

PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE (EVD) FOR 5 HIGH RISK DISTRICTS IN RWANDA

0. INTRODUCTION

The MUGA Foundation, is a regional non-governmental and non-profit organization created in 2007 which has the mission to contribute to the improvement of the socio-economic situation of the most deprived and marginalized especially the children and the women to develop their active and valuable participation in family and community life. It works in the Great Lakes country region (Rwanda, Burundi and DRC), with headquarters in Kigali, Republic of Rwanda.

The Muga Foundation works with the authorization of the State institutions or Ministries with the NGOs in its attributions of the intervention countries mentioned above. It has already carried out actions of support to the most deprived and marginalized populations by offering them services aiming at restoring their dignity and promoting their social integration (schools, health, water, hygiene and sanitation, food self-sufficiency etc.), It has already carried out several actions in favor of the most deprived and marginalized in different fields. In its vision, the foundation wants to see the poor and marginalized become people of better future to stable, dignified, autonomous and spiritual life.

You heard that nearly a year after the Ebola outbreak began in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the number of new cases has reached worrying levels, alerted the United Nations. Since August 2018, more than 1,650 people have died from the virus, and about 12 new cases are reported each day.

As of 15 august 2019, the death of the person because of Ebola has been confirmed in Goma and Bukavu, a city of more than four million people located south of the epicenter of the epidemic at zero km from the city of Gisenyi and Rusizi of Rwanda. "Identifying the case in Goma could potentially change the game in the fight against the epidemic," said Dr Tedros, the Director-General of WHO.

As the Ebola epidemic is still limited to North Kivu and Ituri, two provinces bordering Rwanda and Uganda for the first and Uganda and South Sudan for the second, the response is at a critical juncture. WHO estimates that the risk of spread within these provinces and neighboring DRC countries is very high.

1. BACKGROUND

Ebola virus disease (formerly known as Ebola hemorrhagic fever) is a serious, often fatal disease in humans. The average case fatality rate is around 50%. During previous outbreaks, rates ranged from 25% to 90%.

For several years, Ebola has been disproportionately impacting our continent, especially the people of Central and West Africa, causing huge losses in human lives and causing considerable economic losses in contexts of extreme poverty.

Many observers note that the ravages caused by this epidemic reflect the weakness of our health systems, unable to respond to such shocks, while others highlight the difficulty of partners to coordinate their actions. The Democratic Republic of Congo, our neighboring country, is facing its tenth Ebola outbreak. Each new epidemic provokes a series of similar reactions: mobilization of care providers and technical and financial partners, deployment of huge material and human resources, mobilization of the media, etc.

The current outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) poses a high risk of introduction into neighboring countries including Rwanda. An Ebola outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo is likely spread over 1 of kilometers to Rwanda.

Countries with land borders adjoining the DRC like Rwanda have been advised by the World Health Organization (WHO) to urgently strengthen their surveillance and alert systems for early detection of potential cases, and overall preparedness for timely and effective response.

This 10-month project aims to intervene in Rwanda's high-risk districts, in order to support the efforts of the Rwandan authorities and the international community and to reduce the risks of the spread of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1. Overall objective

Inform, sensitize and educate the populations of 5 High Risk Districts in Rwanda and surrounding areas on the prevention and fight against the spread of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in 10 months.

2.2. Specific objectives:

- Organize monthly community awareness campaigns at village level in 5 high-risk districts on the prevention of EVD to reach 281,100 people;
- Organize 80 days of reflection in each sector to reach 4,000 people;
- Train 2,811 peer educators on EVD prevention;
- Produce 84,330 information leaflets on EVD;
- Fix 30 billboard carrying the messages of prevention of EVD;
- Prepare and broadcast 70 shows on national and / or community radio and television.

3. THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROJECT

The population (1,787,911) of 5 districts of Rwanda at high risk by the EVD namely: Musanze, Rusizi, Rubavu, Gicumbi and Nyagatare.

4. PROJECT PERIOD

Ten months

5. GLOBAL AMOUNT OF FUNDING

\$ 47,960

6. SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

The project contains 4 activities:

1. Day of reflection
2. Training of peer educators
3. Community Awareness
4. Radio and television broadcasts
5. Fixing the billboards

6.1. Day of reflection

Under the theme "Prevention and fight against EVD spread", a day of reflection will bring together political, administrative and military authorities, judicial authorities, police, neighborhood leaders, UN agencies, international and national NGOs. to arrive at recommendations and involvement of all participants to prevent the spread of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

6.2. Peer educator training

Peer educator trainings will organize village-level health advisers to prevent the spread of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) to facilitate the establishment of village watch committees in the 5 high-risk districts. A training session will last three days, 2,811 will be trained as peer educators.

6.3. Community awareness

Awareness campaigns will be planned especially during the day of community work and in public circles (schools, markets, train stations, hospitals, ...). This sensitization will concern the public milieus of 5 districts of Rwanda at high risk by the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) namely: Musanze, Rusizi, Rubavu, Gicumbi and Nyagatare.

Brochures and picture boxes will be used as teaching aids to show the circumstances under which EVD is spreading, the causes, the consequences and above all to teach them how to protect themselves.

6.4. Radio and television show

To educate the people of the said districts and surrounding areas, radio and television broadcasts will broadcast on TV Rwanda and on community radios to inform, raise awareness and educate on the prevention of the spread of EVD and to provide information on this epidemic.

6.5. Billboard

Signs will be erected in the streets and will carry messages and images of information about Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and how to protect themselves.

7. EXPECTED RESULTS

- 4,000 people will participate in the reflection day on the theme "prevent the spread of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)" and will be set resolutions;
- 2,811 peer educators will be trained on EVD prevention;
- 281,100 people will be sensitized and educated on the protection and prevention of the spread of EVD;
- 70 broadcasts and television broadcasts (+ reruns) will reach about 1,500,000 people of Musanze, Rusizi, Rubavu, Gicumbi and Nyagatare and its surroundings;
- 30 billboards planted on the most frequented places carrying awareness messages will be reached almost 1,500,000 passers;
- 84,330 leaflets will be produced with the information on the EVD;
- 2,811 village watch committees will be installed.

8. IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

8.1. Direct beneficiaries

This project will target as direct beneficiaries the population of Musanze, Rusizi, Rubavu, Gicumbi and Nyagatare and its surroundings.

Some authorities will realize the need to do their job well and will put the resolutions of the retreat into practice. The reflection day will awaken somehow authorities who will be involved. Some will be started implementing some of the resolutions. It is a remarkable

step even if some obstacles are still observed. The spread of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) does not seem to be an epidemic as it was in time.

Parents, neighbors, basic authorities, will mobilize little by little to denounce.

8.2. Other beneficiaries

The indirect beneficiaries will be the population of the affected areas (Bukavu and Goma in the DRC), the high-risk districts of Rwanda and its environs.

The population continues to travel and with knowledge on the prevention of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

9. OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE

Set up a committee to follow resolutions of the reflection day. Continue with broadcasts, awareness, posters, billboards seminars until everyone understands and gets involved.

10. CONTACT

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