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Emergency Plan of Action West Coast: Ebola Preparedness

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Ebola Preparedness Fund (EPF) Specialized RDRT Watsan training in epidemics context	Operation n° MDRCI008
Issue Date: 11 September, 2015	
Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA): Alberto Bocanegra, OPS Coordinator West Coast	Point of contact (name and title): KOMENA Ebouo Armel, DM West Coast
	Expected Duration of the operation: < 3 months
Overall budget of the operation: CHF 67,735	
Number of people at risk: 46.8 million population at risk regarding epidemics	Number of Beneficiaries 23 direct beneficiaries. Indirect beneficiaries: 46.8 million at risk population
Presence of Host National Societies 11 staff from IFRC West Coast, 2 staff from Africa Zone, Staff involved in EVD Operations in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone	
Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: Netherlands Red Cross, French Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross.	
Other organizations actively involved in the operation: IRC, Ministry of Health in Côte d'Ivoire (INHP, DHP), Ministry des Infrastructures	

A. Situation Analysis

Description of the disaster

Ebola in West Africa has infected more than 28,000 people, and killed more than 11,000. It is a tragic manifestation of a region susceptible to epidemics. The spread of epidemics (Ebola, cholera) in West and Central Africa has been fuelled by limited health infrastructure, poor hygiene practices, the inability to control population movements across borders, the lack of adequate community involvement in the definition of communication and information and consequent suspicion and mistrust towards health authorities. The IFRC has been supporting response and preparedness activities in affected countries through allocations from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), Partner National Society (PNS) interventions and through deployment of technical human resources through the **Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) tool**.

With the escalation of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, the demand for trained technical human resources has increased, and the RDRT system has faced challenges responding to all requests for team members with the necessary technical skills to support Ebola Preparedness measures. The training described herein aims to increase the availability of WatSan RDRT members with appropriate disaster, epidemics response and preparedness skills through specialized training.

Summary of current intervention

Overview of the action of the host National Society

One advantage of the Federation is a set of tools developed through global good practice. However, global tools may need further adaptation to local conditions. The RDRT trainings are intended to upgrade WATSAN human resource capacities in different emergency response contexts, including as part of an ERU/WATSAN team, or in a FACT context.

Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire has been selected as the location of the training due to the presence of the IFRC regional office there and advantages as a transport hub. Moreover, a considerable amount of Watsan work has been carried out there over the last 5 years with support from Nestle. Participants will come mainly from Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, but training has been extended to 14 countries to best spread knowledge of managing Watsan in an epidemic context broadly in the region.

The Cote d'Ivoire Red Cross (CIRC) is a member of the technical subcommittees of Communication and WASH (humanitarian assistance). CIRC has already initiated capacity building operations in support of its volunteers as well as public awareness-raising about the modes of transmission and prevention of Ebola virus in some priority areas in the western part of the country. In addition, CIRC is actively involved in the development of technical protocols with the National Institute of Public Hygiene (INHP).

Coordination within the Movement

The content of this training has been adapted from the following:

- Internal training tools and materials for Asia.
- Pacific zone, East Africa, and West and Central Africa materials
- Training tools and materials from other academic institutions specialized on Watsan training (BIOFORCE (<http://www.bioforce.asso.fr/spip.php?article1005>), 2ie (<http://www.2ieedu.org/>))

Needs analysis, selection of beneficiaries, risk assessment and scenario development

There have been limited responses to recent RDRT alerts for Ebola operations. This is likely to be the trend even as other components are being added to the operation such as preparedness. Therefore as the operations is moving toward recovery, there is an agreement in the general community that momentum should be kept at a sustainable level against future emergencies by having tools, systems and structures in place, we need to increase Africa's capacity to respond to Ebola and other disaster crises in the profiles of public health in emergency, watsan and logistics, as these are the largest gap/most significant need for such operations.

The last RDRT WatSan training conducted in the West and Central Africa took place in March 2014 in Abomey Calavy – Benin, and there is need to further update/refresh existing capacity as well as training new members.

As a result, the training intends to increase the pool of RDRT responders. At this stage the 23 members of National Societies will be trained in Watsan and Epidemics, the best of which will then participate in a general RDRT induction training and be able to deploy.

The trend of the epidemic in the border countries of Côte d'Ivoire (Guinea, Liberia) remains unstable and transmission continues within both health facilities and communities. Failure to control cases of EVD in these countries, especially in Guinea, will require intensive efforts from all humanitarian actors in Côte d'Ivoire. In addition, the EVD is a real threat to the economic and social development of Côte d'Ivoire, which is rebuilding itself after years of civil war and a recent post-election crisis.

Selection of Beneficiaries

The maximum number of participants is 23 with diverse background and gender, as follows:

1. Be an active volunteer or active personnel endorsed by a National Society (NS);
2. Be computer literate (Word, Excel, Power Point);
3. Have been recommended for more training following previous induction;
4. Available for deployment latest three months after completing the training, including in countries with active Ebola cases or in countries at risk;
5. Have some background knowledge on health, Watsan or Disaster Management already working in this capacity, or have worked previously in epidemics response for their National Society;
6. High tolerance to stress and ambiguity;
7. Ability to work in a practically on manual tasks in a field environment;
8. Ability to work in a multi-disciplined, multi-national team;
9. Have experience in transferring skills to others, or volunteer training experience ;
10. Willing to take leadership roles as well as to take directions from others;
11. Proven team work skills and problem solving, decision making, analytical and flexibility;
12. In addition to their mother tongue, candidates must show proof of good mastery of French and/or English.

For this specialized WatSan in epidemics RDRT training, a Selection Committee was used to guarantee the objectivity of the process, comprising; 1) First Team – First Phase: West Coast HR + West Coast DM + West Coast OPS Coordinator; 2) Regional Watsan Coordinator; 3) Africa Region.

B. Strategy and Operation Plan

General objective

To contribute to better respond to WatSan needs in epidemic contexts in Africa through strengthened RDRT response and preparedness capacity among 23 participants from 14 countries.

Proposed strategy

Training Methodology and Facilitators:

The workshop is aimed at promoting the Participatory Adult Learning process. A large emphasis is on volunteer and NS staff training and knowledge transfer and contingency planning processes. The training will be managed by the International Federation West Coast Regional representation in collaboration with regional and Zone DMUs. Facilitators will come from the Federation and Ebola experienced staff from PNS, etc. RDRT members previously deployed in field operations will be co-facilitating.

Specific Objectives:

1. Develop and strengthen the Federation's emergency response capacity in the Africa region in the Water and Sanitation sector;
2. Train participants from RC/RC National Societies and IFRC in the Africa region (with particular emphasis on West and Central Africa) to increase their technical skills and knowledge more specific in current disasters, public health preparedness and responses to epidemics;
3. Improve epidemic control knowledge and specifically knowledge of the Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) tools, SWORD and SHIELD approach as well as contingency planning skills;
4. Improve the skills of future RDRT members through specific focus on assessment using new technology;

5. Harmonize cooperation and coordination skills for improved collaboration with other Movement components and external partners in the current response.

Proposed Facilitation:

- Training content is delivered by responders that have worked in Epidemic operations.
- Sessions use a practical application approach with necessary theory sessions to support knowledge.
- Simulations and exercises are realistic.
- Training to be built on past training curriculum (IFRC GVA, PNS trainings etc.).
- Content to be delivered in a way that also teaches good facilitation and training skills, exercises will encourage participants to practice these skills.

The training is planned to include the following elements:

- Specialized WatSan disaster response skills in natural hazards disaster context and epidemics.
- Introduction on RDRT roles and responsibilities, global response tools and the IFRC disaster management in Africa.
- Current Ebola response and preparedness strategies and lessons learned.
- Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) contents and course facilitation skills.
- Ebola contingency planning (following the IFRC contingency planning guidelines).
- Partner and national/local authority coordination and collaboration.

The training is expected to be completed by mid- September 2015 and will include a total of 23 participants. The training is planned to be carried in both French and English simultaneously.

Expected Results:

- The prime expected result of the training is the improved capacity of the Africa region to respond to requests from NS to improve Ebola preparedness in at-risk countries and support epidemic response interventions in countries with active Ebola cases.
- Contribute to the strengthening of the RDRT roster with 23 trainees in Watsan interventions in natural disasters and/or epidemics.

Support services

Human Resources

The RDRT program will count with the participation of 16 trainers coming from 10 different countries to guarantee the best quality training to all 23 participants. Trainers have been selected from 3 sources: experts in Epidemics, Watsan and RDRT induction.

Logistics and Supply Chain

IFRC West Coast will use its vehicle fleet and technical staff to support the training. The DM Officer, together with the Logistician, the Personal Assistant of the Regional Representative, 2 drivers and the Finance Department will provide support when needed during the training.

IFRC West Coast will apply its procurement plan for managing procurement and supply (in compliance with the procedures and rules). All procurements will be made in coordination with the IFRC Regional Office in compliance with the normal rules and guidelines. Regarding local coordination within other actors CIRC will procure some SDB Kits. ICRC will support in transport of Kit 5 Watsan (30m3 for 5,226 Kg).

Information technologies (IT)

IFRC West Coast will use its internet/ radio/ telephone network coverage to coordinate the activities. The internet connection is established throughout the country and mobile modems are provided for easy communication.

Communication

The visibility of the training will be guaranteed through the local media and a launching ceremony where Ambassadors, UN Representatives and Government officials will be invited to attend. Reports on the actions and lessons learned will also be broadcast and shared. The activities carried out will be duly shared with the Africa Zone for reference and lessons learned purposes.

Security

All IFRC field locations are served by a Security Coordinator and are held to Minimum Security Requirements (MSR). The security level in Côte d'Ivoire is satisfactory.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER)

The operation implementation will follow the planning below. The West Coast Regional Office according to a regular plan, monitoring and evaluation will ensure the best quality training and reporting process. Regular reports on the implementation will be produced and transmitted.

Administration and Finance

The IFRC West Coast Office includes an Administration and Logistics department, which will ensure the proper justification and follow up of financial resources in accordance with the conditions set in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the donor, World Cocoa Foundation, and the IFRC West Coast Office. Financial resources management will be based on the procedures of the IFRC West Coast.

Coordination with IFRC

IFRC West Coast will coordinate all the training, logistic and financial needs in coordination with the Africa Zone and the Headquarters in Geneva.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

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

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Budget

Ebola Preparedness Fund - MDRCI008

11.09.2015

Budget Group	Budget CHF
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	1,517
Teaching Materials	0
Utensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	0
Emergency Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	1,517
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles Purchase	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	0
Distribution & Monitoring	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	0
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	0
International Staff	0
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	13,507
Volunteers	0
Total PERSONNEL	13,507
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	8,244
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	8,244
Travel	36,046
Information & Public Relations	2,145
Office Costs	553
Communications	0
Financial Charges	1,589
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Support Services	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	40,332
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	4,134
Total INDIRECT COSTS	4,134
Pledge Earmarking & Reporting Fees	0
Total PLEDGE SPECIFIC COSTS	0
TOTAL BUDGET	67,735