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## DREF operations update

### America: Ebola Coordination and Preparedness

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>Emergency DREF no. MDR42002</b>	
<b>Operations update</b>	
<b>Date of Issue: 23 December 2014</b>	
<b>Emergency DREF operation start date: 21 October 2014</b>	<b>Timeframe: 3 months End date: 21 January 2014</b>
<b>DREF budget: 100,000 Swiss francs</b>	
<b>No. of people being assisted:</b> 34 National Societies and the overseas branches reached by disseminating information on coordination and preparedness on Ebola.	
<b>Host National Societies:</b> This regional DREF operation will allow the International Federation to provide immediate support and guidance to the National Societies in the Americas region in coordination, communication and capacity building activities, including the provision of communication materials to inform and disseminate information about the Ebola virus disease (EVD) in the region. This DREF allocation enabled the most urgent preparedness activities to be carried, including a communication campaign and a Continental National Society Workshop.	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> The IFRC and all of the National Societies in the Americas including the ICRC and Partner National Societies present in the region. The communication campaign is being developed technically by the IFRC Communication Unit and Health Unit in Geneva.	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> Representatives from the Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), the Ministry of Health in Panama and the National System of Civil Protection (SINAPROC) were actively involved in the workshop, sharing with the participants their knowledge and experiences and in the case of PAHO, the guidelines concerning Ebola cases in the Americas.	

<Click [here](#) to view the DREF budget. Click [here](#) to view the contact information>

#### Summary:

A fast-spreading outbreak of the Ebola virus disease (EVD) is affecting several countries in West Africa. The Ebola epidemic currently has the world on alert and was defined as a "global emergency" by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in August 2014. The Ebola virus disease (EVD) is a severe and often fatal illness, which is spread from direct "human to human" contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person, such as blood, feces, sweat, through sexual contact or the unprotected handling of contaminated corpses. To date, no treatment or vaccine is available for EVD, which kills between 25 per cent and 90 per cent of victims depending upon the strain of the virus and the medical environment in which it was treated. The first documented case in the current epidemic was on 21 March 2014 in Guinea. Which prompted the government of Guinea to declare an Ebola outbreak; at that time, the outbreak's epicentre was in the southern regions near Guinea's border with Liberia and Sierra Leone.

To date, a total of 18,603 cases have been reported. There have been 18,569 cases in countries (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) where the spread of the virus is uncontrolled. There have been 12 cases in countries with an initial case or localized transmission. Additionally, there were 22 new cases in previously affected countries. Please see the information below:

### Countries with Widespread Transmission

Country	Total Cases	Laboratory-Confirmed Cases	Total Deaths
Guinea	2416	2127	1525
Liberia	7797	2946	3290
Sierra Leone	8356	6702	2085
<b>Total</b>	<b>18569</b>	<b>11775</b>	<b>6900</b>

### Countries with an Initial Case or Cases and/or Localized Transmission

Country	Total Cases	Laboratory-Confirmed Cases	Total Deaths
United States	4	4	1
Mali	8	7	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>

### Previously Affected Countries

Country	Total Cases	Laboratory-Confirmed Cases	Total Deaths
Nigeria*	20	19	8
Senegal*	1	1	0
Spain*	1	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>8</b>

Figure 1: <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/index.html>

In the Americas, four cases were confirmed in the United States; three of the cases were reported in October 2014. On 30 September 2014, the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) was informed of the first confirmed imported case of Ebola in the United States; the patient passed away on 8 October 2014. On 12 October in Dallas, Texas, an American nurse who had treated the first case in the United States tested positive for Ebola. On 14 October, another health care worker who had also treated the first case in the United States tested positive for EVD. A health worker that had been working in West Africa was the last reported case in the Americas; no additional cases have been reported in the Americas since then.

Various countries in the Americas have implemented controls to diminish the risk of entry of infected individuals or that people that may have had contact with infected individuals. Most of the controls have been implemented in airports through the restriction of entry and monitoring of migrants and enforced controls in seaports.

The media has been focusing in the errors made while using the protective equipment and on the difficulty of identifying cases in optimum time. This has increased fear in the communities, especially when the first cases were reported in the United States.

This DREF operation is providing National Societies with essential information to boost response capacity and/or support their governments if needed, and most importantly to reduce the fear, stigmatization and discrimination associated with the virus. Therefore, the planned intervention is to focus on providing the National Societies with official information on Ebola preparedness through a Continental Workshop and a communication campaign. This

will strengthen community mobilization against the fear, stigmatization and discrimination the virus engenders, including advocacy with their own governments

A Continental Workshop for Ebola preparedness was carried out on 25 and 26 of November. All of the National Societies and overseas branches participated in the workshop, except for the Uruguayan Red Cross. A total of 76 people from Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, including participants from the IFRC and the ICRC, participated. The workshop's main objective was achieved since the National Societies received guidance and support on Ebola preparedness. Additionally, the National Societies obtained the necessary information to carry out community mobilization against the fear, stigmatization and discrimination caused by Ebola.

The communication campaign is ongoing. Funds from the DREF allocation are supporting the development of a video, which is part of the global campaign developed by the IFRC Communication unit in Geneva. The Communication unit in Panama has also provided technical input for the development of the video's script. This script was shared with all the National Societies at the workshop; following the viewing, the National Societies provided which were included in the final result. Additionally, the allocated funds will cover the costs of translating the communication material into Portuguese for the communication campaign and the distribution of the printed material.

A final report will be completed by April 2015, which is three months after the end of the operation.

## Coordination and partnerships

At the regional level, the Americas zone has been working to support National Societies on their preparedness efforts through the sharing of information, webinars and tools such as contingency plans. The National Societies that require additional support will have access to essential informational materials, manuals, trainings and protective equipment through this appeal.

The Ebola coordination and preparedness plan describes the necessary measures to achieve adequate operational support, coordination and preparedness within the region. The IFRC in the Americas Zone conducted a workshop and supported the IFRC communication campaign in Geneva. The National Societies' primary role is to carry out community mobilization, sensitization and advocacy with external actors to fight against the fear, stigmatization and discrimination caused by Ebola and to coordinate with their governments the responsibilities if a case appears in their countries.

At the global level, the IFRC response to date has resulted in the launch of six emergency appeals; five of them directly support the most affected countries, Guinea, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, while the sixth is a regional appeal for better coordination and preparedness. Preparedness DREFs have also been granted to Ivory Coast and Mali, which border the initially affected countries. In total, these appeals and DREF supported operations are expected to reach 39 million people at a cost of 34.7 million Swiss francs.

The IFRC is currently working in 14 countries in Africa, where it has developed a strategy based on the five pillars of intervention: 1. case management, 2. psychosocial support, 3. community mobilization, 4. safe and dignified burials and 5. contact tracing. The Health in Emergencies Unit in Geneva has developed guidelines on how to prepare for Ebola cases in countries that are not currently affected. These guidelines, along with other documents that explain how the virus is spread, the symptoms and the management procedures, have been shared with the IFRC in the Americas zone. For the countries that have not had any cases, special emphasis was placed on improving the control of airports and customs and on being better prepared to respond to the five pillars, especially in the community mobilization pillar based on available resources and vulnerability.

Before the launch of this DREF operation, the National Societies from Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti and Jamaica were actively advocating their governments and assisting and supporting meetings at the national level. The Venezuelan Red Cross has been conducting trainings for volunteers. Following the workshop, the Cayman Islands Red Cross has been sharing messages through social media to disseminate information and diminish fear in the communities. In addition, several National Societies have been strengthening their contingency plans, training their volunteers and conducting meetings to share the guidelines and information with relevant internal and external actors.

The IFRC has created and developed a strategy based on the experience of the operations in West Africa and by closely working with the National Societies in the affected countries to be prepared and able to respond to an Ebola

outbreak. The five pillar preparedness strategy has been defined according to the level of risk in the global strategy. The Partner National Societies (PNS) have also been supporting and sharing information with the National Societies.

All Movement actors will receive updated information in order to actively participate in the community mobilization strategy and the communication campaign. Furthermore, the regional National Societies will be able to prepare and train volunteers that can be deployed to support the operations in West Africa.

External coordination is one of the main objectives of the two strategies proposed in this operation. The IFRC has been fulfilling its role to promote a coherent and unified response through the facilitation of defined roles and activities that can be developed to support governments during the preparatory process. Information sharing is one of the activities that has been facilitated; since the outbreak began in Africa, the Movement has been sharing the materials and guidelines developed by the lead organization PAHO/WHO.

A PAHO/WHO representative in Panama, representative from the Ministry of Health in Panama and a representative of SINAPROC in Panama participated in the workshop. They shared information and allowed for reflection on the work the Movement carries out with the regional governments.

## Operational implementation

### Overview

The objective of this regional coordination and preparedness DREF operation is to provide the National Societies with the appropriate information, support and resources to prevent stigmatization, to increase National Societies' knowledge on the disease and to take the first steps toward responding to a potential outbreak.

The main topics for the National Societies to be better prepared in case of an Ebola outbreak are:

- Guidelines from the National Governments (Health Ministries)
- Clarification of the role of National Societies as auxiliaries to the Governments
- Clearly present the IFRC strategy in West Africa and how it fits in the Americas
- Understand the level of risk of an Ebola outbreak in the Americas
- To coordinate and form strategic alliances
- Pertinent information to prevent fear, stigmatization and discrimination
- Present internal/external communication tools
- Advocacy tools to enable the National Societies to maintain support in their respective countries
- Development or updating of contingency plans according to the risk
- Gauge interest in being part of the intervention team
- Knowledge on protection and security measures
- Funding

The workshop provided knowledge and tools to support advocacy, the strengthening of the contingency plans and the Movement's guidelines, and preparedness capacity. The workshop also reinforced understanding of the IFRC's five pillars of intervention in West Africa, the level of risk in the Americas and how this strategy fits in the region, particularly the community mobilization pillar.

The communication campaign will be used by all the National Societies to conduct community mobilization against the fear, discrimination and stigmatization caused by Ebola.

In order to monitor the extent of learning, the workshop's outputs and the use of the communication campaign, the IFRC, through PADRU, will support and follow up with the National Societies on the following points:

- Contingency plan development
- Contingency plan updated and implemented after the workshop
- Resource mapping activities
- Internal trainings in Ebola
- Pillar: Community mobilization and Communication Campaign
- Internal and External coordination
- Advocacy

- Resource Mobilization/ Strategic Alliances
- Ebola network responders/task workers in Ebola with volunteers or being part of the Rapid Response Team

Planned interventions	Implementation (%)
<b>Health and care</b>	
<b>Outcome 1:</b> Strengthening the preparedness, response capacity, coordination and advocacy tools of National Societies in the Americas Zone against an Ebola outbreak	
<b>Output 1.1:</b> Increased public awareness about Ebola Haemorrhagic Fever (EHF) Disease (signs, symptoms, transmission risk factors, actions for suspected cases, prevention and control measures) and a reduction in the fear, stigmatization and discrimination caused by the lack of knowledge	
<b>Activities</b>	
<p><b>Activity 1.1.1:</b> Support the development of a video on basic Ebola information (contraction, prevention and treatment) and disseminate it among the National Societies and external organizations. This video seeks to diminish the fear, stigmatization and discrimination.</p> <p>The video will be developed by the IFRC Communications Unit in Geneva. The script has been drafted and the video is going to be in Spanish, English and French. With funds from this DREF, the video will be translated into Portuguese, in order to reach all of the National Societies.</p> <p><b>See annex 2: Script</b></p>	30%
<p><b>Activity 1.1.2:</b> Translation of the global communication campaign materials against fear, stigmatization and discrimination.</p> <p>The communication campaign includes a video and printed material, such as a triptych and flyer design, all of which are based on the messages and the video's animation. All the materials will be translated into Portuguese.</p>	0%
<p><b>Activity 1.1.3:</b> Sharing and distribution of the communication materials to the National Societies in the region.</p> <p>Materials will be printed and sent to the National Societies once they are edited and completed.</p>	0%
<b>Output 1.2:</b> The National Societies have increased capacity in Ebola preparedness for response planning, coordination and advocacy	
<b>Activities</b>	
<p><b>Activity 1.2.1</b> Carry out a Continental National Society workshop on Ebola with the participation of a representative of each National Society in the Americas, with the aim of providing guidance and support to National Societies to increase their preparedness and readiness to respond to the potential emergence of cases in the region. (To view the workshop's complete report, see <b>Annex 1: Workshop Report</b>)</p>	100%



### Progress:

- The workshop was held on 25 and 26 November 2014 in Panama.
- A total of 76 people participated. The participants included National Societies' representatives, staff from the secretariat's offices in Panama and Geneva, Partner National Societies, ICRC, PAHO, Ministry of Health of Panama and SINAPROC representatives.
- The agenda was based on five main themes. The first session was about external preparation experiences in confronting the virus, as well as sharing, projections in the Americas according to PAHO/WHO. The second session shared the IFRC's experience in responding to the outbreak in West Africa. The third session discussed what is being done to combat the. During the fourth session, National Societies shared their own experiences and challenges. The workshop concluded with the formulation of action points to propel the preparatory phase for each National Society.

### CONCLUSIONS DERIVED FROM THE WORKSHOP'S RESULTS

- The workshop's objective of providing National Societies with guidance and support to increase their preparedness and readiness to respond to the potential emergence of cases in the region was achieved.
- The participants from the National Societies and the overseas branches defined the pillar of Community Mobilization as their main action point and communication campaign when they arrived home.
- The importance of internal and external coordination and the importance of training volunteers to mobilize their communities and diminish fear, stigmatization and discrimination also were identified as important steps to take or improve.
- The importance of developing or updating their contingency plans also was an action defined by the participants.
- Resource mapping, advocacy activities, resources mobilization and the need for strategic alliances is everyone's responsibility. These activities within the countries and in the zone must be reinforced by all.
- National Societies voiced their interest in having personnel trained and some of them expressed interest in being part of the Rapid Response Team.

### NEXT STEPS AFTER THE WORKSHOP TO REINFORCE THE RESULTS:

- The global communication campaign will reinforce the National Societies' community mobilization actions.
- Internal and external coordination and advocacy actions must be

<p>reinforced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring and supporting the National Societies in the development, updating and socialization of their contingency plans is a priority for the secretariat's Americas zone office.</li> <li>• Resource mobilization is a joint task, which must be continued at all levels.</li> <li>• The Rapid Response Team is a tool that is being proposed, the accompaniment and support must be constant, and the inclusion of the National Societies in this is crucial.</li> </ul>	
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## 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 (NGO's) 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.

**DREF OPERATION**

19/12/2014

MDR42002 Americas Ebola Preparedness

<b>Budget Group</b>	<b>DREF Grant Budget CHF</b>
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	0
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	11,610
Utensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	0
Cash Disbursements	0
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>	<b>11,610</b>
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>0</b>
Storage, Warehousing	0
Distribution & Monitoring	11,899
Transport & Vehicle Costs	0
Logistics Services	2,394
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>	<b>14,293</b>
International Staff	0
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	0
Volunteers	0
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>	<b>0</b>
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>	<b>0</b>
Workshops & Training	67,036
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>	<b>67,036</b>
Travel	0
Information & Public Relations	958
Office Costs	0
Communications	0
Financial Charges	0
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Office and Services Costs	0
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>958</b>
Partner National Societies	
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	
<b>Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	6,103
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>6,103</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>100,000</b>