



COMMUNITY EPIDEMIC & PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

Communities at the heart of our work

Epidemics begin and end in communities. When communities are engaged and trained in epidemic preparedness and response, they can find and stop outbreaks which will ultimately save lives, restore services and help build resilience.

Early detection, early action

In today's connected world, disease outbreaks can spread faster and more unpredictably than ever before. Emerging infectious diseases are having a devastating public health and economic burden on communities around the world.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has long focused on helping communities prepare and respond to health emergencies. Through an innovative project, supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), IFRC is scaling up community epidemic and pandemic preparedness in eight "pilot" countries.

Through our powerful network of millions of volunteers globally, we're helping strengthen ability of communities and other partners to prepare prevent, detect and respond to diseases.

Strengthening preparedness in eight countries



1 **Cameroon**

2 **Democratic Republic of Congo**

3 **Guinea**

4 **Indonesia**

5 **Kenya**

6 **Mali**

7 **Sierra Leone**

8 **Uganda**



Our approach



Preparing communities

We are ensuring communities have basic information about the spread of diseases and how to prevent them, simple and effective systems to detect outbreaks, and communications mechanisms that ensure timely information sharing and community engagement. Activities include:

- Engaging communities with critical health information and epidemics prevention and response.
- Strengthening community-based surveillance systems
- Engaging, training and collaborating with community influencers, such as religious leaders and traditional healers.



Preparing first responders

Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies have extraordinary reach in communities. In their supporting role to governments, they are often central to emergency responses amid outbreaks. We are working to strengthen their epidemic preparedness and response capacity. Activities include:

- Contingency planning with government and key partners.
- Strengthening systems to enable a fast, scaled-up response.
- Training and readying community-based volunteers.



Preparing stakeholders

Epidemics not only threaten lives but all aspects of society, including food production, trade, transportation and education. We work with private sector and other key stakeholders like religious leaders and the media in epidemic preparedness and response. Activities include:

- Business preparedness planning.
- Mapping critical data that will help responders make informed decisions when a health crisis hits.
- Train media to communicate lifesaving information to affected populations and prevent sharing incorrect information or rumors.



“

I am proud that the community trusts me already and in case of any suspicions, I am the first one they call. The response so, so fast. This is what makes me proud.

”

Mugenyi Adam, Volunteer with Uganda Red Cross

More information: <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/community-epidemic-pandemic-preparedness>

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