

### **KickStart Ghana Ebola factsheet**

This is a fact sheet for anyone who is concerned about Ebola in Ghana.

#### **What is the risk of Ebola in Ghana?**

With the recent outbreak of Ebola in West Africa we have been asked several questions with regards to the safety of travelling to Ghana with regards to Ebola. Currently, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea are worse affected. These countries are around 1,000km away from where we work in Ho, Ghana. There are currently no cases in Ghana and the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not advise against travelling to Ghana.

Ghana has put in place plans to deal with any potential change in the situation and it is important to remember that the health care and infrastructure is significantly more developed than the three countries currently most affected. The UN has recently set up its regional response unit in Accra highlighting the confidence they feel in Ghana's ability to deal with any outbreak.

#### **How do you measure the situation?**

As an organisation we take all potential risks to our volunteers extremely seriously. We follow all of the Foreign Commonwealth Office travel advice and British High Commission in Ghana advice (both are updated daily). We also monitor the US body, Centre for Disease Control which currently states *"CDC currently does not recommend that travellers avoid visiting other African countries. Although spread to other countries is possible, CDC is working with the governments of affected countries to control the outbreak. Ebola is a very low risk for most travellers – it is spread through direct contact with the blood or other body fluids of a sick person, so travellers can protect themselves by avoiding sick people and hospitals in West Africa where patients with Ebola are being treated."*

We will never place any of our volunteers and staff in a dangerous position. We have measures in place, policies and plans of action, in the unlikely event a situation occurs that would put our volunteers or staff at risk.

#### **What happens if you have to cancel my volunteering?**

In the unlikely event that any projects would have to be cancelled all donations to KickStart Ghana will be refunded and volunteer's places on projects postponed until the following year.

#### **How would you support a volunteer if the unlikely event occurred?**

We would like to assure all volunteers and their next of kin that if the situation in Ghana changes we will inform them. Our volunteer's safety and wellbeing is at the very top of our priorities. We will be keeping in touch with the British High Commission in Ghana and other relevant authorities.

As always, we tell our volunteers to take out the best insurance available to cover any circumstance that may affect them.

We feel that it is important for everyone to realise that Ebola is currently isolated in a very small area of the huge continent of Africa.

Visiting a country like Ghana is never risk free and it never will be, just like travelling in the UK or Europe. As an organisation we face these decisions head on; whether it by Malaria, crime or transport issues. We don't belittle them and are transparent with the people we work with.

If you have any further questions about this matter then you are welcome to contact [david.coles@kickstartghana.org](mailto:david.coles@kickstartghana.org) for more information or call on 07738 628329.