



# Ebola in West Africa

ECHO FACTSHEET

## Facts & Figures

**Countries affected:**  
Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Mali.

**Countries clear of Ebola:** Nigeria, Senegal

**Number of suspected, probable and confirmed cases (WHO)\*:**  
more than 10 141

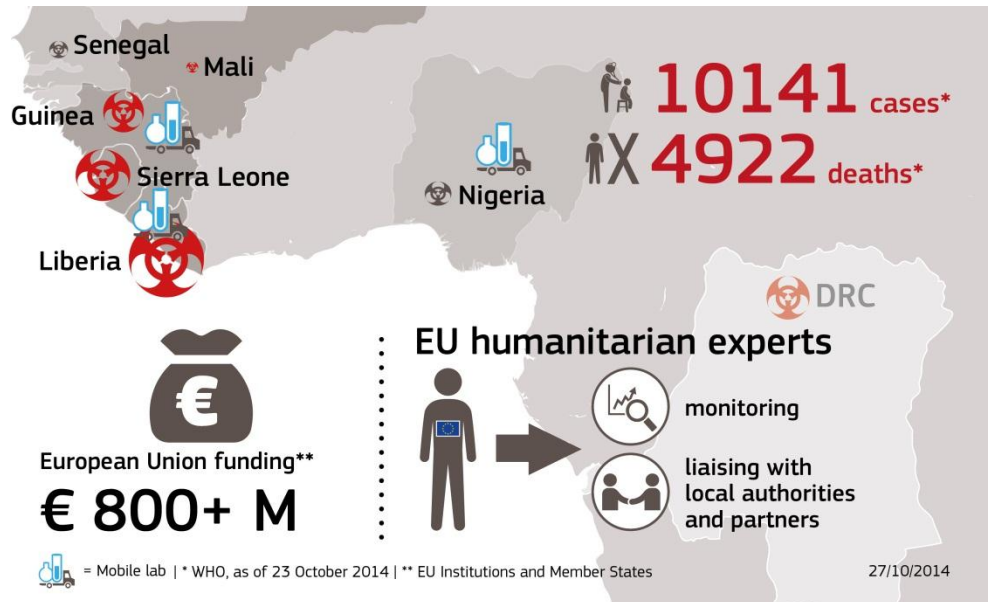
**Number of deaths (WHO)\*:**  
more than 4 922

## EU assistance

**European Union's response (Commission and Member States):**  
**over EUR 800 million** (since March 2014)

**European Commission's response (humanitarian, development and research funds):**  
**over EUR 200 million** (since March 2014)

\* As of 23 October 2014 (source: World Health Organisation)



## Key messages

- A number of West African countries are experiencing the worst Ebola epidemic on record. As of 23 October over **10 141 people have been infected** and more than **4 922 people have died** in the affected countries. Most recently the virus has spread to Mali where one case was reported. The European Commission is seriously concerned by the continuing spread of the disease.
- The situation **continues to deteriorate rapidly** and risks affecting the economies as well as the public order of the countries concerned. The Ebola outbreak also generates secondary humanitarian needs, such as food, clean water and sanitation.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared the epidemic a **Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)**.
- The incoming EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, **Christos Stylianides**, was recently appointed **EU Ebola Response Coordinator** by the European Council and will travel to the region shortly.
- Since March 2014, the European Commission has pledged more than **EUR 200 million** in humanitarian and development aid and medical research. This brings the total European Union contribution to more than **EUR 800 million**.
- **EU humanitarian experts** have been deployed in the region, monitoring the situation and liaising with partners and local authorities.
- The **EU Civil Protection Mechanism (CPM)** has been activated upon request from the WHO to facilitate and support the rapid deployment of in-kind assistance and expertise to the region.
- The Commission has mobilised **medical evacuation** capacity for humanitarian workers deployed in the affected countries.
- The European Commission is closely following the situation and coordinates EU assistance through its [Emergency Response Coordination Centre \(ERCC\)](#).

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\* All the latest ECHO Factsheets:  
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## Humanitarian situation and needs

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.

Ebola was first reported in Guéckédou prefecture, a forest region in south-eastern Guinea near its borders with Liberia and Sierra Leone. Because of the countries' weak healthcare systems, which often lack the most basic protective equipment, as well as the mobility of people in the region, the virus has spread quickly and across a large territory. The virus is believed to have spread from fruit bats to primates to humans. Symptoms can develop up to 21 days after contracting the disease, making it easy to spread across borders.

The Ebola epidemic is taking a devastating toll in the three worst-affected countries: Guinea, [Liberia](#) and Sierra Leone. The virus has spread to Mali as well, where one death has been reported. As of 23 October over 10 141 cases of Ebola and 4 922 deaths have been reported, with 40% of cases occurring in the past three weeks. According to the WHO, this is the largest recorded outbreak in terms of cases, deaths and geographical coverage and it continues to accelerate. The WHO has cleared [Nigeria](#) and Senegal Ebola-free.

The immediate needs are immense. They include better tracing of people who have been in contact with Ebola patients, the setting up of treatment centres, the supply of protective and other equipment, and securing transport corridors for medical staff and supplies.

## The European Union's Humanitarian response

The Commission has provided over EUR 200 million for medical research, humanitarian and development aid to the affected countries, including equipment and personnel. Together with the funding of EU Member States, this brings the **total EU contribution to over EUR 800 million**.

Since March 2014, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) has allocated EUR 41.9 million funding in humanitarian assistance and has continuously scaled up its efforts to contain the spread of the virus and provide treatment to infected persons. ECHO's funding addresses some of the most urgent humanitarian needs and has been channelled through humanitarian partner organisations on the ground, including:

- **Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)** in order to maintain and scale up their on-going interventions in the field of clinical management including the isolation and treatment of patients as well as psychosocial support for them and their families. The funds are further allowing the organisation to step up their capacity to trace 'contacts' and test 'suspected' cases. A part of the funds are also being used to purchase personal protective equipment for the caregivers and to train new personnel.
- 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, 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 the safe burial of the deceased.

In addition, ECHO has deployed humanitarian experts and specialists and provided most needed equipment, including air transport for goods and personnel through its Humanitarian Air service - ECHO Flight.



## A coherent European response

The European Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) facilitates information sharing and coordination of response, bringing together all relevant EU institutions, services and the EU Member States.

The European Commission has also activated the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM), providing coordinated assistance to the countries upon request made by the WHO. Several participating states have made offers to assist the West Africa region (see table below). In addition, Member States are also strongly contributing through bilateral pledges, including funding and in-kind assistance.

In cooperation with Member States, the US State Department and commercial aviation companies, the European Commission is able to provide specially equipped aircraft and trained personnel for **evacuation of humanitarian workers** who have contracted Ebola from the affected West Africa region. Humanitarian workers infected by the virus can be evacuated within 48 hours and taken to an equipped hospital. Evacuation requests are received through the ERCC and assessed by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

### Assistance offered through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism\*

Country	In-kind assistance	Country	In-kind assistance
Austria	2 ambulance cars 3 vehicles 900 protection equipment 4080 units of disinfectant	Netherlands	Large military sea vessel
Belgium	1 expert 1 ambulance 7 vehicles 16 trucks	Norway	Expert mission to Liberia
Denmark	3 isolation units	Slovakia	10 tents 100 field beds 200 blankets 500 towels 6 Generators 10 lighting sets 6 field washbasins 12 field toilets 17 wooden pallets
Finland	50 000 surgical masks 275 000 Respirators	Sweden	24 Habitat units
France	47 000 masks 36 000 gloves 1 200 bottles disinfectants 500 protective clothing 1 600 visors 1 875 bags to collect waste	United Kingdom	2 field hospitals 1 laboratory 3 ambulances 85 vehicles 78 Pallets of PPE
Hungary	1 000 rubber boots 20000 disposable gloves 500 protective eyewear 500 protective gown 1 000 disposable protective clothing sets 1 280 packs of nutrition bars		

\*This information is valid as of 20 October 2014, *source: ERCC*  
The table only includes in-kind and expertise offered by Member States through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. Bilateral or financial assistance by Member States is therefore not included. For further information and instant updates on the situation, please contact the ERCC at: [ERCC@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ERCC@ec.europa.eu)



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