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DREF operations update

Gambia: Ebola Virus preparedness

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n° MDRGM009	GLIDE n° EP-2014-000039-GMB
Date of issue: 15 December 2014	Date of Disaster : N/A
Operations update n° 1	Timeframe covered by this update: 16 September to 15 December 2014
Operation manager: Momodou Lamin Fye IFRC Sahel regional representative	Point of contact Dr Aissa Fall, IFRC Sahel Health Manager
Operation start date: 15 September 2014	Expected Timeframe: Three months but extended by a further 45 days (New end date: 30 January 2014)
Overall operation budget : CHF 46,856	
N° of people affected: 1,000,000 in seven regions and districts of Banjul Municipality, Central River, Kanifing Municipality, Lower River, North Bank, Upper River and West Coast.	N° of people to be assisted: 300,000 (38,000 households; one household = 7/8 people)
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Two RDRT (WATSAN), one RDRT (Health Emergencies), 90 NDRT, 120 CDRT and 220 volunteers trained in CBHFA.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: IFRC, ICRC, Spanish Red Cross	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Ministry of Health, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Population Fund and the World Health Organization	

Timeframe revision: Request for a 45 day extension to complete remaining activities (Radio broadcasting), as per the agreed EPoA + Budget.

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.

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

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

Planned interventions	Implementation (85%)
Health and care	90%
Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of population in the targeted areas is reduced	
Output 1.1: The capacity of the Gambia Red Cross Society to prepare for potential Ebola response is strengthened	
Activities planned	Implementation (100%)
1.1.1 Train 150 volunteers and supervisors in awareness raising on Ebola.	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.
1.1.2 Monitor and report on activities carried out.	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.
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 (80%)
1.2.1 Distribution of information, education and communication materials in at-risk communities.	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.
1.2.2 Identification of community leaders and conduct targeted sensitization activities	1.2.2 20 community leaders have been trained and deployed to support the volunteers in sensitizing the community members.
1.2.3 Organise community discussions.	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.
1.2.4 Radio broadcasting.	1.2.4 Radio broadcasting has not been carried out and will be completed following the extension of the timeframe through this Operations Update.
1.2.5 Social mobilisation with dissemination of key messages on Ebola virus disease prevention	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.
Output 1.3: Community epidemiological surveillance is set-up/enhanced	
Activities planned	Implementation (80%)
1.3.1 Participate in information	1.3.1 Meetings have been carried out at district and national

	and coordination meetings with authorities.		levels with the government authorities. 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	Set up/enhance community monitoring committees for disease surveillance.	1.3.2	Community surveillance has been carried out by the 150 volunteers in their own and surrounding communities.
1.3.3	Epidemiological control and monitoring through community disease surveillance	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:

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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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1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
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