**OVERVIEW**

Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone are contending with the largest outbreak in history. Over 17,000 people are infected and over 6,000 have lost their lives. Among the deceased are frontline responders, including healthcare workers, volunteers, caretakers, and burial teams. The effects of Ebola extend far beyond those in its direct reach; thousands of children have been orphaned and many are now dying from treatable non-Ebola illnesses like diarrhea, malaria, and typhoid. The epidemic has seriously undermined the economic growth of the three most affected countries leading to a near collapse in the provision of health care services. Outside of Africa, the disease has led to an increased stigmatization and isolation of Africa and Africans.

**THE NEED**

We must act now to eliminate Ebola and to promote nuanced dialogue on the outbreak. There remains great need for more protective equipment and healthcare supplies; community awareness-raising activities; and support for individuals who are infected and their families. In addition, very little resources are reaching grassroots organizations and other formal and informal community-led structures directly, despite the fact that they have been at the forefront of the Ebola response. Moreover, given the hysteria and fear surrounding Ebola, it is imperative that more fact-based, contextualized, and nuanced dialogue is promoted on Ebola and its implications.

**AFRICA RESPONDS**

Africa Responds is a collaborative platform through which African organizations and allies pool their resources, networks, and collective voices to respond to the Ebola outbreak. Africa Responds aims to raise $100,000 to support its partner organizations. Given the nature of the outbreak, which necessitates both local and international action, Africa Responds will support: Africare, FACE Africa, THINK, and HOPE. Recognizing the socio-economic and political roots and implications of this outbreak, Africa Responds values and promotes contextualized and nuanced dialogue. The fundraising campaign will launch in October and will be conducted through online crowdfunding and offline community fundraising activities. Africa Responds will begin working in Liberia and extend to Sierra Leone and Guinea over time, strategically and as resources permit.

**THE STRUCTURE**

Africans in the Diaspora and Villages in Action, two African-led organizations, convene Africa Responds. The initiative is currently conducting outreach to additional African and Africa-focused organizations to join as core partners and drivers. Africans in the Diaspora is a project of International Development Exchange (IDEX) and will manage mobilized resources with support from IDEX. Together, these organizations have over 30 years of grantmaking experience, including managing funds in emergencies.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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