distribution of IEC materials, media/radio broadcasts etc.) as well as assist MoH staff to conduct a survey about EVD in the target areas. Please note that the budget refers to 140 units training material as the MoH will add their own staff for the training. The GBRCS volunteers will be supported by community (five) and regional supervisors

(three) who will act as coordination focal points during the 15 day period; participate in information and coordination meetings with local authorities; as well as set up community based surveillance mechanisms in the target areas for the reporting of possible EVD cases.

### **Logistics and supply chain**

The specialized personal protective equipment are being procured by IFRC through other budgets to ensure they meet the necessary standards. Personal Protective Equipment, body bags and other items for case management in response to a possible outbreak are not included in this operation but are being pre-positioned by IFRC in strategic locations. These items are available in Dakar, Senegal for immediate dispatch upon a confirmation of an EVD case in Guinea Bissau.

### **Communications**

GBRCS will ensure that the activities carried out are promoted through local media and visibility material, which will be shared with the IFRC at regional and zone level to support communications with donors that have contributed to this DREF operation. GBRCS 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 GBRCS and ICRC who have permanent presence in the country.

### **Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)**

The IFRC Sahel regional office will work in close collaboration with the GBRCS to monitor, report and ensure the effective implementation of the DREF operation. The GBRCS will monitor and report on the operation with support from an RDRT; while missions have also been budgeted for the regional office to provide additional support to the National Society; specifically in the areas of Finance Management and PMER.

GBRCS will submit brief weekly updates will be submitted to the IFRC Sahel regional office, which will report on the progress of the operation along with any changes to the situation, as well as detailed indicator tracking. Field monitoring, reporting and coordination costs have been included in the supporting budget, which will include visits to each of the target areas.

### **Administration and Finance**

GBRCS has a permanent administration and finance department which ensures the proper use of financial resources in accordance with conditions to be clarified in the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Society and the IFRC Sahel regional office. Financial resource management will be carried out according to the National Society's regulations and DREF guidelines. Additionally, GBRCS' own procedures will be applied to the justification of expense process and will be done on IFRC formats.

## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

### Early warning & emergency response preparedness

<b>Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced</b>													
<b>Output 1.1: The capacity of Guinea Bissau Red Cross to prepare for potential EVD response is strengthened</b>													
Activities planned	Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Train volunteers and supervisors in epidemic control for volunteers (Target 130 volunteers + 10 MoH staff members)													
<b>Output 1.2: Increased public awareness about EVD (signs and symptoms, transmission risk factors, actions for suspected cases, its prevention and control measures)</b>													
Activities planned	Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Distribution of information, education and communication with key persons in at-risk communities													
Organize community discussions (Target: 75 community discussions)													
Radio broadcasting (Target: 15 radio broadcasts)													
Dissemination of key messages on EVD prevention (Target: Four at-risk target areas)													
<b>Output 1.3 Community epidemiological surveillance is set up / enhanced</b>													
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													
Monitor and report on activities carried out													

#### Annexes

- See attached IFRC Secretariat budget for details.
- See attached map for details on the affected area.

## Contact information

### For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

- **Guinea Bissau Red Cross Society:** Mr. Francisco Jose Mendes, Secretary General of GBRCB Bissau, phone: (+245) 580 39 91 or (+245) 666 23 87, email: [franciscojosemendes@ymail.com](mailto:franciscojosemendes@ymail.com)
- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Momodou Lamin Fye, Regional Representative for Sahel; Dakar; phone: +221.33.869.36.41 or +221.77.332.56.72; email: [momodoulamin.fye@ifrc.org](mailto:momodoulamin.fye@ifrc.org);
- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Daniel Bolaños, Disaster Management Coordinator for Africa; Nairobi; phone: +254 (0)731 067 489; email: [daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org](mailto:daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org)
- **IFRC Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Quality Assurance Senior Officer; phone: +41.22.730.45 29; email: [christine.south@ifrc.org](mailto:christine.south@ifrc.org)
- **IFRC Zonal Logistics Unit (ZLU): Rishi Ramrakha,** Head of zone logistics unit Nairobi; phone +254 20 283 5142, Fax +254 20 271 2777, email: [rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org](mailto:rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org)

### For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **In IFRC Zone:** Martine Zoethouthmaar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator; Addis Ababa; phone: +251 93-003 6073; email: [martine.zoethoutmaar@ifrc.org](mailto:martine.zoethoutmaar@ifrc.org)

### For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting):

- **IFRC Africa Zone:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER Coordinator; Nairobi; phone: +254 731 067277; email: [robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org](mailto:robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org)

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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.

# Guinea Bissau Ebola Preparedness budget

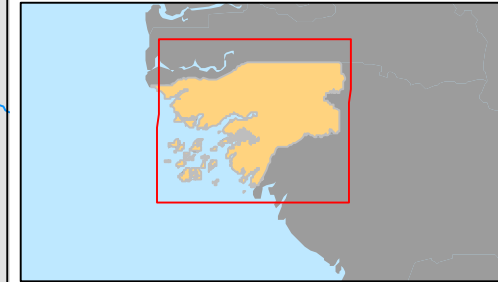
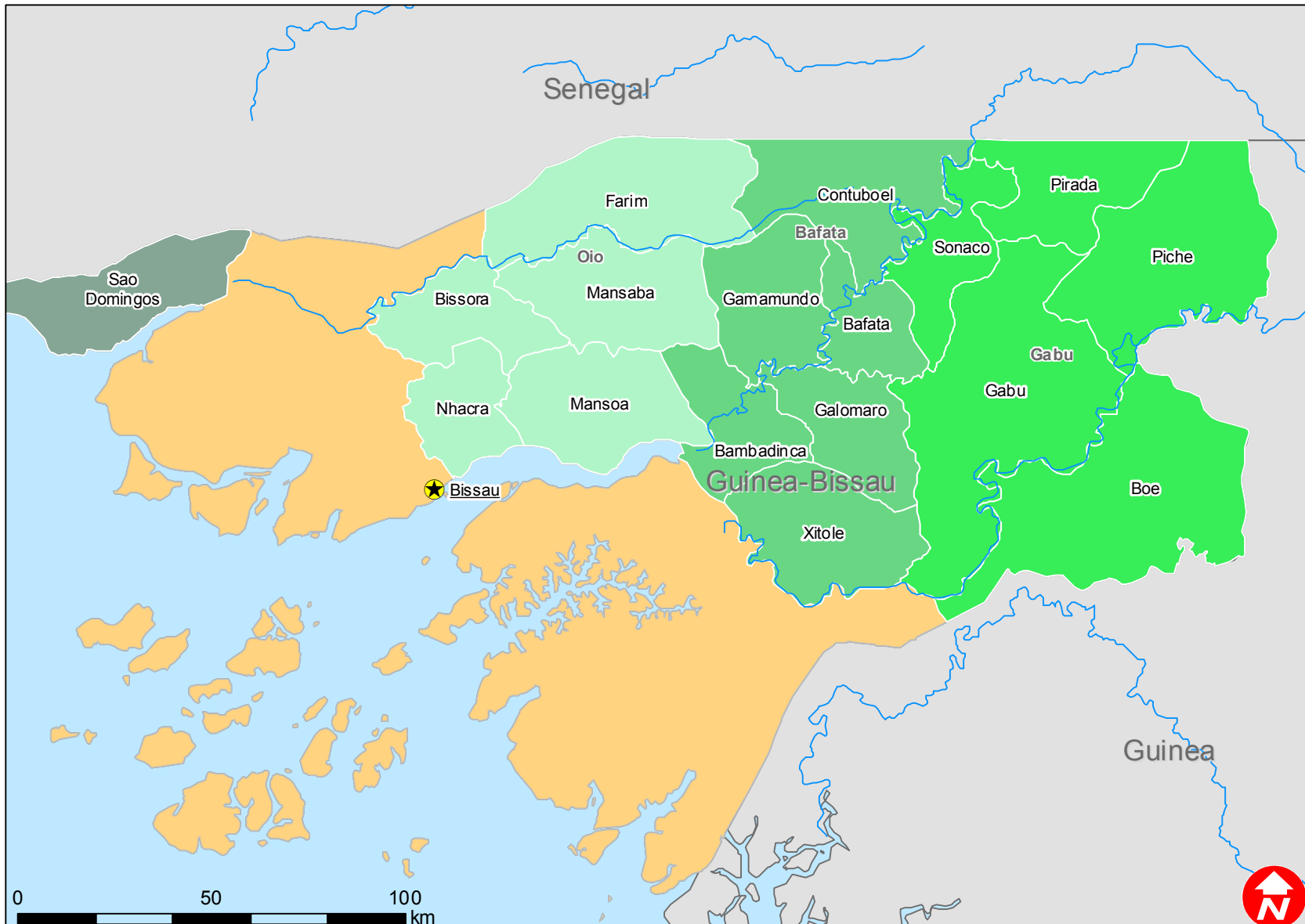
08/10/2014

MDRGW002

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0	0
Shelter - Transitional	0	0
Construction - Housing	0	0
Construction - Facilities	0	0
Construction - Materials	0	0
Clothing & Textiles	1,300	1,300
Food	0	0
Seeds & Plants	0	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	1,280	1,280
Medical & First Aid	0	0
Teaching Materials	3,090	3,090
Utensils & Tools	0	0
Other Supplies & Services	0	0
Emergency Response Units		0
Cash Disbursements	0	0
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>5,670</b>	<b>5,670</b>
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
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Storage, Warehousing	0	0
Distribution & Monitoring	0	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	0	0
Logistics Services	3,000	3,000
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>
International Staff	12,000	12,000
National Staff	0	0
National Society Staff	3,895	3,895
Volunteers	11,850	11,850
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>27,745</b>	<b>27,745</b>
Consultants	0	0
Professional Fees	0	0
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Workshops & Training	1,060	1,060
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>1,060</b>	<b>1,060</b>
Travel	4,500	4,500
Information & Public Relations	1,590	1,590
Office Costs	501	501
Communications	1,101	1,101
Financial Charges	1,000	1,000
Other General Expenses	0	0
Shared Support Services		
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>8,692</b>	<b>8,692</b>
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	3,001	3,001
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>3,001</b>	<b>3,001</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>49,168</b>	<b>49,168</b>
<b>NET DREF NEEDS</b>	<b>49,168</b>	<b>49,168</b>



# Guinea-Bissau: Ebola preparedness



## Targetted Provinces

- Bafata
- Cacheu
- Gabu
- Oio