

National Ebola Response Center of Farfelu

Background:

With the realization the Ebola outbreak was getting worse and the existing healthcare system was not doing enough to combat it, the Government of Farfelu put in place a new response management structure called the National Ebola Response Center (NERC). As Chairman of the NERC, the President of Farfelu makes high-level policy and strategic decisions. This command-and-control unit is coordinating the response at the national level, providing operational coherence, resourcing, and direction to relevant actors engaged in combating Ebola.



The traditional Farfeluan culture remains strong inside the country and is a source of national pride for its citizens. However, traditional cultural practices are ineffective against the Ebola outbreak. Some traditions, such as washing the dead without any protective clothing, accelerate the spread of Ebola.

The government has been hesitant to fully cooperate with international actors such as the World Health Organization (WHO), Doctors Without Borders, and the U.S. Department of State (DOS). While Doctors Without Borders is permitted to operate on the ground, local communities are skeptical to seek treatment from them. Citizens are especially hostile towards Americans because they believe Americans are trying to unnecessarily intervene and undermine their national identity as a culturally traditional state.

According to Doctors Without Borders staff, the official number of infections reported by the Government of Farfelu, specifically the Ministry of Health, was drastically underestimated. This contested number prevented WHO from enacting the appropriate emergency responses, such as declaring a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), to the Ebola outbreak.

Healthcare Infrastructure:

Farfelu has made recent strides to modernize its health-care system and built small clinics in every community during the last decade. These clinics openly disparage traditional healers, never have the proper medical supplies, and the doctors and nurses appear to be poorly trained. Each clinic is supposed to request supplies from the Ministry of Health, but the system is backlogged with orders and basic supplies can take months to arrive, if ever, at a local clinic.

Opening Position:

The President of Farfelu has instructed your delegation to engage with all stakeholders, but to be cautious of the influence and changes that western-centered delegations may propose. However, your NERC relies on Doctors Without Borders because of your strained relationship with the United States has restricted U.S. capacity to provide aid. You are to take the following opening positions:

- You are hesitant to accept criticism of the internal response to the outbreak, especially regarding the inaccurate numbers reported by your response center.
- You are critical of WHO not only for their delayed declaration of a PHEIC, but also for not providing adequate disease prevention education early on. You blame them for civilian intolerance of Ebola and health workers.
- To support the cultural traditions of your people, you wish to remain in control of the medical responses taken in your country. Concurrently, you understand that ending public misconceptions about the disease is necessary to end the outbreak.
- You wish to mobilize support from WHO, DOS, and the NERC of Anyep to obtain more funding and supplies for your local health clinics.