



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

**Delegation to the United Nations**

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**STATEMENT BY MR MARWAN JILANI  
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OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES  
DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak in West Africa  
International Ebola Recovery Conference  
New York, 10 July 2015

Madam Chair,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which is composed of 189 National Societies world-wide, as well as the ICRC and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

The staff and volunteers of the National Red Cross Societies of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone have worked tirelessly to fight the Ebola Virus Disease since the start of the outbreak, with the support of the Movement. The Red Cross was there before the outbreak started, they are now working hand-in-hand in support of the Government efforts to get to zero, and they will be there when the outbreak is over continuing to support their communities to recover from this crisis and to build their resilience.

The Red Cross represents a valuable resource in the recovery efforts complementary to those of the Governments. More than 10,000 Red Cross volunteers have been trained in different aspects of Ebola response. They have worked in the front line with the most dangerous and difficult tasks such as Safe and Dignified Burials, transporting the sick, sensitizing the communities and providing psychosocial support to the affected. They not only support the communities, they are from the communities, they speak the local languages, know the local culture and have built up the trust of the communities. This constitutes a huge asset for ensuring that recovery reaches the communities.

The Movement has prepared emergency response and recovery plans in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, covering the period until the end of 2017. Those recovery efforts will focus on a number of priority areas to build and strengthen community resilience, through integrated community based programming approaches using low-tech and sustainable methodologies. The priority areas include disaster risk reduction and disaster management programs; community-based health and first aid; water, sanitation and hygiene promotion programs; and Maternal New Born Child Health, as well as improved food security, livelihood and nutrition, and psychosocial support. These programs will encompass strengthening early warning systems for regular epidemics and uses community based event surveillance techniques. The focus will be on the most vulnerable: Ebola survivors, orphans and other vulnerable groups. For these efforts to continue additional resources are urgently needed, in this context, the Red Cross is asking for an additional 93 million US dollars to implement all the planned activities.

We will never be able to get to zero infections unless we effectively deal with the fear, misconception and stigma that are still tormenting the affected communities. This will require a robust investment in retraining and preparing volunteers to work in communities, detecting and monitoring new cases and their contacts. We also need to improve security and access. The continued outbreaks of violence and resistance are a product of the fear and the anxiety of communities to handle their sick and deceased according to traditions.

Finally, we must insist that the Ebola outbreak is not over. The news flares in Liberia are a grim reminder to all of us that it is not time to lower our guard: we must keep up the intensity in the emergency response to get to zero, and to stay there. This also requires scaling up the support and the resources. On our part, I would like to assure you Madam Chair of our continued support and active engagement with the affected governments and our international partners.

Thank you.