**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR OXFAM STAFF PROVIDING SUPPORT TO EBOLA CENTRES**

**Key points**

* This document sets out the SoPs for Oxfam staff working in ebola facilities
* No Oxfam staff are permitted to enter an active red zone, however they are authorised to enter green and white zones when required
* Although there can be an elevated risk of working in and around ebola centres due to the proximity to potentially infectious materials, in a centre that meets basic IPC standards these risks are comparable to other activities Oxfam staff undertake (eg supporting quarantined areas)
* Safe working in a green zone requires an understanding of the layout and operation of that centre

**Red Zone**

The Red Zone is an area within an ebola centre where there is a high risk of coming into contact with ebola contaminated materials. Very specific IPC protocols are in place for those working in red zones in order to reduce the risk of infection. Due to the increased risk ***no Oxfam staff are authorised to enter red zones.***

In the case where a centre either has never admitted a patient or where all patients admitted have been discharged after being confirmed ‘ebola negative’ there is no ‘red zone’ as there is no increased risk of coming into contact with ebola contaminated material. This must be confirmed by the medical partner responsible for patient management before any Oxfam staff are authorised to enter.

Once a patient suspected or confirmed of being infected with ebola has been admitted to a centre, red zone protocols must be strictly followed until the site has been decontaminated and signed off by a qualified IPC Officer. The Government of Sierra Leone Ministry of Health and Sanitation has comprehensive SoPs on decontamination procedures[[1]](#footnote-1) which should be followed when centre is to be finally decommissioned, or when the site is being temporarily closed to allow maintenance work to be carried out.

**Green Zone**

The Green Zone is an area inside the ebola centre used for supporting activities such as dressing, laundry and storage. In principle no infectious material should be present in the green zone, however due to the proximity to the red zone it is considered to have an elevated risk compared to the outside environment. Because of this, access to the green zone is restricted to medical staff, hygienists and those involved in operation and maintenance of the centre as needed. Those authorised to enter the green zone should be briefed on the risks and protocols to be followed before entering. All people entering the green zone must first change into scrubs and rubber boots.

**Oxfam staff are authorised to enter a green zone based on the need to carry out specific tasks, they should be supervised by a senior focal person with an understanding of the IPC protocols effective in that particular centre.**

**White Zone**

The security zone (‘WHITE ZONE’) is an area inside the ebola centre that is deemed to have no higher risk of coming into contact with infectious material than the surrounding environment. Access is restricted for security reasons only to authorised staff and visitors on a needs basis. In an ebola outbreak there is no ‘no risk’ zone, and standard precautions should continue to be taken both inside and outside the centre.

**Approved by:**

**Signature: ………………………………… Date: …………………………………**

**Name: ………………………………… Position: …………………………………**

1. GoSL MoHS 2015. Standard Operating Procedures on the decontamination of Ebola Care Centres (ECCs) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)