

Ebola Epidemic In Coastal West Africa Responses taken by Caritas Member Organizations in the heavily affected countries and in the surrounding countries

CI ERT – November 4, 2014

Caritas Internationalis has launched 4 Emergency Appeals (EAs) to support the intervention of its Member Organisations in Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

OCPH-Caritas Guinée:

- 1st phase budget: ca EUR 160,000.
- 2nd phase budget: ca EUR 480,000.

Caritas Sierra Leone:

- 1st phase budget: ca EUR 300,000.
- 2nd phase in preparation (ca EUR 750,000 tbc).

Caritas Liberia:

- 1st phase budget: ca EUR 900,000

Caritas Sierra Leone - Phase 1



Training

In the Dioceses of Bo, Kenema, Makeni, and Freetown, the diocesan Caritas organizations have conducted training sessions for priests, catechists, teachers, nurses, Catholic youths, with facilitation by the District Health Management Teams.

Prayer

In all Catholic Churches, parishes, and outstations, the Church has integrated a religious dimension to the response, by organizing prayer, fasting, and preaching sermons on Ebola.

Caritas Sierra Leone - Phase 1



Parish-based Activities

- In the Diocese of Bo, Freetown and Kenema, small group trainings, sensitizations and house-to-house focus discussions have been organized across the various districts and parishes.
- Distribution of hygiene material to 3,600 households: buckets, chlorine and soap.

Coordination

- with Ministry of Health & Sanitation.
- with WFP for food distribution.
- in-Country Caritas organisations (CRS, CAFOD, TROCAIRE) and Caritas Italiana.

Caritas Sierra Leone

Next Phase



- Continuation with prevention programmes at community levels.
- Psychosocial and material assistance to quarantined people (food & hygiene kits).
- Medical supplies (including PPE) to Catholic Health Centres.
- Support care centres for orphans and separated children.

OCPH-Caritas Guinée Conakry



The OCPH (Organisation Catholique pour la Promotion Humaine) – Caritas Guinea started its intervention in April 2014 in coordination with UNICEF to assist 14,400 HHs in the most affected areas.

1st Phase of Caritas Guinea's response: completed from April to September 2014 in 5 districts.

2nd Phase: started in September in 13 districts.

Caritas Guinea

Emergency Response to Ebola – Phase 1

- Prevention kits (water containers, soap, chlorine, rehydration salts) to 6,000 households (42,000 people) and in 50 public places.
- PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) kits for 55 health care workers.
- home visits to 9,250 households reaching more than 64.000 people in 59 villages.
- 10 training sessions for 55 Caritas agents and 50 religious and community leaders to prepare for community awareness sessions.
- 2980 community awareness sessions.
- 5 parish early warning teams established.
- Dissemination of more than 3,500 public health messages thru the mass media outlets and of Bulk SMS messages to 1 million people.

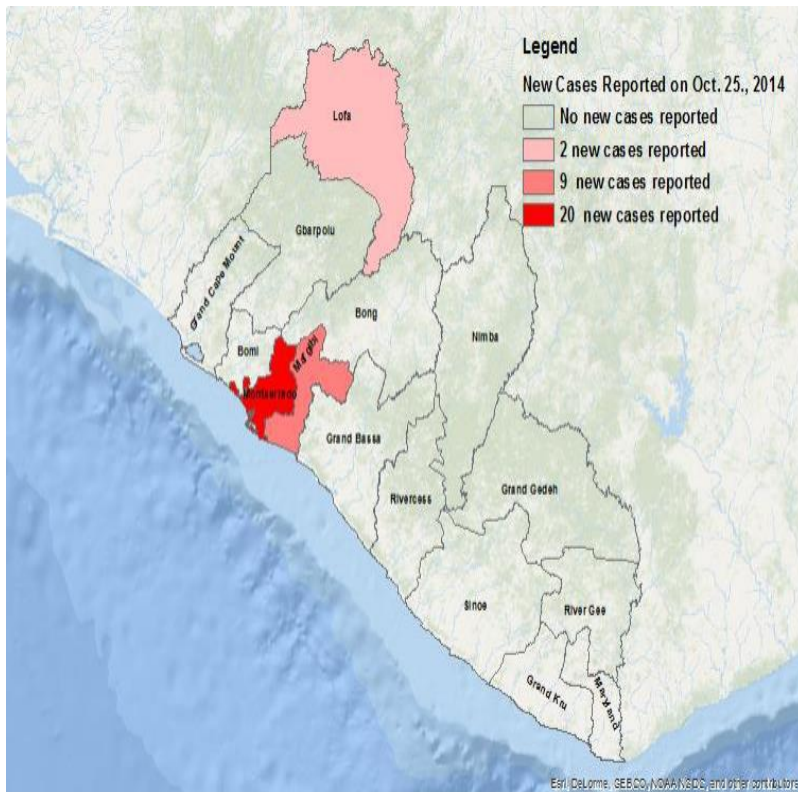
Caritas Guinea

Emergency Response to Ebola – Phase 2

- Provision of food rations to at least 1,250 people in quarantine/affected.
- Continuation of community awareness sessions for approx. 60,000 people thru home visits made by 153 Caritas agents.
- Provision of prevention kits to 8,460 households and in 120 public places.
- Focus group discussions, audio-visual presentations, radio-TV talk shows.
- Strengthening of community early alert systems to identify new cases of infection and to monitor people at risk (one monitoring team in each of 120 targeted villages).
- Increasing visibility of Caritas Guinea's intervention.

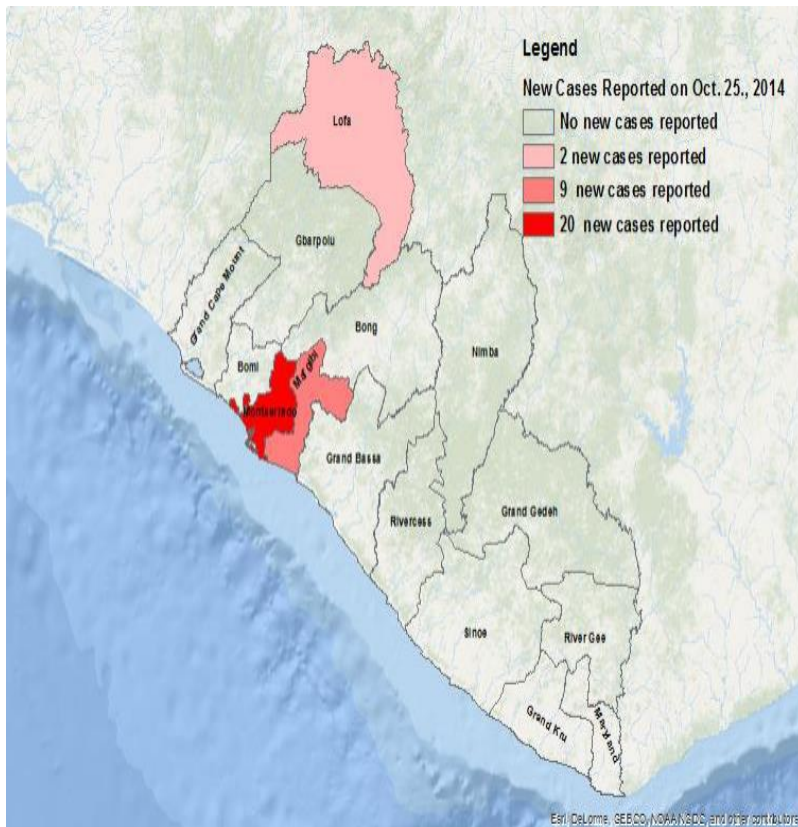
- Coordination with and support from UN Agencies (WFP, UNICEF) and CRS/Guinea.
- CRS/Guinea: training of health care workers and provision of PPE.

Caritas Liberia – Emergency Response Phase 1



- Training sessions with community mobilizers and focus group discussions with opinion leaders for public education.
- Social mobilisation: awareness campaign in parishes throughout the country.
- Psychosocial & trauma counseling to cope with stigmatization;
- Hygiene (soap, buckets, chlorine) and IEC (info/educ/comm) material to 4,800 HHs.
- Provision of food to 3,000 HHs.
- Human rights & aid monitoring and advocacy.

Catholic Health Council in Liberia



- Maintaining ongoing Catholic health services (14 of 17 facilities are functional). Plans to re-open Catholic Hospital in Monrovia + one additional clinic.
- Training sessions for health care and non-health care workers on four key areas:
 - support to those who have recovered from the disease;
 - prevention and community outreach;
 - reopening and care of Catholic health centers;
 - pastoral support at burial sites.
- Collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. With CRS for the recovery of health care centres.

Preparedness in the surrounding countries

Mapping of Caritas' activities in West and Central Africa:

- **Caritas Benin** – Ebola Prevention Project in coordination with CRS.
- **Caritas Burkina Faso** – EVD Contingency Plan in coordination with Misereor and the Medical Mission Institute in Germany.
- **Caritas Ivory Coast** – Prevention and community sensitization in coordination with UNICEF.
- **Caritas Gambia** – Sensitization and awareness raising in parishes and health centres in coordination with the Health Ministry.
- **Caritas Ghana** – Bishops' statement disseminated thru the media. Ebola Alert Action Plan in coordination with CRS.
- **Caritas Mali** – preparation of a Contingency Plan in coordination with the Canadian NGO “Relations Publiques Sans Frontières” (RPSF).

Preparedness in the surrounding countries

Mapping of Caritas' activities in West and Central Africa:

- **Caritas Nigeria** – participated in elaboration of the National Contingency Plan. Pastoral Letter issued by the Bishops. Project on awareness and sensitization submitted to OFDA thru CRS.
- **Caritas Chad** – Dissemination of the statement signed by the Bishop President in coordination with CRS and Misereor. Participation in the elaboration of the National Contingency Plan.
- **Caritas Togo** – Project for raising awareness and community sensitization.
- **Caritas Senegal** – Dissemination of prevention material with the Health Ministry and WHO. Participation in the elaboration of the National Plan. Coordination with the Medical Mission Institute and Misereor.

Impact of the Ebola Epidemic on Food Security in West Africa

- Restrictions on population movement. Social stigma.
- Market closures. Rising of food prices.
- Below average harvests and households incomes.
- Disruption to markets and livelihoods: in all three countries - Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia - many people live of subsistence farming. Many farmers are not able to plant for the new season.
- Deterioration in the nutritional quality of HHs diets.
- Food Insecurity is expected from March 2015 onwards.
- Contingency planning for emergency food assistance.

Thank You!

For further information:

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