



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
ELEGU BORDER, PORT HEALTH**



**A SUBMISSION FOR A POSSIBLE RAPID RESPONSE SUPPORT TO THE BORDER
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, COORDINATED BY PORT HEALTH IN RESPONSE
TO THE POST FLOODING EFFECT AT ELEGU-NIMULE AREA**

By

Lamot Patrick Louis,

Cross Border FP-Health and a trained member Rapid Response Team

plamotlouis@gmail.com +256782609311

PROFILE FOR ELEGU PORT HEALTH

1. ELEGU PORT HEALTH KEY CONTACTS

COUNTRY	UGANDA
POE	ELEGU DISTRICT: AMURU
CONTACT 1	LAMOT PATRICK LOUIS (CROSS BORDER FOCAL POINT PERSON-HEALTH)
TEL	+256782-609311, Email: plamolouis@gmail.com
CONTACT 2	ACIDRI GODFREY (INCHARGE PORT HEALTH)
TEL	0773124869 Email: acidrigodfrey23@gmail.com

Key Highlights:

Elegu Point of Entry, found in Amuru District, Northern Uganda is the main entry and exit route along the great North Road. It is bordered by Nimule, which is the nearest town in South Sudan.

It's over approximately 480 Kilometers from the Capital Kampala. It shares a border with Nimule, South Sudan.

The place has pre dominantly mobile communities, comprising all major tribes in East Africa and a few from beyond East Africa.

Elegu Border Health was functionalized as a Port Health with Staff deployed to do screening on 24th February 2020, in response to the COVID 19 pandemic declared across the globe. Between February and April 14th, the emergency team were simply screening travellers coming to the Country, and from 16th April 2020, we started picking COVID 19 samples from travellers and front line Staff.

By this reporting time, Ministry of Health with support from various Partners have been able to develop core capacities of the Border Health, and the activities have expounded beyond the traditional covid 19 response that lingers in the minds of very many people. In other words, the capacity of Port Health has been developed to undertake routine surveillance activities beyond covid 19.

Key activities undertaken by border health staff on a day to day basis.

- 1) Harmonizing public health surveillance and control measures at local cross border level, including timely identification of cases associated with cross borders or other international travel;
- 2) Establishing cross-border communication/coordination mechanisms to enable timely information-sharing at the local level.

- 3) Ensuring proper environmental and health-care conditions for the populations sharing the border
- 4) Coordinating available resources to maximize the efficiency of the response (e.g. by referring sick travelers to a health-care facility on the other side of the border if that will facilitate more timely medical evaluation and treatment);
- 5) Considering binational surge capacity if the impact of a public health emergency affecting a border region is likely to be greater on one side of the border than the other, or if one country has more resources available in the region
- 6) Joint outbreak investigation and response
- 7) Create common understanding of the IHR 2005 for all cross border agencies.
- 8) Promote local cooperation and information sharing
- 9) Promote joint problem solving, based on trusting relationships with their cross-border counterparts.
- 10) To support advocacy effort, related to COVID-19 control, that target key sectors aiming at adoption of protocols and prevention measures across all sectors

Specific routine daily tasks offered at Elegu

- TB screening and sample collection.
- Testing for malaria using RDT
- HIV/AIDS Counselling and testing using RDT
- Screening children below 15 years on polio.
- First aid response before referral of clients/ travellers to Bibia.
- Handling Sexual and Gender Based violence clients (Counselling, preliminary examination/ filling of police forms for victims and referral if need be)
- Screening for measles rubella on a daily basis.
- Enlisting of contacts of confirmed TB cases
- Coordination of refills for TB/ HIV drugs for positive clients
- General Health Education on all notifiable Public Health Threats.
- Routine reporting to the different stakeholders.
- Coordination meetings/ and integration of activities.
- Undertaking Infection, Prevention and Control Measures
- Refresher trainings on IPC.
- Risk communication.

At Elegu-Nimule Border, the main economic activities around the area is trade, ranging from transportation, food vending, bars, lodging, cross border trade in produce and animals/ animal products etc.

On a daily basis, we see the cross border communities moving on either side to access basic services like Healthcare, Education, Social events and retail trade including accessing eating places/ restaurants.

Success achieved:

- We have developed capacity with trained Staff to handle rapid response.
- We have tested team work that has enabled us contain the then high infection rate at the border, to now that we can respond to other emerging Public Health threats.
- We have been able to timely identify public health threats like now with the flooding and possible post flooding Health effects on the Border Staff and immediate communities.

Current challenge:

The onset of heavy rains throughout the Country and reports of flooding, and post flood effects did not spare Elegu Border. On 5th November 2023, we witnessed unprecedented volume of water spreading throughout the Border areas, submerging the markets, parking areas and residential areas.

Pictorials below shows the different parts of the border submerged in water

Watch the short video on:

You tube:

Video clip 1: https://youtu.be/-8-cgNbIFW4?si=E_NiqINdEj0RTFk9

Video clip 2: <https://youtu.be/tW6jBPjIIRA?si=V618q-NNNOT7cCvC>



This is Wanda area where the checkpoint is, as you exit Elegu Border



This one is an area towards the main market at Elegu.



A section of the main road towards the One Stop Border Post.



This is the refugee reception centre, where they are screened before being taken to the main camps in other areas.



Port Health Staff after interacting/ screening travellers in that bus.

From the pictorials above, we can preliminarily foresee the following key challenges, immediately and afterwards.

- Contamination of water sources and associated problems.
- Increase in malaria cases
- Loss of business

- Contamination and possible food poisoning
- Increased cost of living for the Border Officials and the community.

Proposed immediate interventions and means of verification:

SN	Activity	Responsible person	Expected output	Proposed timeframe
1	Drafting rapid response plan	Port Health	Identify key activities, draw up a budget and circulate for support	6 th to 10 th November 2023
2	Feedback on emergency support to the Border Management team via Port Health	Port Health to follow up Partners and Agencies for support	Identify funding/resources to support the Frontline Border Officials in dealing with the challenge at hand	10 th to 20 th November 2023
3	Map out key stakeholders to engage in the rapid response	Port Health and Chair Border Management Committee	Come up with a probable list of participants to plan on possible response and start executing the response plan	6 th to 15 th November 2023
4	Border Management meeting for the rapid respondents	Port Health to coordinate	Hold meetings with resolutions to address the challenge of the floods/ post flood, with Border Management Officials, Representatives of the business community, the leaders from the Town Council, Health Partners, OPM and the District Local Government	Continuous between November 2023 and January 2024

5	Post Flood Health assessment	Port Health to coordinate in liaison with Implementing Partners, OPM, MOH and DHO's office	Determine immediate/ future health needs, quantify possible support needed and draw up a plan for addressing them with clear responsibility lines	8 th November to 20 th December 2023
6	Joint Cross Border Committee meeting	Selected 10 Members of the Joint Cross Border Committee from either Country border point plus the Central level representatives from Ministry of Health and Implementing Partners	Discuss and come up with joint action plans to manage the spillover effect of the floods, and also do collective resource mobilization to address the immediate/ future health needs	Between 15 th to 24 th November 2023
7	Undertake sample collection and water quality testing	Port Health in liaison with IDI and any other Partner dealing with WASH issues	Pick up samples of water from different points, take the samples for analysis, mobilise support for treatment of contaminated water sources, give comprehensive feedback on WASH situation and possible risks	From 9 th November
8	Health education	Port Health to work with the Town Council Authorities supported by the different Partners to undertake education of the masses on the	Number of Health Education undertaken, Number of tests eg for malaria undertaken during the response, Number of clients treated/	From 10 th November 2023 onwards

		associated risks and mitigation measures, and also undertake mass screening, testing and management of probable Health risks due to the post flood effects	referred during the response	
9	Mobilise incentives to support the Port Health and other Border Officials involved in the response	OPM and other Partners	Boxes of water for staff refreshment and small incentives/hardship allowance to the Selected Port Health Staff and other Border Officials as they undertake this noble role.	From 15 th November 2023

Overall expected outcome of the rapid response:

- **Improved coordination and well-being of the population affected by the floods.**
 - Regular Health Education within the Border Community to create awareness and ensure preventive measures are in place.
 - Develop comprehensive work plan for the different activities during the response and beyond.
 - Undertake Health outreaches within the Border Community.
 - Undertake sample collection and water quality testing.
 - Mobilise incentives for the Port Health and selected Border Management respondents while addressing the associated risk to the floods.
 - Enhanced understanding of handling Ebola suspected cases.
 - Enhanced understanding of Standard operating procedures and safeguard of suspected Ebola cases by the various border actors.
 - Improved coordination amongst stakeholders. The support to reactivate the Joint Cross Border Committee meetings has proved a worth intervention that contributed significantly to fighting the Covid-19 pandemic.

Budget area

- a. Coordination
- b. SDA for the Staff involved during Health outreach and awareness meetings
- c. Refreshment (provision of boxes of clean drinking water) to Port Health Staff in the wake of increased cost of living and due to contamination of possible water sources.
- d. Transport cost for moving around the affected flood areas and to the National testing labs for the water samples/ taking human samples to the referral laboratories in Atiak, Gulu or Adjumani.
- e. Basic antimalarial, anti-diarrheal and water treatment reagents for community water points.
- f. Infection Prevention Control items like jik and liquid soap to clean the major points where clients interact with the Officials: OSBP, Police Posts, the nearby Military barracks and Town Council Offices. I bring in the military and Police Barracks because they have been key players in handling the Border Health response and are still doing so.
- g. Temporary hardship allowance to Port Health Staff (Between November to January 2023) as the post flood effect reduces.

Annex 1: Draft budget

SN	ITEM DESCRIPTION	UNIT	NO.	ESTI MATE D NO	UNIT COST	TOTAL (\$)
1	Sensitization meetings (Proposed to be held twice a month, with the Key Border Stakeholders and later on with the Community). This also includes holding Border Management meetings	Persons	10	15	50,00 0	7,500,00 0
2	Refreshment/ 1.5ltrs Clean water in boxes per month to Port Health Staff/ and a few Border Management team on the response program	Boxes	80	5	24,00 0	9,600,00 0
3	Assorted RDT test kits for malaria	Pieces	400	1	5,000	2,000,00 0
4	Assorted antimalarial, deworming and anti-diarrheal drugs	Dozes	200	1	5,000	1,000,00 0

5	Mosquito nets to children and pregnant mothers/ most vulnerable members of the affected community	Pieces	1,000	1	8,000	8,000,000
6	SDA during planned 10 Health Outreach activities	Persons	5	10	50,000	2,500,000
7	Transport for sample referrals and coordination of the response	Lump sum	1	1	1	4,000,000
8	Meals& Refreshment during coordination meetings	Persons	10	15	15,000	2,250,000
9	IPC Materials (specifically Jik and liquid soap) in litres	20 Litres jerrican	40 for Liquid soap and 5 for jik	45	30,000	1,350,000
10	Sample collection kits for water in kind from IDI					
11	Hardship allowance to Border Health Staff leading the response in the proposed 5 months response (Paid per day for 17 days in a month)	Persons	8	Paid for 17days per month per person	30,000	20,400,000
11	Other expense (SDA/ transport refund for external team from the Centre/ District joining the POE Team. Proposed 5 supervision visits by 5 key Officials (2 from MOH and 3 from the District)	5 visits taking 2 days per visit	10	5	250,000	15,000,000
12	Miscellaneous clean meeting venues (incentive to IPC support Staff)	lump sum	1	1	500,000	500,000
	TOTAL					74,100,000

In words:

Seventy four million, one hundred thousand shillings only.

Purpose of the support

The purpose of this concept note and request, is to mobilise support for the rapid response in dealing with the post flood effects at Elegu border area.

Proposed duration of the support:

4-6 months, projected from November 2023 to March 2024.

Source of funding: Open to any Partner, but all confirmed support shall be highly coordinated to avoid duplication of funding a selected activity but also for transparency.

Implementation area: Elegu Cross Border area.