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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Ghana: Yellow Fever Outbreak

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRGH005
GLIDE n° EP-2011-000178-GHA
6 December, 2011

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 86,464 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 100,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary:

The cases of Yellow fever being detected in Ghana have been on the rise for the last six weeks according to the WHO reports on Ghana. As of November 18th 2011, three regions (Upper west, Northern and Greater Accra) are affected, with eight cases and one recorded death. The Ghana Health Service is covering the affected regions along with other

regions that are considered at higher risk of disease as preventive measures of controlling the spread.

The Ghana Red Cross Society with its immense volunteer base intends to implement activities primarily in the field of Social Mobilisation, to support and complement the efforts of the Ghana Health Services and other partners to help curb the spread of the yellow fever epidemic.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by 5 March, 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by June, 2012).

[<click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details; here to view a map of the affected area>](#)



Ghana Red Cross Society volunteers working with communities to raise their awareness on health and hygiene / Ghana Red Cross Society photo

The situation

The cases of Yellow fever in Ghana have been on the rise. The Upper West Region of Ghana recorded the first yellow fever cases in November, 2011, in Wa Municipality, Jirapa and Wa East Districts. Subsequently, cases were recorded in Ledzokuku in the Greater Accra Region and Nadowli in the Upper West Region. As of November 18th 2011, one person has been confirmed dead in the Sawla Kalba district of the Northern Region. As indicated in the table below, three regions are therefore affected with eight cases and one recorded death. The Ghana Health Service is covering the affected regions and other regions that are considered at higher risk of disease as preventive measures of controlling the spread.

Summary of yellow fever cases in high-risk districts

Region	No high-risk Districts	No communities	No of cases	No of deaths
Greater Accra Region	2	10	3	-
Brong Ahafo region	1	5	-	-
Eastern region	1	5	-	-
Asante region	1	5	-	-
Central region,	1	5	-	-
Western region	1	5	-	-
Northern region	2	10	2	1
Upper west region	5	30	3	-
Total	14	75	8	1

The last yellow fever outbreak recorded in Ghana was in 2005 in the Jirapa district in the upper West Region. The outbreak lasted for two months, with one confirmed case and 10 suspected cases. The Ghana Health Service carried out district-wide vaccination during the time of the outbreak.

To check the spread during the current outbreak, the Ghana Health Service / Ministry of Health is embarking on both reactive and preventive mass campaigns to check the spread of the deadly disease and to safeguard the health of all by planning Sub-National Days against yellow fever in two phases involving fifty-six districts: The first phase will target 42 districts and the second, 14 high risk districts in the high risk regions in the country.

Participating regions for the first phase (22nd of November to 28th November) include the Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Central, Eastern, Greater Accra, Northern, Upper West and Western regions. Ghana Red Cross Society took part, accompanying Ghana Health Service volunteers to facilitate social mobilisation.

The second phase will continue in December 2011 and end in February 2012, focussing on awareness creation in 75 vulnerable communities in 14 districts and targeting women and children in particular.

The Ghana Red Cross Society intends to achieve its objectives by embarking on educating the communities on health, sanitation and promotion of LLIN use through its network of Chapters, Mothers' Clubs and Youth Links. The DREF will support the Ghana Red Cross Society to train 260 Volunteers to mobilise communities for the second phase vaccination.

Coordination and partnerships

The Ghana Red Cross Society is a member of the Emergency Health Committee and also the Epidemic Management Committee set up by the Health Sector Emergency preparedness and response Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Health, and has been assigned the lead role in social mobilization during emergencies. The GRCS will also be collaborating with the Ghana Health Services, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA who are also members of the Epidemic Management Committee.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Ghana Red Cross Society, as the lead agency in social mobilization in emergencies, has mobilized 5,000 volunteers in the affected districts to assist the GHS staff to conduct house-to-house health education, case tracing and clean up campaigns. The national society hopes to intensify its humanitarian activities by mobilizing and training her volunteers in the most vulnerable communities. The volunteers will be equipped and deployed to carry out house-to-house sensitization activities on good hygiene and sanitation practices,

risk factors prevention and control, uptake of yellow fever vaccination, symptoms identification and steps to take if a case is detected as well as early referral to health facilities.

The International Federation, through its delegation in Abuja, Nigeria, continues to work closely with the National Society by supporting its staff and volunteers in all activities of the Red Cross and ensuring that management as well as operational issues are directed and implemented within the principles and core values of the Red Cross Movement to reach the needs of the most vulnerable.

The needs

Selection of people to be reached:

The beneficiaries of this operation are 20,000 families from 75 most vulnerable communities in 14 districts.

Summary table for second phase

Region	No. target Districts	No communities	Expected volunteers to be trained for the 2 nd phase
Greater Accra Region	3	15	60
Brong Ahafo region	1	5	20
Eastern region	1	5	20
Asante region	1	5	20
Central region,	1	5	20
Western region	1	5	20
Northern region	2	10	20
Upper west region	3	20	60
Total	14	75	260

These regions were chosen because they are the participating regions for the first phase of the Sub-National immunization days against yellow fever, and include regions where the cases of yellow fever have been seen. The Red Cross volunteers are basically engaged in social mobilization and community sensitization for the first phase immunization. In the phase, 260 volunteers will be trained to support the Ghana Health Service for immunization, hygiene promotion and health education. The communities at large as well as Red Cross volunteers and staff shall benefit from the operation through health education and training in the prevention and response to epidemics. Red Cross volunteers from local branches who are community based are being used for the operation because of their knowledge of the culture and traditions of the community. This will enable them to effectively penetrate the community during the exercise. Priority needs being addressed are for health and hygiene education.

The proposed operation

Emergency health

Outcome: 75 most vulnerable communities have increased their resilience to yellow fever outbreaks.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of the districts visited by the Red Cross have contained the spread of Yellow Fever and the population are aware of the epidemics. All Red Cross activities are implemented in a coordinated way thus avoiding duplication of services with other actors. Red Cross experience is also shared with others at coordination meetings and during surveillance, reporting, response and advocacy activities at the national and district levels; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate actively at coordination meetings at the national and local levels in order to obtain the relevant statistics; Collaboration with the MoH and GHS, WHO, UNICEF, and other members of the EMC in efforts to engage in community yellow fever prevention activities such as surveillance, referrals, sensitization, education and immunization (vaccination). Train 10 regional managers on epidemic control for volunteers (ECV) tool kit including case

	<p>surveillance and case referral</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train 260 Red Cross volunteers from 14 districts on hygiene and sanitation, contact tracing and case referral. • Distribute IEC materials to volunteers (100posters per community and 100 leaflets per community); • Collaboration with the MoH and GHS, WHO, UNICEF, and other members of the EMC in efforts to engage in community yellow fever prevention activities such as surveillance, referrals, sensitization, education • Promote and respect the fundamental principles of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement. • Mobilize target population for uptake of the vaccination in the second phase. • Deployment of an RDRT Health Specialist to support the operation for two months.
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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)

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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DREF OPERATION

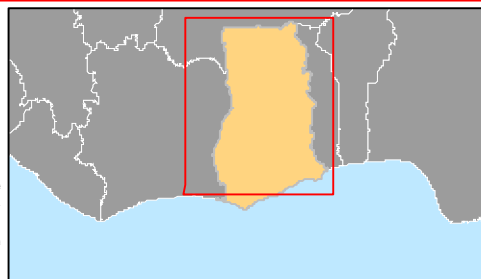
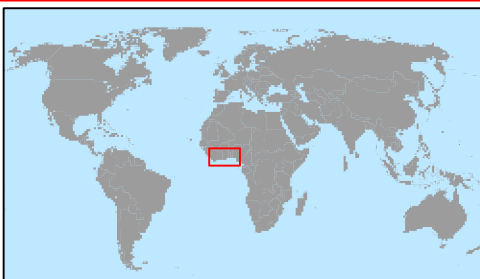
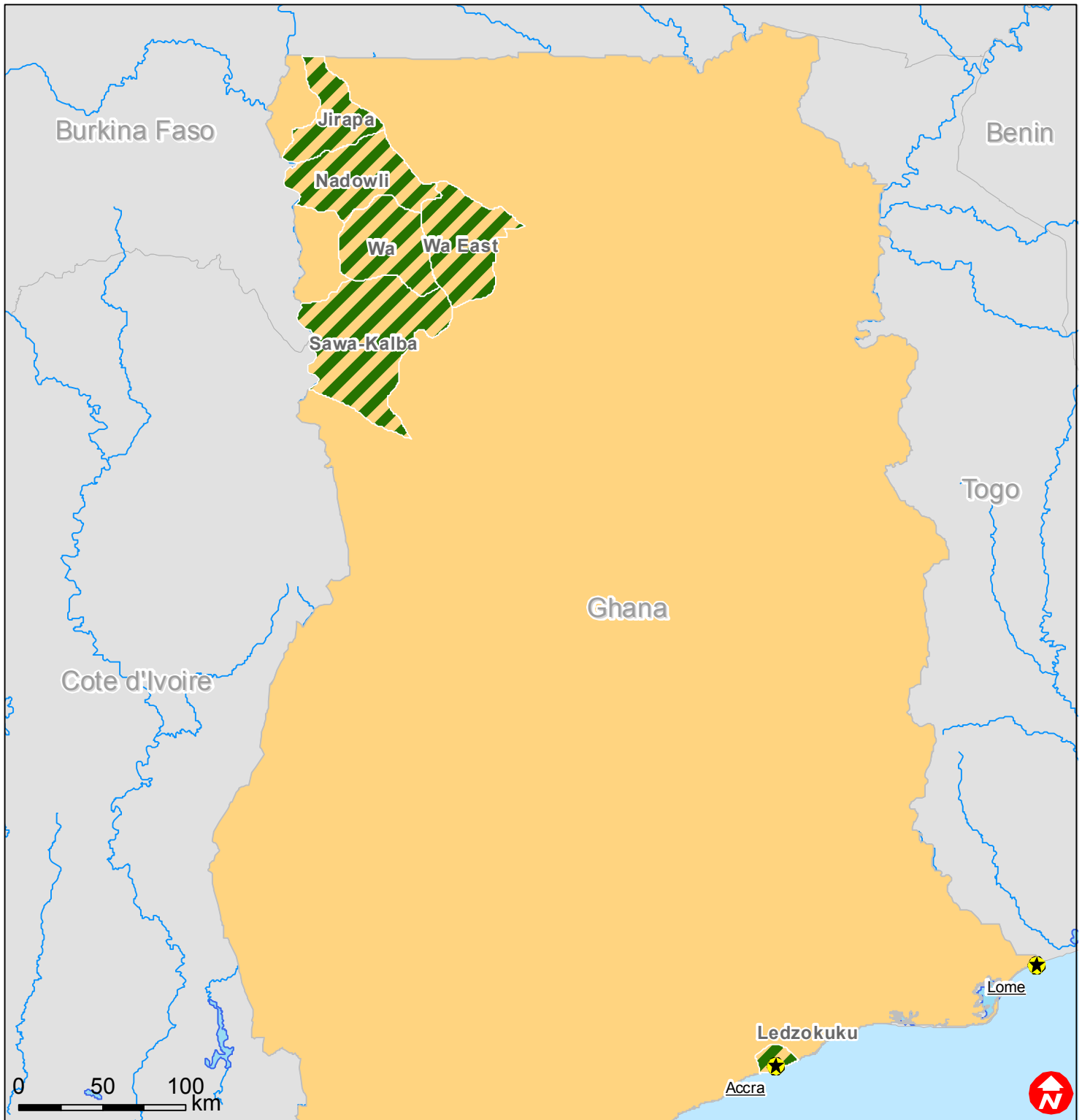
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Ghana: Yellow Fever Outbreak (MDRGH005)

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	0
Teaching Materials	0
Ustensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	0
Emergency Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	0
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles Purchase	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machiney & Equipment	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	0
Dsitribution & Monitoring	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	3,775
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	3,775
International Staff	12,300
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	0
Volunteers	4,420
Total PERSONNEL	16,720
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	12,700
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	12,700
Travel	13,760
Information & Public Relations	33,279
Office Costs	0
Communications	294
Financial Charges	59
Other General Expenses	600
Shared Support Services	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	47,992
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	5,277
Total INDIRECT COSTS	5,277
TOTAL BUDGET	86,464



Ghana: Epidemic



 Affected districts