

Call for French speaking IPC specialists for deployment to Democratic Republic of Congo DRC to support the WHO Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) emergency response

Dear GIPCN Members,

Following the recent declaration by the WHO Director General that the EVD outbreak in the DRC is now a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) a more intensified response effort is required immediately. To support this effort we are calling for expressions of interest from French speaking (and that also speak English) IPC specialists that can be deployed as soon as possible to DRC for periods of several months. Please see the attached terms of reference for details of the work requiring to be done. Please note that there are two ToRs for slightly different roles.

Please note that this call is being put out via the GOARN network (see the full message below) and we are forwarding it to GIPCN members. So, if you are an IPC specialist and meet the criteria, please see the GOARN message below and click on apply, as soon as possible. The applications will be processed through the GOARN system but the WHO IPC-GU will review shortlisted candidates to check their technical competencies and experience. Please note that the GOARN contracts are non-remunerated (see attached pdf) although flights are covered and a living allowance provided.

Please circulate this within your networks and of course submit your application if you are interested and eligible

GOARN

Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network

Date: 30 July 2019

Country: Democratic Republic of the Congo

WHO Region: Africa (AFR)

Classification: Restricted – not to be disseminated outside GOARN partners

Situation update

The Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak in North Kivu and Ituri provinces in Democratic Republic of the Congo continues.

We continue to observe sustained local transmission with a large number of cases in Beni Health Zone. In addition, cases continue to be exported from Beni to other health zones via the movement of cases and their contacts.

Intensive follow-up of contacts of the confirmed case who arrived in Goma on 14 July continues. No new cases have been reported in Goma to date.

There are currently no confirmed cases of EVD outside of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

On 17 July 2019, the Director-General of WHO convened the Emergency Committee under the International Health Regulations (IHR) to review the situation on the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). It was the fourth time the Director-General convened the Committee for this event since the declaration of the outbreak in August 2018 (previous meetings were held in October 2018, April 2019, and June 2019). The Director-General accepted the Emergency Committee's recommendation that the outbreak constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). The decision was based on the recent developments in the outbreak, including the geographical expansion of the virus.

The declaration of the PHEIC is not a reflection on the performance of the response team but rather a measure that recognizes the possible increased national and regional risks and the need for intensified and coordinated action to manage them. The Committee and WHO do not recommend any restrictions on travel or trade, which can hamper the fight against Ebola by affecting the movement of people and supplies. Further information is available in the Statement on the Emergency Committee meeting, and WHO recommendations for international traffic related to the EVD outbreak.

As of 21 July 2019, a total of 2592 EVD cases, including 2498 confirmed and 94 probable cases, were reported. A total of 1743 deaths were reported (overall case fatality ratio 67%), including 1649 deaths among confirmed cases. Of the 2501 confirmed and probable cases with known age and sex, 56% (1458) were female, and 28% (737) were children aged less than 18 years. The cumulative number of health workers affected is 140 (5% of total cases).

Request for assistance – Infection Prevention and Control

The Ministry of Health (MoH) and other national authorities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, WHO, and partners are implementing several outbreak control interventions together with teams in the surrounding provinces, who are taking measures to ensure that they are response-ready.

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and WASH activities continue in health facilities and the community. Activities in health facilities currently focus on decontamination, briefing of healthcare workers on basic IPC principles, evaluation of IPC practices, and provision of supplies. In communities, teams are supporting decontamination of households where confirmed cases have stayed and provision of supplies.

Since August 2018, 10% (28/273) of nosocomial infections have occurred in Mabalako and 12% (33/273) in Beni. Of the 28 nosocomial infections in

Mabalako, 93% have occurred since 1 April 2019. Of the 33 nosocomial infections in Beni, 70% have occurred since 1 April 2019. Additionally, 20% (27/134) of healthcare worker cases occurred in Mabalako and 16% (21/134) in Beni. Of the 27 HCW cases in Mabalako, 48% have been reported since 1 April 2019. Of the 21 HCW cases in Beni, 33% have been reported since 1 April 2019.

Considering these developments, this GOARN Request for assistance (RFA) is focusing on strengthening Infection Prevention and Control pillar in the response.

GOARN is seeking support from partner institutions to help identify senior IPC specialists for the following 2 functions:

- Nosocomial Infection Focal Point
- Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Supervision Focal Point

Detailed terms of reference are attached to this RFA.

Experts will be based in outbreak hotspot areas, including Beni. Both positions will work in close collaboration with other members of the team, WHO Country Office in DRC, Ministry of Health and Operational Partners in the field.

Requirements

| Description | Essential requirements | Desired |
|------------------------|---|--|
| Education and training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First level university degree or equivalent in a relevant discipline. - Specialist education and/or training and/or certification in infection prevention and control. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Postgraduate degree in relevant discipline, or equivalent in experience. - Demonstrated knowledge of infection prevention and control related to Ebola virus disease response operations or other hemorrhagic fever diseases. |
| Experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least 7 years of field experience in IPC. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Previous experience with WHO or other UN agencies. |
| Skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellent communication skills. - Excellent analytical, planning and organizational skills. - Ability to work in the team, with limited supervision. - Ability to work under pressure. | |
| Languages | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intermediate spoken and written French. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fluency in spoken and written French. |
| Deployment duration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 weeks minimum. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 months minimum. |

In line with the usual GOARN procedures, WHO would cover the cost of travel and per diem (daily allowance) for staff deployed, and provide

logistics and security support in country.

Instructions

Offers of support can only be submitted through the GOARN knowledge platform <https://extranet.who.int/goarnops/>

To submit offers for these positions please use link "*Click here to apply*" at the bottom of this e-mail. Experts who do not have access to the GOARN knowledge platform will be prompted to create a restricted user account when accessing the platform for the first time.

Focal points in GOARN partner institutions are encouraged to submit availability for experts from their institutions by logging in to the GOARN Knowledge platform and submitting offers through "*Ebola Virus Disease, Democratic Republic of the Congo (North Kivu), 2018*" operation page. Please provide all required details for the offer including CV, availability date range, maximum duration for deployment and position(s) you would make yourself available for.

Please note that only complete applications from candidates, fulfilling all essential requirements listed above will be considered.

WHO and the GOARN Operational Support Team (OST) would like to express gratitude and thank all the GOARN partners that have supported response to this outbreak.

Operational contacts

GOARN Operational Support Team (OST) goarn@who.int

[Click here to apply.](#)



**World Health
Organization**

This is an automatic message from [GOARN](#).
You are currently signed up to receive GOARN communications.
To manage your subscriptions [Click here](#).