



Ebola in West Africa

ECHO FACTSHEET

FACTS AND FIGURES

Countries affected:
Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria.

Number of suspected, probable and confirmed cases (WHO)*: 2 127

Number of deaths (WHO)*: 1 145

European Commission humanitarian aid response to the 2014 outbreak of Ebola:
EUR 11.9 million (since March 2014)

* As of 13 August 2014 (source: World Health Organisation)

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European Commission humanitarian funding

€ 11.9 million

ECHO humanitarian experts



monitoring



liaising with local authorities and partners

*WHO, as of 13 August 2014

Key messages

- A number of West African countries are experiencing the largest Ebola epidemic on record. As of 13 August **2 127 people have been infected** and close to **1 145 people have died**.
- This epidemic presents a huge local and global public health concern. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared the epidemic a **Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)**, calling for a coordinated international response.
- Due to the dangerous nature of this crisis with a potentially disastrous global impact, a **multidimensional approach** is needed to help contain the situation on ground and stop the spread of the deadly disease to other countries.
- The European Commission is increasingly concerned by the continuing spread of the disease. It has continuously scale up its response since March 2014 and has pledged a total of **EUR 11.9 million** for humanitarian aid.
- In addition humanitarian experts have been deployed in the region, monitoring the situation and liaising with partners and local authorities.
- The European Commission is closely following the situation through its [Emergency Response Coordination Centre \(ERCC\)](#).

Humanitarian situation and needs

Background

This is the first epidemic of the Ebola virus disease (EVD) in West Africa since the virus was discovered in 1976. This *Zaire* strain of the disease spreads through contact with bodily fluids of infected animals or people. With no vaccine or specific treatment available, Ebola has a 60 to 90% mortality rate, making it one of the deadliest diseases.

The first reports of Ebola came from Guéckédou prefecture, a forest region in south-eastern Guinea near the borders with Liberia and Sierra Leone. Because of the countries' weak healthcare systems, hindering early detection and monitoring, and the mobility of people in this region, the virus has spread quickly and across a large territory.

The virus is believed to have spread from fruit bats to primates and then humans through contact with infected animals. Symptoms can develop up to 21 days after contracting the disease, making it easy to spread across borders if untreated.

As of now the Ebola epidemic is taking a devastating toll in the four affected countries: Guinea, [Liberia](#), Sierra Leone and [Nigeria](#). As of 13 August there are 2 127 reported cases of infected with the virus and close to 1 145 deaths. According to the WHO, this is the largest recorded outbreak in terms of cases, deaths and geographical coverage.

The European Union's Humanitarian response

The European Commission has allocated humanitarian aid funding to the Ebola-affected countries since March 2014 and has continuously scaled up its efforts to contain the spread of the virus and protect the local population from contamination. In addition, the Commission has deployed humanitarian experts and specialists, as well as provided the most needed equipment.

The European Commission has allocated EUR 11.9 million in humanitarian aid through its partners on the ground in order to support priority actions. The funding is being channelled through several partner organisations including:

- The **Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)** in order to maintain and scale up their on-going interventions in the field of clinical management, including the isolation. Treatment and psychosocial support for the patients and their families. The funds will further enhance the organisation's capacity to trace and test 'suspected' cases of people in contact with carriers of the disease. Part of the funds will go to training new personnel to cope with the high demand for treatment and equip the aid workers with personal protective equipment gear.
- The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** in support of their epidemiological surveillance and coordination efforts. As the WHO is currently leading the response on the ground in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, they will be provided with funds for medical supplies, vital equipment and for additional health personnel and logistical aid.
- The **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC)** to maintain and reinforce their community outreach with health and hygiene promotion messages, the tracing of 'contacts' and safe burial of the deceased.