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Organization of the
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NATIONAL RESPONSE PROGRAMME GUINEA

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EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE OUTBREAK



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CONTEXT

The Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak in West Africa has severely affected Guinea, resulting in tragic loss of life and negatively affecting agriculture and food security. The Government of Guinea has enacted prevention and control measures to respond to the EVD outbreak, including the establishment of quarantine zones, restrictions on movement, closure of markets and prevention of hunting; however, these measures reduce the flow of goods and services in the country, including agricultural products, causing fluctuation of market prices, the loss of perishable production and loss of income sources within the bush meat value chain. This has a negative impact on food security, the economy and the livelihoods of vulnerable households.

The Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock and Animal Production, with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme, conducted a joint rapid assessment from 14 October to 3 November 2014 in 64 affected prefectures. The main findings, in line with those of the FAO/Global Information and Early Warning System Disease Impact on Agriculture Simulation Model, included the following:

- The aggregate food crop production, including for rice and cassava, is about three percent lower than in 2013; however in the most affected areas the production decrease is higher, particularly in Forest Guinea where communities believe that the off-season campaign may also be jeopardized.
- A significant slowdown in trade between cross-border regional markets: significant volumes of perishable products such as potatoes, garden produce, fruits and vegetables are not sold, impacting market prices and traders' incomes. This mainly affects Forest and Middle Guinea, which are the main production areas.
- Changes in the price structure: in September 2014, compared to the five-year average, the price of local rice was 10.3 percent lower in N'Zérékoré, a popular area for rice production, and 22.6 percent higher in Labé, which is not a major rice-producing area.
- The increased use of survival strategies has resulted in a 74 percent reduction in the number of meals consumed daily, a 59 percent increase in seed consumption and a 35 percent in the sale of productive assets in affected communities.
- Labour and input markets have been significantly affected since the beginning of the epidemic, and many farmers have been unable to conduct agricultural activities. The harvesting season, which is now starting, is expected to suffer from the shortage of labour. Vulnerable farmers will lack the agricultural inputs and processing equipment necessary to participate in the imminent vegetable campaign and the 2015 rainy season.

STRATEGIC RESPONSE

FAO's main objective is to mitigate the negative impacts of EVD on food security and livelihoods in Guinea, and to contribute to lifesaving activities by stopping the spread of the disease to ensure a prompt return to agricultural production and awareness raising and income-generating activities.

FAO's response in Guinea builds on ongoing social mobilization campaigns, rapid assessments and value chain evaluations that aim to improve understanding of issues related to food safety and public health. Various stakeholders will be involved in the programme, which will be implemented in close partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture.

This National Response Programme is in line with FAO's overall response strategy and is part of the Regional Response Programme to the EVD outbreak in West Africa.

FAO is appealing for a total of USD 14.18 million to assist nearly 75 000 farming households most affected by the outbreak in Guinea.

1 SAVE LIVES BY STOPPING THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE

FAO REGIONAL RESPONSE STRATEGY		FAO STRATEGIC OUTPUTS IN GUINEA	USD
Output 1.1	Disease spread controlled in affected countries and prevented in at-risk countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 47 000 households are aware of good prevention practices. - 110 trainers (technical officers) trained on EVD prevention. - 5 500 community-based actors trained on EVD prevention. 	1 680 000
Output 1.2	Preparedness and response capacities improved at national and regional levels	Identification of short- and medium-term high-risk areas and vulnerable populations to better target and define preparedness actions (mapping of at-risk areas): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elaborate surveillance, awareness and response plans for EVD based on lessons learned from affected countries. - Develop risk communication strategies and tools, information materials and communication strategies/ methodologies involving stakeholders. In particular, design communication tools adapted to hunters, farmers and livestock keepers. 	500 000
TOTAL			2 180 000

2 BOOST INCOMES AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION TO SAFEGUARD LIVELIHOODS

FAO REGIONAL RESPONSE STRATEGY		FAO STRATEGIC OUTPUTS IN GUINEA	USD
Output 2.1	Impacts assessed in affected and neighboring countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food security and nutrition assessments are conducted on a regular basis and stakeholders are informed. - Economic analysis of EVD impacts performed at household and market levels. 	250 000
Output 2.2	Food and nutrition security ensured or restored	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agricultural production, processing and storage capacity of 41 600 households are improved (through the provision of inputs, farmer field schools and savings and loans programmes). - Production and processing of vegetables, lowland rice and maize boosted during the upcoming dry season. 	7 350 000
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Income sources of 12 000 households affected directly and indirectly by the Ebola outbreak diversified through short-cycle livestock (chicken, pigs and grasscutters) and cash-for-work schemes (cassava processing in peri-urban areas). - Support to 50 women's associations' savings and loans systems. 	3 500 000
TOTAL			11 100 000

3 BUILD RESILIENCE OF COMMUNITIES TO DISEASE THREATS

FAO REGIONAL RESPONSE STRATEGY		FAO STRATEGIC OUTPUTS IN GUINEA	USD
Output 3.1	National and regional early warning systems developed to identify Ebola virus in wildlife and trigger response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved capacity on early warning systems within existing governmental structures. 	200 000
Output 3.2	Vulnerabilities assessed for communities relying on bush meat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Short- and medium-term alternatives and adaptation activities are identified (consumption and income generating activities) with the participation of beneficiaries. 	300 000
Output 3.3	Best practices in emergency response to EVD promoted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop interventions based on the Farmer Field School methodology and saving and loans ('caisse de resilience'), where group members have implemented conditions to access the saving and loans and draw lessons, identify gaps and develop road maps for future interventions. 	300 000
TOTAL			800 000

4 STRENGTHEN COORDINATION FOR IMPROVED RESPONSE

FAO REGIONAL RESPONSE STRATEGY		FAO STRATEGIC OUTPUTS IN GUINEA	USD
Output 4.1	Regional and national actions coordinated for effective rapid response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evidence-based decision making is conducted by all stakeholders undertaking EVD response actions related to food security. - FAO shares their approach and initiatives with other stakeholders. 	100 000
TOTAL			100 000
GRAND TOTAL			14 180 000

IMPLEMENTATION MODALITY

The implementation of FAO's response includes collaboration with all ministries involved in the agriculture, livestock, health and trade sectors and all stakeholders engaged in the food chain, in addition to partnerships with United Nations specialized agencies. The implementation of the proposed activities will be directly supported by the FAO Resilience Hub for West Africa with operational and technical support provided by the FAO Regional Office for Africa and FAO headquarters.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AND BENEFICIARIES

The programme will cover the prefectures most affected by the EVD outbreak, including:

- Forest Guinea: Beyla, Guéckédou, Kissidougou, Lola, Macenta and N'Zérékoré
- Upper Guinea: Dabola, Faranah, Kankan, Kérouané, Kouroussa and Siguiri
- Lower Guinea: Conakry, Coyah, Dubreka, Forécariah and Kindia
- Middle Guinea: Dalaba and Pita

Around 75 000 households affected by the EVD outbreak will be targeted by the programme, including bush meat vendors and hunters affected by market closures, as well as women working in markets and facing loss of income as a result of imposed bans and restrictions.

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