

Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Cameroon: Ebola virus disease preparedness

DREF Operation	Operation n° MDRCM019
Date of issue: 25 August 2014	Date of disaster: N/A
Operation manager : Viviane Nzeusseu	Point of contact: Boniface Ebode, Secretary General, Cameroon Red Cross Society
Operation start date: 25 August 2014	Expected timeframe: 3 months
Overall operation budget: CHF 49,922	
Number of people affected: N/A	Number of people to be assisted: 500,000
Host National Society presence: 200 volunteers	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Ministry of Health	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

A fast-spreading outbreak of Ebola virus disease is affecting several countries in West Africa. The Ebola virus outbreak, which started since February this year in Guinea, later spread to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria. It continues to cause hardship with over 1,000 cases reported in these countries and the number of cases is expected to increase exponentially. 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.

The virus has continued to spread across borders in West Africa. This is the first time an outbreak of this size is being experienced in West Africa.

To date, no treatment or vaccine is available for Ebola virus disease, which kills between 25% and 90% 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.

Since the confirmation of the Ebola virus disease in Guinea, the IFRC with the National Societies, have developed response strategies, which include supporting the National Societies of the affected countries, countries with a physical border to the affected countries and those who are at risk. With the World Health Organization's recent announcement of the outbreak as a global health emergency, the world-wide focus on the disease and the steps taken by local and national authorities are likely to increase and to tighten controls and movements around outbreak areas.

The IFRC is providing technical assistance at the regional, zone and global levels, supporting the National Societies not currently affected but at risk. Supporting activities include:

- Preparedness for potential cases to be able to respond rapidly to stop transmission in new areas.
- Preparedness for response through volunteer training in communication around epidemics and behavioural change.
- Supporting Ministries of Health in prevention activities and social mobilisation.
- Pre-positioning personal protective equipment and related training.
- Adaption and dissemination of information, education and communication material linked with community social mobilisation activities.
- Consideration of lessons learned from the Ebola virus disease response to date, to inform the preparedness plans.

The proposed preparedness activities in Cameroon follow the regional response framework's support to neighbouring at risk National Societies.

Summary of the current response

The National Society has experience in preparing and responding to epidemics. Cholera, yellow fever, malaria and polio are common in Cameroon and the National Society, working as auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field, have been engaged in preparedness and response activities of those epidemics for a number of years.

Cameroon Red Cross works specifically in social mobilisation, conducting advocacy, disinfection and in some cases in the management of dead bodies. For this potential outbreak, the National Society is participating in developing the contingency plan against Ebola virus disease with the Ministry of health and World Health Organisation.

Cameroon Red Cross has alerted all of its branches about Ebola and is working specifically with Douala branch (due to the high risk based on it being a transportation hub) to prepare for an outbreak.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

World Health Programme is present in country and has begun conducting capacity building activities alongside the Ministry of Health of health professionals in Douala and prepositioned some personal safety kits. The Ministry of Health's contingency plan development is ongoing and they are consulting different institutions and actors at the country level to put in preparedness measures.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

An information and capacity building seminar was carried out by the Ministry of Public Health in Douala from 22 to 24 July 2014 outlining the main risks of Ebola virus disease and raising awareness amongst partners on prevention and potential response measures.

High risk identified communities around Douala will be targeted through this plan of action through the dissemination campaign. Specific groups of individuals will be targeted in the regions who are able to act as multipliers to spread dissemination messages to others.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

The overall objective is to prepare the Cameroon Red Cross through staff and volunteers training, awareness raising and social mobilisation activities alongside the Ministry of Health and ensure the prepositioning of personal protective equipment when possible, in coordination with other actors. The social mobilisation activities will increase knowledge of risk and promote prevention behaviour.

The headquarters and all 10 regions of Cameroon are targeted, with a focus on the economic capital, Douala (sea and air port entry points into Cameroon, but also throughout Central Africa) and the political capital, Yaoundé.

Proposed strategy

The areas where the proposed preparedness strategy is focused are based on past experience from previous outbreaks in Uganda and Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as from recent experiences in Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. The proposed strategy is in line with the IFRCs strategy for neighbouring countries of Guinea, in consultation with the public authorities and focuses on:

- Preparedness for response through volunteer training in communications around epidemics and behavioural change;
- Coordination support to National Societies to integrate activities with Ministries of Health and other key actors (e.g. World Health Organisation, Centre for Disease Control, Médecins Sans Frontières);
- Supporting Ministries of Health in prevention activities and social mobilization;
- Pre-positioning personal protective equipment and related training as to how to use it;
- Adaptation and dissemination of information, education and communication materials linked to community social mobilisation activities;

Operational support services

Human resource

Cameroon Red Cross will train and use 200 volunteers for activities within this Emergency Plan of Action. In addition a RDRT will be deployed to support in the preparedness of key activities. It is important that volunteers and staff not engage in treating or handling suspected cases or deaths at a community level without proper training and support services.

Logistics and supply chain

All material for this operation will be purchased internally per IFRC standards.

Communications

The Cameroon Red Cross will use its internet website to share achievements of this operation. Visibility of the work of Red Cross volunteers will be ensured during the operation through local media and visibility material. A proper documentation and reporting to allow for lessons learnt will be ensured as well. The Cameroon Red Cross will provide regular updates on the operation.

Communication and community awareness will focus on decreasing fear and raising awareness on the transmission methods and alertness of communities for an appropriate response. Key stakeholder groups and opinion leaders (taxi drivers, religious leaders, traditional birth attendants, community leaders and teachers) will be targeted as change agendas on social mobilisation and communication activities.

Where possible and relevant, cross border communication and information sharing will be undertaken amongst neighbouring National Societies and Ministries of Health.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

While continuous monitoring is being covered by the National Society local branches, the Cameroon Red Cross at the head quarter level in close cooperation with the IFRC regional office will monitor the progress of the operation and provide necessary technical expertise.

The monitoring and reporting of the operation will be undertaken by the National Society. Brief weekly updates will be provided to the IFRC on general progress of the operation, and regular monitoring reports will provide detailed indicator tracking.

Administration and financial management

The National Society has a permanent administrative and financial department, which will ensure the proper use of financial resources in accordance with conditions to be discussed in the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Society and the IFRC.

Management of financial resources will be effective according to the procedures of the national society and DREF guidelines.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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

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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 Humanitarian 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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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.

DREF OPERATION

25/08/2014

MDRCM019

Budget Group	DREF Grant 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	5,000
Teaching Materials	0
Utensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	5,000
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles	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	6,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,800
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	10,800
International Staff	6,000
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	2,000
Volunteers	300
Total PERSONNEL	8,300
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	5,400
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	5,400
Travel	5,500
Information & Public Relations	8,875
Office Costs	0
Communications	2,000
Financial Charges	1,000
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Office and Services Costs	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	17,375
Partner National Societies	0
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	0
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	3,047
Total INDIRECT COSTS	3,047
TOTAL BUDGET	49,922