



West Africa – Ebola Virus Disease outbreak

ECHO CRISIS FLASH N°27

Period covered
13/09/2014 to 23/09/2014

Time of validity
Epidemiological data as per
22 September 2014

Cases and deaths are cumulative and include confirmed, probable and suspected cases.

GUINEA:
Cases: 1 008
Deaths: 632

LIBERIA :
Cases: 3 022
Deaths: 1 578

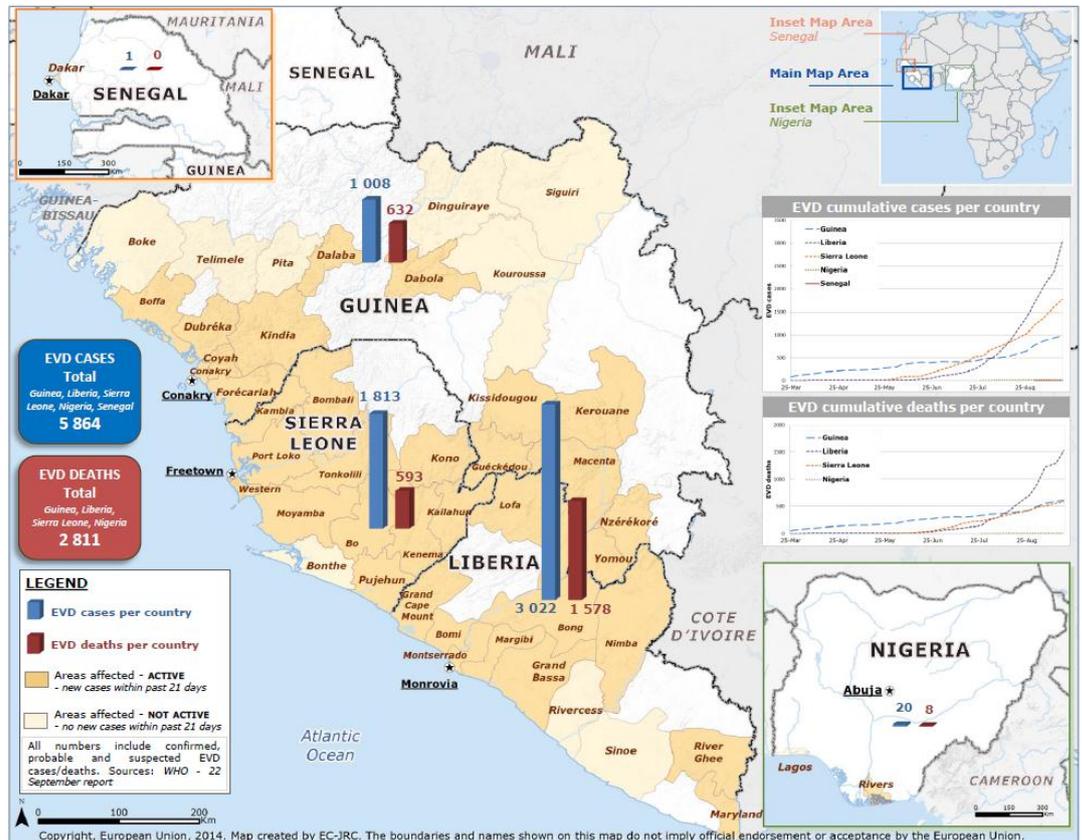
SIERRA LEONE
Cases: 1 813
Deaths: 593

NIGERIA
Cases: 20
Deaths: 8

SENEGAL
Cases : 1
Death: 0

ALL COUNTRIES
Cases: 5 864
Deaths: 2 811

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Epidemic situation

As the epidemic still expands exponentially unabated, the knock-on effects on stability and the social fabric in the most affected countries start to be observed.

LIBERIA

- A French MSF volunteer, infected with Ebola in Monrovia, was repatriated to France on 18 September.
- In Monrovia, a new Ebola Treatment Unit, the Island clinic, is expected to open the week of 22 September. Construction of another treatment centre is ongoing at the City stadium.
- The political situation is deteriorating. The Ebola context is expected to exacerbate tensions up to the senatorial elections of next January. The Government has reported to the UN that "Liberia is facing a serious threat to its national existence".
- WFP estimates that 400,000 people are food insecure as a direct result of the epidemic. WFP so far redirected food-stocks from its regular development programs to serve quarantined communities, Ebola patients and survivors. These stocks risk becoming exhausted in October.

SIERRA LEONE

- The Government has declared a countrywide confinement for the entire population. From Friday 19 to Sunday 21 September, 30,000 volunteers were tasked to screen the population door-to-door for Ebola patients and suspects and distribute soap.

Declared a success, reportedly about 80% of houses were visited, 70 dead bodies in and around Freetown were recovered and 150 new suspected EVD cases identified.

- An initial study on market flows (by International Growth Centre of Sierra Leone) to quarantined area suggest "that the Government has been effective in getting food into the cordoned districts and that food is reaching even remote markets. Contrary to concerns, traders do not appear to be reducing their activity because of fear of infection (...). The cocoa harvest has already started in these districts and it will be important to make sure that farmers can sell their cash crops or they, and the country as a whole, will lose important income."

GUINEA

- An attack on a delegation of social and medical staff occurred in the Nzérékoré area. A mob killed 7 of its members.

SENEGAL / NIGERIA

- No new cases are reported.

RESPONSE

- With the UN Security Council calling the outbreak "a threat to international peace and security", this represents a clear turning point in international community commitment to tackle the epidemics at the required scale. Military assets are now to be deployed in the three most affected countries.
- Cuba announced the deployment early October and for 6 months of 165 medical staff (doctor, nurses, and epidemiologists) to Sierra Leone.
- The US president announced a considerable US commitment to Liberia on the 16th, comprising the deployment of up to 3 000 US personnel to build 17 care and treatment units of 100 beds each. They also intend to train some 500 local health staff a week. Questions arise about the identification of those local staff. This commitment requires heavy logistics support for which Dakar will be the hub. The US contribution to the response would thus rise to 250 million US\$ (193 million €).
- France will deploy a military hospital in Macenta, Guinea, with 20 medical experts as well a lab facility. The UK will send troops to Sierra Leone to set up a 62-bed facility.
- 30 African Union volunteers are being trained in Addis Ababa to be deployed to the ASEOWA mission of the AU to support national governments. ECOWAS/WAHO have also developed a response plan, worth 45 MUS\$.
- On 18 September, the UNSC convened an emergency meeting on Ebola. As a result, a UN mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) will be settled in Accra, Ghana to coordinate the response.

FLIGHTS

No concrete progress was as yet made on the Humanitarian Air Corridor based in Dakar. The Government of Senegal is ready to open the base at the Dakar military airport premises, the Senegalese army is clearing the land and the French army is preparing to help set-the required infrastructure. However, flights have as yet not yet started. Côte d'Ivoire is also considering opening its border to an air corridor.

PREPAREDNESS

Training for the detection of the Ebola virus for African Ministries of Health is taking place in Entebbe, Uganda from 18 to 19 September.

Most countries in the region have developed their preparation plans, in anticipation of a possible spillover of the epidemics in their countries. Whilst very different in substance, most of them require support from international partners.

Côte d'Ivoire	13 733 580 000 FCFA	20 862 544 €
Burkina Faso	13 658 717 174 FCFA	20 742 537 €
Ghana	35 194 000 GHC	7 897 697 €
Senegal	2 882 640 345 FCFA	4 394 556 €
Mali	1 923 515 210 FCFA	2 921 993 €
Benin	1 726 750 000 FCFA	2 622 294 €
Chad	1 379 000 500 FCFA	2 094 826 €
Togo	3 475 800 000 FCFA	528 760 €
Bissau	341 221 715 FCFA	518 346 €
Gambia	57 503 USD	44 705 €

COMMENTS

No forecasts exist on the impact of the epidemic if it would run its course unhindered. The gap between the exponential progression of the epidemic and the required response capacities is presently still widening. First line responders' capacities are overstretched and exhausted. A massive and urgent scaling-up of concrete financial and in-kind contributions that become operational on the ground is still needed urgently, as is the establishment of vital logistics.