



Overview of the Ebola Crisis and Response

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As the Ebola crisis in Eastern DRC and surrounding areas continues to spread, U.S.-based international nonprofits are on the frontlines of responding. Whether in partnership with the U.S. government, the United Nations, or with funds raised from the American public, their efforts are critical to the fight against the spread of this disease.

This crisis is unfolding in communities already facing conflict, displacement, hunger and limited healthcare resources. In Ituri province alone, there are more than 1 million internally displaced people living in overcrowded sites with a lack of clean water and high malnutrition rates. To compound this, the outbreak is of a rare strain of Ebola, for which there is no approved vaccine or treatment. These conditions make this outbreak more difficult to contain and leave vulnerable families with limited options for care.

The Role of American Nonprofits¹

American nonprofits are trusted partners and service providers across Africa, with decades of experience as frontline health providers. Working hand-in-hand with local communities, these organizations are often best positioned to respond quickly and efficiently—leveraging established relationships, local knowledge, and community trust.

Here are some examples of how American nonprofits, all members of InterAction, are responding.

CARE: CARE is working to raise community awareness of the disease how it spreads, distributing medical supplies to health facilities, distributing hygiene kits, training healthcare workers, and strengthening disease surveillance. In Uganda, CARE is supporting the Ministry of Health’s Ebola preparedness measures, including screening and surveillance at points of entry, rapid response readiness in high-risk districts, infection prevention and control, and public health communication.

Catholic Relief Services: CRS is working alongside local partners, including the local church, and health authorities to provide community workers with protective equipment and practical support to respond to the outbreak. The organization is providing hand-washing stations and hand sanitizer to churches, schools, health centers and other

¹ Note: This list is not exhaustive and represents examples of American nonprofit responses

community spaces, as well as supporting educational efforts on how Ebola spreads and when to seek care.

Corus/IMA World Health: Corus/IMA is supporting the Ministry of Health in DRC through donations of protective equipment and to assess any gaps at health facilities that could increase the risk of infections. They are also working on community engagement activities, reaching more than 200,000 people in target communities to share key messages on how to prevent the spread of Ebola. In partnership with the State Department, Corus/IMA is supporting the Ministry of Health to strengthen contact tracing and surveillance capabilities.

FHI 360: Working with U.S. support, FHI 360 is leveraging existing projects in the region to deploy surge technical and logistical support in collaboration with other partners and in coordination with the governments of DRC and Uganda. Initial work includes personal protective equipment (PPE) procurement, support for laboratory system strengthening, sample transportation, Infection Prevention and Control training and protocols, and Risk Communication and Community Engagement support. With support from the Department of State, FHI 360 is working alongside national governments and global partners to help strengthen infection prevention and control, support case investigation and contact tracing, enable safe and dignified burials, and move essential supplies to where they are needed most.

International Medical Corps: Through its U.S.-funded LEARN project, International Medical Corps has deployed rapid response support for Ebola across the region. In the DRC, it operates Ebola Treatment Centers, delivering case management, screening, triage, and infection prevention and control. In South Sudan, it supports Infectious Disease Units and trains healthcare workers on EVD and IPC. Across DRC, South Sudan, and Uganda (through partners), IMC strengthens facility-based screening, surveillance, risk communication, and preparedness, while coordinating with ministries of health and partners to ensure effective case management, referrals, logistics, training, continuity of care, and WASH services.

International Rescue Committee: IRC has deployed emergency teams to DRC and Uganda, working with the Ministries of Health. In DRC, they are repairing health facilities and isolation areas, sanitation and hygiene in high traffic public spaces, and supporting community committees to monitor and help identify cases more rapidly. They are also focusing on psychosocial support for women, children and marginalized groups managing the impacts of Ebola, safeguarding of children, and assuring case management of survivors of gender-based violence. In Uganda, IRC is supporting overall response coordination and health screening along the border.

Mercy Corps: Mercy Corps has existing programs in the Ituri, North and South Kivu regions, which are the epicenter for the outbreak. They are reorienting several

ongoing activities to respond to the Ebola emergency, particularly around Water Sanitation and Hygiene services (WASH), procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE), community sensitization and large-scale messaging broadcasting. Each of these lines of effort directly supports the ability to combat the spread of the disease and provide resources to the health systems and communities managing it.

PATH: PATH has leveraged its existing U.S. government funding through the STRengthening Infectious Disease Detection Systems (STRIDES) program. PATH is a subgrantee on this project supporting targeted surveillance and coordination efforts. Through this project, PATH is deploying in Bunia helping to stand up the Emergency Operating Center there. With other sources of funding, PATH is supporting the Ministry of Health with community health workers, communications for at risk populations, and digital and data approaches to speed the response.

Project HOPE: Project HOPE is working with partners and suppliers to distribute 12 pallets of personal protective equipment and infection prevention and control materials to Uganda and the DRC. In addition, they are working closely with government officials in Uganda to support surveillance efforts and contact tracing to prevent further spread of Ebola in Uganda.

World Vision: World Vision is responding to the outbreak in DRC and Uganda, working to strengthen early detection, follow-up, and community-level readiness in affected and high-risk areas. World Vision is supporting the U.S. government response by supporting contact tracing of Ebola infected patients and other community-based surveillance preparedness activities.

iMMAP: iMMAP is strengthening the Ebola response by enhancing data-driven coordination for the Global WASH and Health Clusters. Remote support has focused on developing mapping tools and a predictive model that tracks transmission and identifies high-risk zones—successfully flagging about 60% of new outbreak areas in advance—while an interactive operational dashboard in Bunia integrates case trends, mortality data, partner presence, and risk analysis to guide real-time decision-making. Additional support is improving Health Cluster coordination through data collection, analysis, reporting, and partner guidance, contributing to more effective prioritization and overall response performance.

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