



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

FAO RESPONSE PROGRAMME

WEST AFRICA

INCREASING THE RESILIENCE OF LIVELIHOODS AFFECTED BY THE EBOLA OUTBREAK

OCTOBER 2014 – DECEMBER 2015

EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE OUTBREAK



"More is needed to address other consequences of the outbreak including poverty, food insecurity, protection and the costs of supporting the response."

– David Nabarro,
Senior UN System Coordinator
for Ebola Virus Disease

Updated Version – June 2015

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BACKGROUND

Since December 2013, the outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) has severely affected Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The outbreak has resulted in tragic loss of life and is adversely impacting agriculture and food security and nutrition. The severity of the situation compelled the World Health Organization (WHO) to declare the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 8 August 2014 and to release a response roadmap on 28 August. On 21 September, the Secretary-General established the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) to curb the spread of the disease. The unprecedented escalation of the disease is linked to the region's lack of experience dealing with the virus combined with weak health systems and poor infrastructure. The public health and socio-economic impact of the disease has been huge. On 9 May Liberia was declared free of EVD until 28 June when one case was confirmed in Marghibi County. The epidemic persists in Guinea and Sierra Leone although at a lower level of intensity. On 20 June 2015, a total of 27 352 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of Ebola had been reported in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. There have been 11 178 reported deaths.

The outbreak has adversely impacted the agricultural and livestock sectors and food security conditions of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Border closures, quarantine and other restriction measures have seriously disrupted the marketing of goods including agricultural commodities. FAO, WFP, governments and other partners jointly carried out Crops and Food Security Assessment (CFSA) missions in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Released in December 2014, the CFSA reports provided a comprehensive analysis of the agricultural production, prices, markets, trades and stocks situation and concluded that crop losses were relatively modest at national level with significant disparities at local level especially in areas with high infection rates.

RATIONALE

Based on i) the FAO/WFP/governments Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM), ii) EVD impact assessment on Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA), iii) WFP m-VAM Food security assessments, iv) Cadre Harmonisé analysis and v) Study on the agricultural product market chain and trade in EVD context, the following four main impacts of EVD on food security have been identified:

- **Reduced food availability linked to disruption of farming activities and trade**

Disruption of farming activities and trade of inputs and food products as a result of the abandonment of land, travel restrictions and banning of weekly markets:

- Guinea: thousands of tonnes of potatoes and vegetables rot daily in the hands of producers and traders, and market prices have collapsed. Post-harvest losses were estimated at approximately 40 to 50 percent. Total crop production (3.04 million tonnes) was about three percent lower than that observed in 2013. Of this total, milled rice production was estimated at 1 315 million tonnes, about four percent below the level of the year prior.
- Liberia: the reduction in crop production was estimated to be between 10 to 25 percent in the most affected areas, and national crop production (323 000 tonnes) was approximately 8 percent lower than in 2013. Of this total, milled rice production (using the milling rate of 66.7 percent) was estimated at 174 000 tonnes, which is about 12 percent below the level of the year prior; however, rice continues to constitute the majority of total cereal production.
- Sierra Leone: Before the EVD outbreak, the population of Sierra Leone was threatened by food shortage, with 2.5 million people – or 45 percent of the population – classified as food insecure (6.5 percent severely and 38.5 percent moderately), with food insecurity rates surpassing 70 percent in five districts. The EVD outbreak erupted at a crucial period in the agricultural season for rice and other important food crops, including rice, cassava, sweet potatoes, vegetable crops and palm oil. Many farmers were unable to complete key, time-critical agricultural activities owing to travel restrictions and fear of the disease. Total crop production (2.09 million tonnes) was approximately five percent lower than that recorded for the harvest of 2013. Of this total, milled rice production was estimated at 770 000 tonnes, 8 percent below the level of the previous year.

These national figures mask more significant impacts in the most affected districts such as N'Zérékoré Prefecture (Guinea), where rice production was reduced by as much as 8.5 percent, and Lofa and Margibi counties (Liberia), where losses of paddy crop were estimated to be approximately 20 percent. In Kailahun County (Sierra Leone), the reduction in rice production was estimated to be as high as 17 percent.

- **Volatility of prices and severe disruption of food product market chains due to shortages caused by decreased production, transport constraints and quarantine**

A study conducted by FAO and CIRAD on agricultural and animal product market chains and trade in the EVD context shows that the epidemic disrupted the functioning of several cross-border agricultural market chains. Above all, it severely affected the collection and transport of agricultural and livestock production to consumption areas. The animal feed industry was also affected by border closures. The study recommends establishing safe trade corridors based on Public Health mitigation measures along market chains. These disruptions led to a significant loss of income for the producers, traders and small retailers involved. The trade situation has improved with the lifting of some restrictions on movement such as opening borders and ending quarantine.

In Sierra Leone, prices of imported rice were relatively stable between March and April 2015, as well as compared with last year's levels. Meanwhile, prices for local rice increased across all markets compared with March 2015 and price trends were different from last year's levels. For example, local rice prices in Freetown, Kono, and Moyamba increased by 40 percent, 33 percent and 33 percent respectively compared with 2014 levels. Conversely, in Kambia, Kenema, and Port Loko, local rice prices fell by approximately 15 percent during the same period¹.

In Liberia, local and imported rice prices remained stable or decreased in most districts except for Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Nimba and Lofa. In Lofa, the price of local rice rose by 9 percent, and that of imported rice by 8 percent, offsetting the fall in prices seen in March. The price of palm oil also remained stable or decreased throughout Liberia, reflecting the peak harvest season. Again, the only exception was Lofa, where prices rose by 7 percent. Since borders reopened, areas such as Lofa may have seen an increase in demand for oil and rice from neighbouring countries².

In Guinea, prices for locally grown cereal crops (rice and maize) were generally stable or in decline between March and April with the regular influx of imports from the international market and good market inventories of local crops. This price stability is helping to facilitate food access for poor and market-dependent households. However, prices for locally grown rice in Nzérékoré and maize prices in Labé reportedly rose by 12 percent and 18 percent respectively between March and April, driven by a seasonal rise in demand³.

1 FEWS NET.

2 M-VAM.

3 FEWS NET.

- **A negative impact across household income sources, livelihoods and purchasing power**

In Guinea, reports⁴ indicate that Irish potato, fruit and vegetable value chains have been strongly affected by the closure of the Senegal-Guinea border. There was a slight to moderate decline in Irish potato production, i.e. 40 percent fewer crops, which led to a 15 percent fall in prices compared with last year⁵. Similarly, in Senegal, the Diaobe market near the Guinea border saw a significant decrease in activity affecting traders in the area.

In addition to the impact of the EVD outbreak on livelihoods, roughly half of urban respondents and one-third of rural respondents in Liberia who were working in 2014 were no longer employed in October and November 2014⁶. The mVAM monitoring⁷ indicates that negative coping strategies are most frequently used by the poorest households, those living in Ebola-affected rural areas and households headed by women.

Analysis of the food security and nutritional situation with the Cadre harmonisé⁸ tool in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, conducted in February 2015, indicates that in February - March 2015, 3 900 000 people were facing stressed food security and 1 235 000 people were in a food crisis situation. The projected situation for June – August 2015 indicated that 4 650 000 would face stressed food security and 2 215 000 people would be in a food crisis situation.

- **A negative impact across many sectors of the economy**

According to the joint rapid assessment, farming households in all three countries are reportedly facing more difficulties than usual in marketing their staple and cash crops due to market disruptions, increasing post-harvest losses, a decrease in women-led petty trading opportunities and reduced demand. Consequently, atypically low incomes are likely having a negative impact on food access for poor, market-dependent households across the three countries. Households with direct incidences of EVD have been the most severely affected through the loss of labour opportunities and income, increased expenses and decreased agricultural production, as they have been unable to access their fields.

In Guinea, 91 percent of the population of the most affected districts have been facing an increasing agriculture labour cost. Coupled with decreasing farm gate prices and loss of petty trading opportunities, this has led to a significant shortfall of purchasing power. In Liberia, the

⁴ Joint IFAD-UNDP mission, 20-24 September 2014 in Moyenne Guinée.

⁵ CILSS/FAO/FEWSNET/PAM/RESIMAO, Missions conjointes d'évaluation de la sécurité alimentaire et des marchés, Bassin Ouest, mars 2015.

⁶ World Bank, Gallup, and Liberia Institute of Statistics.

⁷ Data collected via mobile phone.

⁸ Cadre Harmonisé analysis is based on the analytical framework of the IPC 2.0, including the analysis of four outcome indicators (food consumption, nutritional status, livelihood change and mortality) with contributing factors such as hazards and vulnerability, food availability, access, utilization and stability, that can impact on food security outcomes.

financial capital of women's savings and loans groups has also been drastically affected, as members have been unable to pay back their loans. In addition, the increase in the price of the largely consumed imported rice has affected the purchasing power of net buyers. According to the rapid assessment survey conducted in Sierra Leone, 85 percent of respondents mentioned facing difficulties in accessing food in the last four months. This has caused a decrease in the quantity and quality of meals consumed daily.

STRATEGY AND FUNDING NEEDS

The most urgent priority of FAO and all UN partners is stopping the epidemic and ending the tragic loss of life. Immediate action must also be taken to avoid a potential food security crisis. Therefore, FAO's strategy focuses on supporting life-saving activities while also safeguarding food security, nutrition and livelihoods.

FAO's strategy is based on four pillars:

- 1 Save lives by stopping the spread of the disease** as part of a UN coordinated response through social mobilization, training and awareness raising activities via FAO networks of extension services and animal health workers.
- 2 Boost incomes and agricultural production to safeguard livelihoods** through rapid impact assessments and support to crop and livestock production, cash transfers, post-harvest activities and trade/marketing.
- 3 Reduce risks and improve early warning systems and emergency response.**
- 4 Strengthen coordination to improve response** by reinforcing food security/nutrition clusters, coordination between human and health sectors and surge mechanisms.

FAO is appealing for over USD 42 million for its Response Programme to assist nearly 170 000 farming households most affected by the outbreak.

FAO's strategy has been declined into FAO country response programmes highlighting key response activities to be implemented in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, as well as at the regional level.

Total funding needs: USD 42 425 000

- Guinea: USD 14 180 000
- Liberia: USD 10 000 000
- Sierra Leone: USD 12 750 000
- At risk countries: USD 3 345 000
- Regional activities: USD 2 150 000

A total of 170 000 farming households most affected by the outbreak have been identified to receive direct assistance including:

- Guinea: 75 000 households;
- Liberia: 25 000 households; and
- Sierra Leone: 70 000 households.

Mali and at-risk countries will also benefit through FAO's integrated, long-term, regional approach to supporting food security and nutrition while reducing EVD risks at the interface between humans, animals and ecosystems.

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

With some of the world's leading science-to-policy expertise in food security, sustainable agricultural production, forestry resource management, livestock production and animal health and disease ecology, FAO is uniquely positioned to develop and implement this plan of action in response to the EVD outbreak.

FAO brings together **technical expertise** in the areas of food security and safety, emergency response and capacity building, livestock policy and legislation, socio-economics, livelihoods, markets/trade, animal disease surveillance, wildlife and participatory development communication, data management and analysis. This combination of technical strengths and practical knowledge gives FAO a comparative advantage in responding to the far-reaching impacts of the epidemic through a unique, multidisciplinary and multisectoral perspective and approach.

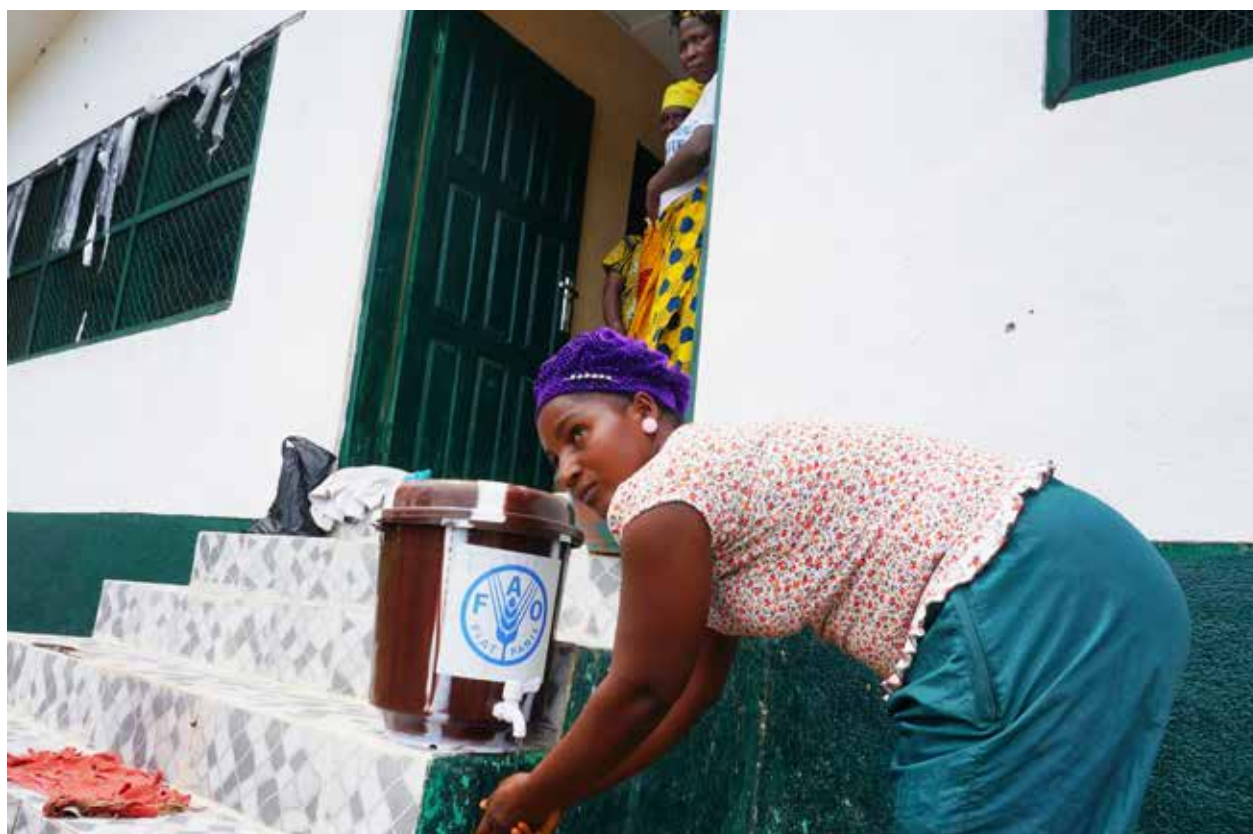
Moreover, tackling this outbreak requires the national and international collaboration of all Ministries, including Agriculture, Health, Wildlife and Trade. As a neutral body of excellence and an impartial agency of the UN, FAO has **access to relevant stakeholders** working across the entire food chain from production to consumption (including government agencies, food enterprises, academia and consumers). FAO is well placed to develop appropriate policy and legislation, to identify innovative practices to address bush meat and wildlife issues and to implement best practices. FAO is equally well positioned to enhance national coordination between national veterinary services and ministry units dealing with wildlife, communication and public health. These connections enable FAO to help countries put in place effective, integrated approaches to disease management.

FAO also maintains strong **partnerships with the world's leading actors** in humanitarian and development assistance at international, regional and national levels. Partners include the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WHO, the West African Health Organization (WAHO), WFP, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), NGOs and academia. As part of the UN coordinated

response to EVD, FAO will leverage its wide-ranging partnerships to involve the most effective actors for the most impactful assistance. In the framework of their Tripartite Alliance, FAO, OIE and WHO joined forces under the “One Health” approach and recognise their respective responsibilities in fighting diseases including zoonoses that can have a serious health and economic impact. They have been working together for decades to prevent, detect, control and eliminate disease risks to human beings that originate directly or indirectly from animals.

FAO incorporates **gender mainstreaming** into its development strategy and will promote a gender-sensitive response to EVD. Women are both key producers of food and actively participate in food trade. Gender concerns for women and men, boys and girls and persons living with disabilities and/or HIV will be specifically addressed from a human rights perspective on food and nutrition.

Accountability, transparency and results-based management are central to FAO's work, methodology and deliverables. FAO will develop key indicators for all proposed interventions, and the Organization will carry out results-based reporting and joint monitoring in collaboration with all parties involved in the implementation.

RESPONSE**1****SAVE LIVES BY STOPPING THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE****Funding needs: USD 6 960 000****Output 1.1: Disease spread controlled in affected countries and prevented in at-risk countries**

FAO will leverage its far-reaching networks of extension services, which serve as critical links for engaging in impactful, two-way communication that is sensitive to local customs and traditions in rural areas. FAO's efforts will focus on affected countries (i.e. Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) and countries at risk of virus incursion. In close collaboration with UNICEF, WHO and other health stakeholders, FAO will contribute to social mobilization and communication-for-development efforts in order to raise awareness and improve knowledge, attitudes and practices vis-à-vis EVD. Particular attention will be paid to gender and youth dimensions.

FAO's specific social mobilization and risk communication activities on EVD will include:

- identifying and addressing risk factors with partners;
- mobilizing communities through Community Listener's Clubs, Farmer Field Schools, Livestock Field Schools, Animal Health Clubs and other networks;
- conducting sensitization trainings on best practices to mitigate the risk of infection;
- conducting trainings of trainers on raising EVD awareness and increasing food production;
- developing communication products (e.g. posters, banners, t-shirts, radio) in local languages;
- training local authorities and extension services, including animal surveillance staff, forestry authorities, farmer groups, forest users, women and youth groups on best practices to mitigate risk of infection by Ebola viruses; and
- training national authority audiences to augment understanding and empower national social mobilization work.

In Liberia, five hundred women's associations (around 30 000 women) will be trained and engaged in Ebola sensitization in their neighbouring communities on a long-term basis. In Sierra Leone, 70 000 households will be sensitized. In Guinea, 110 agricultural and rural extension officers will be trained to sensitize 47 000 households.

Output 1.2: Preparedness and response capacities improved at national and regional levels

FAO is already heavily engaged in promoting and supporting multi-sector preparedness to zoonotic diseases (e.g. highly pathogenic avian influenza, endemic zoonoses such as rabies, brucellosis and anthrax) in partnership with OIE, WHO, international and national agencies, academia and other partners. FAO will assist affected countries and countries most at risk in the region to improve capacities in emergency preparedness planning within the framework of the One Health approach⁹.

In collaboration with WHO and WAHO, FAO will:

- assess preparedness and response capacities through cross-sector needs assessments;
- promote a comprehensive risk mitigation and response system to EVD and other high-threat diseases by facilitating the development and endorsement of key documents, including:
 - emergency preparedness plans;
 - response plans;
 - recovery plans; and
 - operations manuals;

⁹ *The One Health approach recognises that the health of humans, animals and ecosystems are interconnected. It involves applying a coordinated, collaborative, multidisciplinary and cross-sector approach to address potential or existing risks that originate at the animal-human-ecosystems interface*

- contribute to multi-sector field and desktop simulation exercises to test and review improved preparedness and response capacities.

In the three affected countries (Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone), FAO will identify high-risk areas and vulnerable populations to better target potential preparedness and response actions (mapping of at-risk areas) and will:

- elaborate surveillance, awareness and response plans for the EVD outbreak based also on lessons learned from affected countries.
- develop risk communication strategies and tools, information materials and communication strategies/methodologies involving stakeholders.

2

BOOST INCOMES AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION TO SAFEGUARD LIVELIHOODS



Funding needs: USD 21 200 000

The most productive agricultural zones are also the areas most affected by the EVD outbreak. Due to quarantine measures, agricultural and livestock production cannot reach markets. Transport disruptions have led to excess of food in certain areas, resulting in high food waste, whilst other areas are facing food shortages. Farmers are facing the double challenge of conserving their production until markets are restored while simultaneously searching for a way to access the market to ensure their income.

The food security of vulnerable households in affected districts is already at risk. Loss of purchasing power and food price increases may force some households to resort to negative coping strategies in order to access food. Negative coping strategies could include smaller food intake, indebtedness and the sale of productive assets. These actions dramatically hamper livelihoods and create destitution.

FAO will support agricultural production in EVD-affected and at-risk areas that will minimize the negative impacts of the outbreak and improve the nutritional status of the most vulnerable populations, while providing policy-makers with the latest analyses available so they can make informed decisions.

Output 2.1: Impacts assessed in affected and neighbouring countries

2.1.A. Identify and assess EVD impacts on agriculture, food security and livelihoods

Assessments on the impact of EVD on agriculture, food security and livelihoods are crucial to define the immediate support needed. FAO will implement the following in the three countries on a regular basis:

- rapid, emergency assessments to identify direct impacts on agriculture and food security and to define immediate needs; and
- comprehensive assessments to understand medium- to longer-term impacts and to adapt FAO's longer-term assistance to evolving country needs, including socio-economic issues (closure of borders, commercial ban of certain goods and products like bush meat).

Output 2.2: Food and nutrition security ensured or restored

2.2.A Support to crop production through the provision of key agricultural inputs

FAO will minimize the negative impacts of the outbreak and improve the nutritional status of the most vulnerable populations through the provision of agricultural inputs and technical advice to farming households (with an emphasis on women and youth). In particular, FAO will:

- distribute commercial and nutritive vegetable seeds¹⁰, cereal seeds (e.g. lowland rice and maize), leguminous seeds (e.g. groundnut, cowpeas) and cassava cuttings;
- stimulate contractual seed production to ensure availability of seeds for the next planting season and simultaneously provide income-earning opportunities;
- support cash crops (e.g. palm oil, cocoa, rubber); and
- where manpower availability is affected, identify and enable the implementation of alternative methods (e.g. tractor rental for soil preparation and transport).

2.2.B. Post-harvest activities and marketing of agricultural production

To reduce the impact of restrictions on farmers and to enable in-country food availability, FAO will:

- ensure food conservation and reduction of post-harvest losses through the provision of community or household managed silos, cereal conditioning bags, conditional cash transfers and technical support;
- enhance in-country transformation capacity to replace external supply through the provision of food processing machinery (e.g. cassava mills, rice hullers, oil processing machinery) and technical training; and
- strengthen the availability of agricultural products in the market by providing transport vouchers, facilitation of commercial relationships inside the different value chains (e.g. joint FAO/WFP Purchase from Africa to Africa approach) and organization of agricultural products fairs in zones with poor food access.

¹⁰ Priority will be given to vegetable varieties rich in iron, vitamin A, vitamin C, protein and other nutrients and minerals.

The existing agricultural structures will be used to enable youth and farmers to sustain their livelihoods, ensuring a continuous flow of income, reducing post-harvest losses through processing and value addition and ensuring food security while improving households' access to nutritious food. Through establishing a flow of income, the programme will ensure that farming households have access to the income needed to participate in the upcoming cropping season.

2.2.C. Bush meat alternatives

Bush meat represents an important source of protein and income. However, hunting, handling, preparing and consuming bush meat may pose health risks, and some governments have imposed bush meat restrictions. Therefore, providing an alternative is crucial to maintain incomes, safeguard nutrition and reduce health risks.

FAO, as an immediate alternative, will provide:

- short-cycle livestock (e.g. village chickens, pigeons and small ruminants), veterinary products, and animal feed;
- fish processing materials and equipment available locally to increase fish production and their market availability; and
- training and support services in animal health care, livestock production, fishing and fish processing methods and small business management to ensure long-term sustainability.

2.2.D. Cash transfer, income generation and microfinance

The different measures taken to contain the EVD outbreak have had a direct impact on household purchasing power. Productive safety nets that combine cash transfer initiatives with the provision of productive assets represent the best way to ensure food access while protecting or restoring vulnerable household livelihoods. Special attention will be given to women's associations who have been particularly hit by the EVD outbreak.

FAO will support productive safety nets, including:

- unconditional cash transfers quantified to cover the survival deficit for households that have lost their workforce during the crisis;
- cash- or food-for-work activities to cover the survival deficit while helping protect productive assets (e.g. conservation farming, plantation clearing, field preparation); and
- additional cash transfer combined with agricultural/livestock input provision geared toward restoring livelihoods and assets lost during the crisis.

- In Guinea, FAO will support crop production, complementing it with a non-conditional cash transfer programme targeting 12 000 vulnerable households as well as saving and loans support to 50 women's associations.
- In Liberia, FAO will support savings and loans associations (1 500 associations) through conditional and progressive cash transfers if members agree to commit themselves to promoting an Ebola awareness campaign in their communities.
- In Sierra Leone, FAO will develop an innovative cash transfer programme to improve current incomes and consumption. Households will receive USD 15 per month when essential commodities are available (in order to purchase them in local markets); where supply of social services is too limited to introduce conditional transfers (school or health centres are unavailable or too far); and for labour-constrained households or households with increased care obligations (e.g. single-headed households, grandparents caring for Ebola orphans).

2.2.E. Nutritional education

Nutritional education will ensure that communities are informed of the necessity to adopt better food behaviours and care practices that prevent malnutrition. FAO will implement nutrition-sensitive activities in close collaboration with UNICEF and partners, emphasizing:

- the need for a balanced and diversified diet, particularly in affected areas and areas where bush meat and forest products are widely consumed; and
- food safety and hygiene, both in general and in the particular context of EVD.

3

REDUCE RISKS AND IMPROVE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Funding needs: USD 10 550 000

FAO will assist affected countries and most at-risk countries in the region to build preparedness to disease threats. The scale of the current outbreak illustrates the practical difficulties in preventing and controlling human-to-human transmission once the virus has passed from wildlife to humans. Mitigating the risks of exposure at the interface between humans and wildlife, including bush meat harvesting, handling and processing practices, is an important step in preventing future outbreaks of EVD. While strengthening national and regional early warning systems, FAO will assist in building the resilience of communities by capitalizing on initiatives linked to restoring livelihoods along market chains.

Output 3.1: National and regional early warning systems developed to identify Ebola virus and other diseases in wildlife in order to trigger an appropriate response

FAO will help countries to participate in a coordinated, structured regional system of disease surveillance to better understand and manage risks at the human-animal-environment interface.

In particular, FAO will:

- conduct sociological and anthropological studies related to risk factors;
- carry out risk assessments of virus spill over from wildlife/animals to humans in order to formulate risk management options;
- develop wildlife/animal surveillance systems;
- support directly the collection and analysis of epidemiological data;
- train partners in the collection of wildlife epidemiological data using appropriate biosecurity measures;
- support participatory approaches with local stakeholders to improve awareness, hygiene and disease prevention efforts at local level:
 - development of manuals and guidelines, community outreach activities workshops and stakeholder consultation;
 - support evidence-based decision tools and advocacy materials for improved One Health approach;
- support the establishment of national One Health platform and its operationalization:
 - promote disease information exchange between various sectors, community based surveillance and innovative service delivery;
 - develop progressive/step-wise approaches to integrated zoonotic disease prevention and control;
 - promote One Health surveillance at the animal-human-environment interface for selected emerging zoonosis;
- improve/establish surveillance and diagnostic capacities of potential animal reservoirs (domestic or wildlife); and
- adopt a 'One Health' approach as a multidisciplinary mechanism to address public health threats and reduce risks at the animal-human-ecosystem interface.

Output 3.2: Vulnerabilities assessed for communities relying on bush meat

FAO will conduct:

- bush meat value chain analyses;
- quantitative and qualitative analyses of bush meat as a source of protein for forestry and hunting communities, and bush meat as a source of income; and
- propose alternative options to the most vulnerable communities.

Output 3.3: Best practices in emergency response to EVD promoted

In the three countries (Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone), FAO will organize national and regional workshops to capitalize on initiatives linked to restoring livelihoods and to reducing the risk of EVD exposure such as approaches based on the Farmer Field Schools (FFS) methodology, where group members have implemented conditions to access savings and loans, and draw lessons, identify gaps and develop road maps for next steps.

4

STRENGTHEN COORDINATION FOR IMPROVED RESPONSE



Funding needs: USD 3 715 000

Output 4.1: Regional and national actions coordinated for effective, rapid response, and technical capacities are reinforced

FAO, WFP and other actors working in food security will ensure a timely and effective emergency response to the EVD outbreak through strengthened capacities at regional and country levels. This will: (i) enhance the effectiveness of humanitarian action, based on an ethical obligation and accountability to the populations affected by the outbreak; (ii) acknowledge diversity as an asset of the humanitarian community; (iii) recognize the interdependence among humanitarian organizations; and (iv) ensure commitment to building and nurturing effective partnerships.

In view of the cross-border dimension of the situation, FAO and partners have begun establishing a system to coordinate the regional and national food security response. To ensure a holistic approach,

FAO will contribute to the approaches of the Food Security Cluster, including:

- supporting the Regional Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) in Dakar, Senegal to oversee regional coordination; and
- contributing to established national food security and nutrition mechanisms in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, including support to clusters should new units be activated.

The response to the EVD outbreak is nationally led and owned. To support this country-led response, the regional FSNWG will be the platform whereupon food security needs are analysed and disseminated to all relevant stakeholders for appropriate response targeting, additionally addressing trade and value chain disruptions and their consequences on livelihoods and food and nutrition security. The FSNWG will work closely with the other clusters. The regional and national teams will participate in coordination and inter-cluster meetings and crosscutting issue-related meetings. The FSNWG will ensure that all elements of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee project cycle are coordinated, including assessments, data analysis, response analysis, accountability to affected populations and monitoring and evaluation. Resilience-building activities will be promoted at the onset of operations, ensuring a smooth transition from emergency response to recovery.

The regional activities will include:

- design methodologies for data collection in close consultation with stakeholders, and lead data collection processes at various levels, including analysis, mainly with regard to food security, socio-economics and nutrition;
- continue monitoring of the situation and its impact on food security, price fluctuations and agricultural production, and provide timely and scientifically-sound analysis for stakeholders;
- reinforce functional regional capacities of existing information networks and working groups, in order to ensure timely regional information exchange while serving as a participatory platform for regional coordination. This includes liaison with the Food Security Cluster, OCHA, UNMEER and ad hoc groups established at country and regional levels;
- conduct regional and interregional consultations in order to target and streamline food security analysis efforts, mainly on the impact of EVD on major agricultural products' value chains and mitigation measures identification, including transboundary dimensions;
- identify and promote best practices in response to EVD for restoring resilient livelihoods and reducing risk of exposure; and
- identify risk areas and vulnerable populations (mapping of at-risk areas), providing direct support for the collection and analysis of epidemiological, environmental, demographic and socio-anthropological data.

Output 4.2: Technical and operational capacities reinforced

This complex event requires a multi-sector and regional approach to meet needs on the ground. To ensure this approach is mainstreamed throughout its activities, FAO is providing oversight and coherence through its:

- Subregional Resilience Hub for West Africa and the Sahel;
- Regional Office for Africa; and
- Emergency and Rehabilitation Division (with support of technical departments).

Due to its strategic geographic and socio-political location, the Resilience Hub for West Africa, based in Dakar, Senegal, is well-positioned to ensure programme coordination and effectiveness by:

- actively participating in regional humanitarian fora and thematic working groups (which are concentrated in Dakar);
- maintaining a pool of experts on food security, disaster risk reduction, nutrition, animal health, wildlife and forestry, epidemiology, anthropology, communication, operations and other profiles;
- deploying surge support in terms of experts and tools to address gaps where identified in affected and at-risk countries; and
- accessing information and developing in-depth analyses to inform policy- and decision-makers.

Located in Accra, the FAO Regional Office for Africa is well positioned to link the efforts of the Resilience Hub for West Africa and the Sahel to the overarching initiatives of the UN and international community through the UNMEER platform.

The FAO Emergency and Rehabilitation Division at headquarters supports countries and partners to prepare for and respond to threats to food security and agricultural livelihoods. With over 20 years of experience in assessing food insecurity and managing emergencies, the Emergency and Rehabilitation Division provides a crucial pool of expertise to respond to this outbreak.

Output 4.3: Critical information shared rapidly and communication ensured

Given the complexity of the EVD outbreak, it is crucial that information is shared optimally within and outside of the agency and with the relevant partners in a timely manner. FAO will:

- collect, collate and disseminate information on socio-economic and nutrition impacts;
- distribute strategy documents to FAO partners in Dakar and at regional and global levels; and
- share food security updates and briefing notes with donors, partners and the general public.

JUNE 2015 FUNDING SUMMARY

Liberia: Support received from FAO/TCP, ASTF, the SDC and SFERA totalling USD 2.3 million with a balance of USD 7.7 million.

Guinea: USD 6.1 million received (World Bank, FAO/TCP, SFERA and ASTF with a balance of USD 8.1 million.

Sierra Leone: Support received from FAO/TCP, SFERA, ASTF, ADB for a total of 1.3 million USD with a balance of USD 11.5 million.

Regional: Support received from SFERA for a total of USD 0.3 million with a balance of USD 1.9 million.



► USD 10.1 million received thanks to:

African Solidarity Trust Fund, FAO, Guinea (World Bank loan), Sierra Leone (African Development Bank loan), Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities and Switzerland

PROGRAMME BUDGET

The total budget required to implement the FAO Response Programme (October 2014–December 2015) is USD 42 425 000.

Summary of budget by output and country in USD October 2014 – September 2015		Guinea	Liberia	Sierra Leone	Low- transmission, at-risk countries	Regional	TOTAL
1	SAVE LIVES BY STOPPING THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE						
Output 1.1	Disease spread controlled in affected countries and prevented in at-risk countries	1 680 000	2 000 000	1 500 000	450 000		5 630 000
Output 1.2	Preparedness and response capacities improved at national and regional levels	500 000	500 000	150 000	180 000		1 330 000
2	BOOST INCOMES AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION						
Output 2.1	Impacts assessed in affected and neighbouring countries	250 000		500 000	50 000		800 000
Output 2.2	Food and nutrition security ensured or restored	10 850 000	1 500 000	7 500 000	550 000		20 400 000
3	REDUCE RISKS AND IMPROVE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE						
Output 3.1	National and regional Early warning systems developed to identify Ebola virus in wildlife and trigger response	200 000			550 000	750 000	1 500 000
Output 3.2	Vulnerabilities assessed for communities relying on bush meat	300 000			300 000		600 000
Output 3.3	Best practices in emergency response to EVD promoted	300 000	5 000 000	3 000 000	150 000		8 450 000
4	STRENGTHEN COORDINATION FOR IMPROVED RESPONSE						
Output 4.1	Regional and national actions coordinated for effective rapid response	100 000	1 000 000	100 000	195 000	750 000	2 145 000
Output 4.2	Technical and operational capacities reinforced				800 000	400 000	1 200 000
Output 4.3	Critical information shared rapidly and communication ensured				120 000	250 000	370 000
TOTAL		14 180 000	10 000 000	12 750 000	3 345 000	2 150 000	42 425 000



Food and Agriculture
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NATIONAL RESPONSE PROGRAMME

GUINEA

INCREASING THE RESILIENCE OF LIVELIHOODS AFFECTED BY THE EBOLA OUTBREAK

OCTOBER 2014 – DECEMBER 2015

EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE OUTBREAK



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.
- Since the beginning of 2015, the majority of EVD cases are concentrated in Basse Guinée Region. There have been no recorded cases in Guinée Forestière where the EVD outbreak began in December 2013.
- Despite the decreasing number of EVD cases in the country, some communities are still reluctant to change their behaviour and collaborate with health teams. This maintains a high risk of EVD transmission in these communities.
- Quarantine measures are still imposed in some villages of the Forécariah Districts, disrupting market activities and affecting the livelihoods of the households concerned.

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 its 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 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	<p>Identification of short- and medium-term high-risk areas and vulnerable populations to better target and define preparedness actions (mapping of at-risk areas):</p> <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 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 REDUCE RISKS AND IMPROVE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

FAO 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 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.



Food and Agriculture
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NATIONAL RESPONSE PROGRAMME

LIBERIA

INCREASING THE RESILIENCE OF LIVELIHOODS AFFECTED BY THE EBOLA OUTBREAK

OCTOBER 2014 – DECEMBER 2015

EBOLA

VIRUS DISEASE
OUTBREAK



CONTEXT

The rapid spread of Ebola virus disease in Liberia led the Government to declare a state of emergency and enact special measures to control the outbreak, including the closure of borders and schools and the temporary closure of some major food markets in the most affected areas. These measures, compounded by fear of transmission, intensified the impacts of the outbreak on already vulnerable communities, negatively affecting their food security and livelihoods.

In mid-September 2014, a rapid fact-finding mission conducted by FAO in Lofa County (northwest Liberia) concluded that there will be a significant risk of increased food insecurity and an impact on livelihoods in the forthcoming months. The following three main impacts of EVD on food security have been identified:

- An estimated 10 to 25 percent reduction in crop production in the most affected areas as a result of the lack of attention and field presence during July and August, when the country was in a state of emergency.
- A sharp increase in prices of food and other commodities from August to October 2014, followed by stabilization: The disruption of road transportation and markets contributed to soaring food prices almost immediately. From July to October 2014, the price of rice in Lofa was 40 percent higher than the year prior, and the prices of certain types of fish had increased five-fold.
- Depletion of households' and women's associations' savings: market closures and movement restrictions reduced participation in income-generating activities and led women to use the little savings they had to cover basic needs, causing them to increase their debt. Some of the women who received loans from their associations died as a result of Ebola, while others who fortunately survived were unable to pay back the loans they had received in June and July 2014 from their savings and loans associations. The non-repayment of loans resulted in the collapse of these women-managed savings and loans schemes, with a significant impact on food security and nutrition at community and household levels as well as on the local economy. Farmers who managed to produce surpluses faced reduced demand for their produce because consumer purchasing power has crashed after several months of high unemployment and reduced incomes owing to EVD. This collapse in demand has significantly reduced smallholders' opportunities to sell their produce.

However, with a decline in overall Ebola transmission in the country in March and April, Liberia was officially declared Ebola-free on 9 May 2015, until 28 June when one case was confirmed in Marghibi County. Local communities, particularly those severely affected by the Ebola outbreak, have not yet fully recovered from its impact, which is negatively affecting their food security and livelihoods.

STRATEGIC RESPONSE

The most urgent concerns expressed by the women and men interviewed were the imminent threat of virus transmission and the revitalization of their livelihood activities, especially in regards to community savings and loans schemes. Communities were not sufficiently educated on virus transmission, which prevents them from continuing their livelihood activities. Therefore, there has been an urgent need to develop local capacities within communities to continue to contribute to the prevention of the spread of EVD while avoiding damage to the local economy. It is crucial to develop cash transfer programmes to assist women's' associations in reactivating their local group and household activities through savings and loans mechanisms. Conditional cash transfer activities have been proposed within the communities and Ministries of Agriculture and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in order to support Ebola awareness campaigns and lowland agricultural production to boost food production for households' consumption and income generation.

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

FAO is appealing for a total of USD 10 million to assist nearly 25 000 farming households most affected by the outbreak in Liberia.

1 SAVE LIVES BY STOPPING THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE

FAO RESPONSE STRATEGY		FAO STRATEGIC OUTPUTS IN LIBERIA	USD
Output 1.1	Disease spread controlled in affected countries and prevented in at-risk countries	- 2 500 women's' associations (approximately 50 000 women) are trained on and engaged in Ebola sensitization to share their information with neighbouring communities on a longer-term basis. Cash transfers will be used to implement this activity in order to reactivate savings and loans schemes.	2 000 000
Output 1.2	Preparedness and response capacities improved at national and regional levels	- Preparedness and response capacities are improved.	500 000
TOTAL			2 500 000

2 BOOST INCOMES AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION TO SAFEGUARD LIVELIHOODS

FAO RESPONSE STRATEGY		FAO STRATEGIC OUTPUTS IN LIBERIA	USD
Output 2.2	Food and nutrition security ensured or restored	- Lowland rice and vegetable production boosted during the upcoming dry season. Cash transfers will be used to implement this activity (lowland rehabilitation) in order to reactivate savings and loans schemes.	1 500 000
TOTAL			1 500 000

3 REDUCE RISKS AND IMPROVE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

FAO RESPONSE STRATEGY		FAO STRATEGIC OUTPUTS IN LIBERIA	USD
Output 3.3	Best practices in emergency response to EVD promoted	- Capitalize on approaches based on the farmer field school methodology, where group members have implemented conditions to access savings and loans, and draw lessons, identify gaps and develop road maps for next steps. - Financial capital of women's associations' saving and loans schemes revitalized through conditional cash transfer mechanisms (for EVD sensitization and agricultural production). - Training of an additional 2 000 women's association on savings and loans mechanisms to diversify their sources of income and increase their resilience.	5 000 000
TOTAL			5 000 000

4 STRENGTHEN COORDINATION FOR IMPROVED RESPONSE

FAO RESPONSE STRATEGY		FAO STRATEGIC OUTPUTS IN LIBERIA	USD
Output 4.1	Regional and national actions coordinated for effective rapid response	- Ensure evidence-based decision making by stakeholders (NGOs, ministries and the UN system) through continuous monitoring and food security/nutrition assessments.	1 000 000
TOTAL			1 000 000
GRAND TOTAL			10 000 000

IMPLEMENTATION MODALITY

FAO possesses significant experience with similar comprehensive approaches integrating social, agricultural and technical aspects and capacities in other countries, engaging farmers' associations and women's associations – including farmer field schools – in savings and loans schemes, which facilitate economic and social investment (such as sending girls to school), the implementation of good agricultural practices and nutrition surveillance, thereby promoting a culture of responsibility and resilience among communities. The implementation of the proposed activities will be directly supported by the FAO Resilience Hub for West Africa with the operational and technical support from the FAO Regional Office for Africa and FAO headquarters.

FAO envisages collaborating and partnering with all ministries (including the Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock, Health, Gender and Trade) and relevant stakeholders working across the entire food chain, in addition to fostering strong partnerships with the United Nations system (UNDP, UNICEF, UNWOMEN), non-governmental organizations such as ADC, CARE International and ZOA and local NGOs.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AND BENEFICIARIES

A total of 25 000 households will be targeted in the affected areas, where an estimated 2.4 million people live. Affected counties include Lofa and Montserrado – considered EVD's epicenter – as well as Bomi, Bong, Margibi, Gbarpolu, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, Margibi, Maryland, Nimba, Rivercess, River Gee and Sinoe. An additional 60 000 households will indirectly benefit from training on savings and loans.

Priority will be given to the following:

- populations directly affected by the outbreak such as contact persons and their families residing in counties nearby the most affected areas; and
- vulnerable populations such as traders and producers who have been indirectly affected by the Ebola outbreak.



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NATIONAL RESPONSE PROGRAMME

SIERRA LEONE

INCREASING THE RESILIENCE OF LIVELIHOODS AFFECTED BY THE EBOLA OUTBREAK

OCTOBER 2014 – DECEMBER 2015

EBOLA

VIRUS DISEASE
OUTBREAK



CONTEXT

Since May 2014, Sierra Leone has faced one of the largest Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreaks in the world, which first appeared in a small village in the Kailahun District of neighbouring Guinea. The country is expected to become one of those most affected by the virus in view of an increased number of cases reported in November and December 2014. In addition to the tragic loss of life caused by EVD, its negative social and economic impacts threaten the food and nutrition security of the population.

The Government has enacted prevention and control measures to respond to the outbreak, including the establishment of quarantine zones and movement restrictions; however, these measures have curtailed the movement of goods and services, including food items in the region, leading to panic buying, food shortages and significant price hikes. The season's crop harvest began in September, but the labour shortage placed food and cash crop production at risk in affected areas, jeopardizing the food security of tens of thousands of people.

The EVD outbreak erupted at a crucial period in the agricultural season for rice and other important food crops, including rice, cassava, sweet potatoes, vegetable crops and palm oil. Many farmers were unable to complete key, time-critical agricultural activities owing to travel restrictions and fear of the disease. Consequently, reduced availability and increased food prices were observed, largely owing to:

- The disruption of farming activities and trade of inputs and food products as a result of the abandonment of land, travel restrictions and banning of weekly markets: This year's yields are expected to be considerably below pre-crisis levels.
- Volatility of prices of food and other necessities due to shortages caused by decreased production, transportation constraints and quarantine: households are heavily dependent on food bought at markets – 59 percent of rice producers must purchase additional rice to supplement what they produce. Agribusinesses including producers of crops for export are similarly affected, as traders can no longer purchase in bulk from farmers/farmers' groups simply because crop markets are not functioning well or not functioning at all.
- Significant post-harvest losses during transportation of perishable foods: In some areas, this results in shortages of goods on the market, while in other areas (e.g. Koinadugu), the prices of various varieties of vegetables have fallen to a point where a large part of the harvest is left to rot and the rest is sold at a low price. Evidence collected indicates that there has been between a 20 to 100 percent decrease in farm gate prices of vegetables.

Findings of the rapid assessment study indicate that 47 percent of respondents feel that the EVD outbreak is having considerable adverse effects on their farming activities. The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/Global Information and Early Warning System.

Disease Impact on Agriculture Simulation Model in Sierra Leone shows that:

- Total crop production (2.09 million tonnes) experienced a decrease of about five percent compared to that recorded for the harvest of 2013. Of this total, milled rice production (using the milling rate of 66.7 percent) was estimated at 770 000 tonnes, accounting for approximately 85 percent of total cereal production; this represents an 8 percent decrease compared to the level of the year prior.
- From mid-July to August 2014 in Freetown, shortages of goods on the market led to a 13 to 50 percent increase in the prices of key commodities (e.g. imported rice, fish, cassava, groundnuts and palm oil).

STRATEGIC RESPONSE

The Food Security and Nutrition Working Group – of which FAO supports the secretariat – recommends the following actions: (i) re-open key periodic markets under sanitary conditions; (ii) facilitate transportation of food commodities to market centres; (iii) encourage farmers and farmers' groups to resume farming under safe conditions in chiefdoms or sections where EVD prevalence is low; (iv) support smallholders with agricultural inputs for the next agricultural season; and (v) monitor farm harvest and market dynamics. The most urgent priority of FAO and all United Nations (UN) partners is stopping the epidemic and ending the tragic loss of life. Immediate action must also be taken to avoid a potential food security crisis.

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

FAO is appealing for a total of USD 12.75 million to assist nearly 70 000 farming households most affected by the outbreak in Sierra Leone.

1 SAVE LIVES BY STOPPING THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE

FAO RESPONSE STRATEGY		FAO STRATEGIC OUTPUTS IN SIERRA LEONE	USD
Output 1.1	Disease spread controlled in affected countries and prevented in at-risk countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social mobilization in rural areas through the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries agricultural extension officers. - 13 districts covered and around 70 000 rural families benefit from Ebola sensitization. 	1 500 000
Output 1.2	Preparedness and response capacities improved at national and regional levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Food Security Working Group supports partners (NGOs, donors) in reviewing their programmes to ensure alignment with the Ebola response. - Reduce risk of Ebola spill over from wildlife: Support wildlife/animal surveillance systems, epidemiological data collection and training to link disease detection to health interventions. 	150 000
TOTAL			1 650 000

2 BOOST INCOMES AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION TO SAFEGUARD LIVELIHOODS

FAO RESPONSE STRATEGY		FAO STRATEGIC OUTPUTS IN SIERRA LEONE	USD
Output 2.1	Impacts assessed in affected and neighboring countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food security and nutrition assessments including value chain analysis. 	500 000
Output 2.2	Food and nutrition security ensured or restored	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emergency crop production and harvesting: Provision of a quick start productive package to 50 000 households. - Safety nets: Innovative cash transfer programme to improve current incomes and consumption (households will receive USD 15 per month). 	7 500 000
TOTAL			8 000 000

3 REDUCE RISKS AND IMPROVE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

FAO RESPONSE STRATEGY		FAO STRATEGIC OUTPUTS IN SIERRA LEONE	USD
Output 3.3	Best practices in emergency response to EVD promoted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regenerate the income of affected farmers through improved access to markets for key agricultural commodities (including support to the formation and/or strengthening of the Farmer Based Organizations (FBOs), equipment and storage facilities and credit access [Caisse de Résilience]). - Support Farmer Field Schools (FFS) through the promotion of production and consumption of alternative sources of animal protein as alternatives to bush meat (20 000 households targeted). 	3 000 000
TOTAL			3 000 000

4 STRENGTHEN COORDINATION FOR IMPROVED RESPONSE

FAO RESPONSE STRATEGY		FAO STRATEGIC OUTPUTS IN SIERRA LEONE	USD
Output 4.1	Regional and national actions coordinated for effective rapid response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination and exchange of experience between relevant partners (NGOs, ministries and the UN system). 	100 000
TOTAL			100 000
GRAND TOTAL			12 750 000

IMPLEMENTATION MODALITY

This programme will be implemented in close partnership with the Government of Sierra Leone, particularly the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security (MAFF), the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, and relevant stakeholders working across the entire food chain, including strong partnerships with the UN system and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs). Programme implementation will be guided by the existing mutual accountability framework and Ebola response structures (National Ebola Response Centre at central and district levels and the Presidential Task Force). FAO is currently partnering with international NGOs such as *Action Contre la Faim*, Concern Worldwide, Congressional Research Service, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit*, Sustainable Nutrition and Agriculture Promotion (SNAP), Plan International and Welthungerhilfe.

FAO is strategically positioned to coordinate the implementation of this programme owing to its technical competence and experience in providing assistance to the MAFF, particularly in regards to the planning, implementation and coordination of agricultural programmes in the country.

In addition, FAO has the institutional capacities necessary to successfully implement the proposed activities, especially in terms of coordinating the activities of its partners to achieve its objectives. The implementation of the proposed activities will be directly supported by the FAO Resilience Hub for West Africa with the operational and technical support from the FAO Regional Office for Africa and FAO headquarters.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE AND BENEFICIARIES

In line with the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) plan, and following the recent joint rapid food security assessment, crop assessment and other food security and livelihoods studies, FAO will directly target 70 000 rural households (approximately 349 092 people) nationwide. The volume and prioritization of support will be based on the prevalence of EVD and the impact the programme is expected to have on agricultural activities in each district. At least 30 percent of beneficiaries will be women.

The current intervention plan will focus on 13 districts in the most severely affected areas of Bo, Bombali, Kailahun, Kenema, and Port Loko, supporting 10 percent of rural households in those areas. In the less severely affected districts of Bonthe, Kambia, Koinadugu, Kono, Moyamba, Pujehun, Tonkoli and Western Rural, five percent of farming households will be supported.



Food and Agriculture
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REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

WEST AFRICA

OCTOBER 2014 – DECEMBER 2015

EBOLA

VIRUS DISEASE
OUTBREAK



BACKGROUND

The outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) has severely affected Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, resulting in tragic loss of life and adversely impacting their economic and social activities. Other countries in the sub-region are at high risk of virus incursion (Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal) or have already reported cases of the virus in their countries (Mali, Nigeria and Senegal).

The outbreak has proven to have a significant impact on security, economies and livelihoods in affected countries and across West Africa. In particular, it affects the agricultural sector, threatens the livelihoods of rural communities and jeopardizes food security. A multidimensional and multi-sector approach is required to contain the outbreak and stabilize affected areas while safeguarding against a long-term food security crisis.

STRATEGIC RESPONSE

To fight zoonoses such as EVD, "One Health" represents a holistic vision to address complex challenges that threaten human and animal health, food security, poverty and the environment where diseases flourish. With the EVD outbreak, these problems threaten West Africa's health and economic well-being including regional trade. The objective of this approach is to achieve food and health security by strengthening veterinary and animal production systems so they can better monitor the threat of disease and ensure the health of livestock and the environment in which they are raised. FAO will promote this approach among related international organizations (OIE, WHO) and regional (ECOWAS/WAHO) and national structures.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme and other actors working in food security will ensure a timely and effective emergency response to the EVD outbreak through strengthened coordination at regional and country levels. This will: (i) enhance the effectiveness of humanitarian action, based on an ethical obligation and accountability to the populations affected by the outbreak; (ii) acknowledge diversity as an asset of the humanitarian community; (iii) recognize the interdependence among humanitarian organizations; and (iv) ensure commitment to building and nurturing effective partnerships.

FAO and partners have begun establishing a system to coordinate regional and national food security response. To ensure a holistic approach, FAO will contribute to the approaches of the Food Security Cluster, including:

- supporting the Regional Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) in Dakar, Senegal to oversee regional coordination; and
- contributing to established national food security and nutrition mechanisms in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, including support to clusters should new units be activated.

The response to the EVD outbreak is nationally led and owned. To support this country-led response, the regional FSNWG will be the platform whereupon food security needs are analyzed and disseminated to all relevant stakeholders for appropriate response targeting. FAO will work closely with FSNWG and the other clusters. The regional and national teams will participate in coordination and inter-cluster meetings and crosscutting issue-related meetings.

The FSNWG will ensure that all elements of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee project cycle are coordinated, including assessments, data analysis, response analysis, accountability to affected populations and monitoring and evaluation. Resilience-building activities will be promoted at the onset of operations, ensuring a smooth transition from emergency response to recovery.

The regional activities detailed below are in line with FAO's overall response strategy and are part of the Response Programme to the EVD outbreak in West Africa.

FAO is appealing for a total of USD 2.15 million to reduce risks and improve early warning systems and support coordination of regional and national activities, reinforce technical and operational capacities and ensure that crucial information is shared at regional level.

3 REDUCE RISKS AND IMPROVE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

FAO RESPONSE STRATEGY		FAO STRATEGIC OUTPUTS	USD
Output 3.1	National and regional early warning systems developed to identify Ebola virus in wildlife and trigger response	- Promotion of a 'One Health' approach as a multidisciplinary mechanism to address threats and reduce risks of detrimental infectious diseases at the animal-human-ecosystem interface.	750 000
TOTAL			750 000

4 STRENGTHEN COORDINATION FOR IMPROVED RESPONSE

FAO REGIONAL RESPONSE STRATEGY		FAO STRATEGIC OUTPUTS AT A REGIONAL LEVEL	USD
Output 4.1	Regional and national actions coordinated for effective rapid response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation with stakeholders, and lead data collection processes at various levels, including analysis, mainly in regards to food security, socioeconomics and nutrition. - Continue monitoring of the situation and its impact on food security, price fluctuations, agricultural production and trade, and provide timely and scientifically-sound analysis for stakeholders. - Reinforce a functional regional network of existing information networks and working groups, in order to ensure timely regional information exchange while serving as a participatory platform for regional coordination. This includes liaison with the Food Security Cluster, the Office of Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) and ad hoc groups established at country and regional levels. - Conduct regional and interregional consultations in order to target and streamline food security analysis efforts mainly on the impact of EVD on major agricultural products' value chains and mitigation measures identification, including transboundary dimensions. - Identify and promote best practices in response to EVD for restoring resilient livelihoods and reducing risk of exposure. - Identify risk areas and vulnerable populations (mapping of at-risk areas) providing direct support for the collection and analysis of epidemiological, environmental, demographic and socioanthropological data. 	750 000
Output 4.2	Technical and operational capacities reinforced	- Provide surge support to countries and facilitate exchange of experience and harmonization of methodologies through a pool of experts in food security, disaster risk reduction, nutrition, animal health, epidemiology, anthropology, communication and operations.	400 000
Output 4.3	Critical information shared rapidly and communication ensured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Share food security updates and briefing notes with donors, partners and the general public. - Collect, collate and disseminate information and analysis on the immediate and longer-term consequences of the crisis on the agri-food sector, agro-ecosystems and the people depending on them, particularly those which are most vulnerable. 	250 000
TOTAL			1 400 000
GRAND TOTAL			2 150 000

EBOLA

VIRUS DISEASE
OUTBREAK

FAO REGIONAL RESPONSE PROGRAMME | WEST AFRICA

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