**Summary:**

In February 2014, there was an outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Guinea, which spread to Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone, and most recently Mali, causing untold hardship and hundreds of deaths in these countries. As of 10 November 2014, a total of 14,490 cases, and 5,546 deaths had been recorded, which were attributed to the EVD. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), an outbreak of the EVD has also been reported, but is considered of a different origin than that which has affected West Africa. Efforts to stop the ongoing spread and bring the epidemic to an end are gaining in commitment and capacity; however the risk for further spread, both within the affected countries and more widely is also a real possibility and needs to be planned for appropriately.

Gambia, a country with a population of 1.7m (UNDP 2012), and surrounded by Senegal, which on 29 August 2014 confirmed a case of EVD, was at a high risk of the epidemic. On 15 September 2014, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) released CHF 46,856 from its Disaster Relief and Emergency Fund (DREF) support the Gambia Red Cross Society (GRCS) with EVD preparedness activities for a period of three months, specifically in the seven regions of Banjul Municipality, Central River, Kanifing Municipality, Lower River, North Bank, Upper River and West Coast.

As of 15 December 2014, approximately 85 per cent of activities have been implemented. Through the DREF operation, the GRCS has been able to make progress in the following areas:
In total, 150 volunteers and supervisors trained in awareness raising on Ebola, which has been followed by social mobilization/awareness raising activities to increase knowledge on the means of EVD transmission and methods of prevention. These have reached 361,690 people to date, which equates to 120 per cent of the intended target (300,000). Refer to table 1 for the number of people reached through social mobilization/awareness raising activities in the seven regions:

Table 1: No. of people reached through social mobilization / awareness raising activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>No. people reached</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Banjul Municipality</td>
<td>11,502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Central River Region</td>
<td>52,772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kanifing Municipality</td>
<td>103,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Lower River Region</td>
<td>36,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>North Bank Region</td>
<td>43,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Upper River Region</td>
<td>40,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>West Coast Region</td>
<td>73,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>361,690</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This Operations Update is requesting a timeframe extension of 45 days in order to enable the completion of the activities included in the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA), specifically radio broadcasting, which has been slowed by the lack of an available Regional Disaster Response Team member (RDRT). The IFRC Sahel regional representation has planned a mission to the Gambia to support the GRCS with the completion of the remaining activities, and to monitor the level of implementation as per the agreed EPoA. The DREF operation will end on 30 January 2014, and a final report will be made available on 30 April 2014 (Three months after the end of the operation).

The Canadian Red Cross/Government have contributed to the partial replenishment of the DREF allocation made for this 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 GRCS would like to extend many thanks to all partners for their generous contributions.

**Red Cross/Red Crescent Action in the Country**

The IFRC Sahel regional representation has supported the GRCS with the coordination of activities within the DREF operation and as noted, is planning a mission to Gambia to support the completion of the remaining activities.

**Coordination and partnerships**

The DREF operation is being carried out in accordance with the Ministry of Health’s (MoH) country preparedness plan and the GRCS is working in collaboration with the MoH, specifically the Epidemiology and Disease Control unit to complete the EVD preparedness activities. The GRCS has been an active member of the National Task Force for EVD preparedness and response as well as the Logistics and Clinical response and Communication Task Forces, which have also been established. In Gambia, all EVD preparedness activities are coordinated by the National Task Force, and have to be submitted for approval prior to implementation. Please note that all activities within this DREF operation were approved by the National Task Force.
Operational implementation

**Early warning and emergency response preparedness**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned interventions</th>
<th>Implementation (85%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health and care</strong></td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outcome 1:</strong> The immediate risks to the health of population in the targeted areas is reduced</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Output 1.1:</strong> The capacity of the Gambia Red Cross Society to prepare for potential Ebola response is strengthened</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities planned</td>
<td>Implementation (100%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.1 Train 150 volunteers and supervisors in awareness raising on Ebola.</td>
<td>1.1.1 150 volunteers have been trained and attached to their communities for community surveillance and sensitization. This equates to 100 per cent of the intended target (150), and as such the level of implementation is also 100 per cent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.2 Monitor and report on activities carried out.</td>
<td>1.1.2 GRCS has carried out three monitoring trips to the seven regions to monitor the activities being carried out by the volunteers. The MoH has also carried out constant monitoring visits to the field reporting to the National Task Force.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Output 1.2:</strong> Increased public awareness about EVD (signs and symptoms, transmission risk factors, actions for suspected cases, its prevention and control measures)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities planned</td>
<td>Implementation (80%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.1 Distribution of information, education and communication materials in at-risk communities.</td>
<td>1.2.1 IEC materials have been distributed in the target communities as well as in market places, which was carried out in collaboration with the MoH.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.2 Identification of community leaders and conduct targeted sensitization activities</td>
<td>1.2.2 20 community leaders have been trained and deployed to support the volunteers in sensitizing the community members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.3 Organise community discussions.</td>
<td>1.2.3 GRCS volunteers have organised community discussions targeting crossing points and border areas, health centres, Loomo (weekly markets) and schools in order to sensitize people on EVD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.4 Radio broadcasting.</td>
<td>1.2.4 Radio broadcasting has not been carried out and will be completed following the extension of the timeframe through this Operations Update.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2.5 Social mobilisation with dissemination of key messages on Ebola virus disease prevention</td>
<td>1.2.5 GRCS volunteers have sensitized 361,690 people in all the seven regions of the country with key messages on EVD prevention. This equates to 120 per cent of the intended target 300,000 and as such the level of implementation is also 100 per cent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Output 1.3:</strong> Community epidemiological surveillance is set-up/enhanced</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities planned</td>
<td>Implementation (80%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3.1 Participate in information</td>
<td>1.3.1 Meetings have been carried out at district and national</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3.2</td>
<td>Set up/enhance community monitoring committees for disease surveillance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3.3</td>
<td>Epidemiological control and monitoring through community disease surveillance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As noted, GRCS has been an active member of the National Task Force for EVD preparedness and response; and also a member of the Logistics and Clinical response and Communication Task Forces.

1.3.2 Community surveillance has been carried out by the 150 volunteers in their own and surrounding communities.

1.3.3 All the GRCS branches in the seven regions have been supplied with sanitizers, soaps and detergents to help them in the epidemiological control of the disease.
Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In the Gambia Red Cross Society:** Fatou Gaye, Secretary General (a.i); phone: +220 393 68 13 email: bgaye@hotmail.com

- **IFRC Sahel Regional Representation:** Momodou Lamin Fye, Regional Representative for Sahel; Dakar; phone:+221 33 869 36 41; email: momodouamin.fye@ifrc.org;

- Dr Aissa Fall, Regional Health Manager, phone: (Office) +221.33.869.36.68; (Mobile) +221.77.638.21.36; email: aissa.fall@ifrc.org;

- **IFRC Africa Zone DMU:** Daniel Bolaños, Disaster Management Coordinator for Africa; Nairobi; phone: +254 731 067 489; email: daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org

- **IFRC Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Quality Assurance Senior Officer; phone: +41 22 730 45 29; email: christine.south@ifrc.org

- **IFRC Zonal Logistics Unit (ZLU):** Rishi Ramrakha, Nairobi; phone +254 20 283 5142, Fax +254 20 271 2777, email: rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **In IFRC Africa Zone:** Martine Zoethouthmaar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator; Addis Ababa; phone: + 251 93 00 36 073; email: martine.zoethoutmaar@ifrc.org

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

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

---

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.

www.ifrc.org

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.