

Summary

BØRNEfonden's initiative in the fight against Ebola

BØRNEfonden began its Ebola prevention in August 2014 in four programme countries in West Africa (Benin, Togo, Burkina Faso and Mali) and throughout more than 120 rural communities. Ebola prevention has become an integrated part of our Community Development work and we continue to expand these activities in relevant areas.

BØRNEfonden's overall strategy is based on a sustainable, long-term development cycle focusing on building resilient communities (inhabitants and institutions) within the four intervention areas of Education, Income Generation, Children's Rights and Health. All four areas have been brought into play in our Ebola prevention efforts.

Through our long-term presence we have build strong, trustful relations to local populations and local, district and national stakeholders, leaders and administrators. The Ebola crisis demanded quick and effective dissemination of important information, while maintaining a high level of trust and avoiding rumours and panic. BØRNEfonden's presence and position in local communities allowed us to reach a large number of people during the height of the Ebola crisis. Our local employees live in the same villages as the population BØRNEfonden is supporting. They speak the same language, they know the social dynamics, habits, beliefs and norms. Through this deep-rooted relationship with the population, BØRNEfonden ensured a rapid and timely intervention ensuring the necessary hardware and software and fulfilling our role of complimenting the health system in the outermost link.

Channelled through already organised and mobilised Community Based Organizations (CBO's) (farmers groups, parents/teachers associations, health mutual groups, saving groups, community health agents, student clubs, youth clubs, mothers groups, community counsels) we have disseminated vital information on Ebola prevention using posters, radio broadcasts, aid memoirs, community forum debates and leaflets. In addition, the CBO's function as knowledge resources and surveillance persons. They report to the national surveillance system and work hand in hand with local health system staff in encouraging and assisting potential patients to use the official health care structures instead of turning to traditional healers.

BØRNEfonden's Ebola prevention remains of absolute high priority in Mali, due to the persistent risk from bordering country Guinea. We have expanded our intervention by including important sectors such as the mining sector and the transport sector in the Guinea-Mali border region. We work cross-border with the Guinean au-

thorities to strengthen border control and information in the border area through alignment of procedures and mass media information.

BØRNEfonden's Ebola prevention efforts have had a particular focus on school children (integrated in WASH activities) to keep schools open for as long as possible should the epidemic spread (Creating safe havens and resilient institutions).

Throughout 2014 and 2015 central accomplishments across the four countries count:

- Broadcasting of approximately 100 radio shows in local languages. Broadcasts were subsequently copied to CD's making them available at all times for youth clubs in local, rural areas.
- Distribution of 6.000 posters and 6.500 flyers with information on prevention and symptoms
- Installation of more than 350 hand washing devices for schools, kindergartens and public agencies.
- Training of 175 agents in Bamako, Mali and in the field on hygiene measures for prevention
- Training of teachers and headmasters in 428 schools and 135 kindergartens
- Training of 25,247 women organized in women's organizations and 3,124 young organized in youth organizations in rural areas.
- Training of 350 adult members of children's committees

From local to national level, our intervention including information materials has been planned and coordinated on all levels with NGO's and official governmental systems.