



# Ebola in West Africa

ECHO FACTSHEET

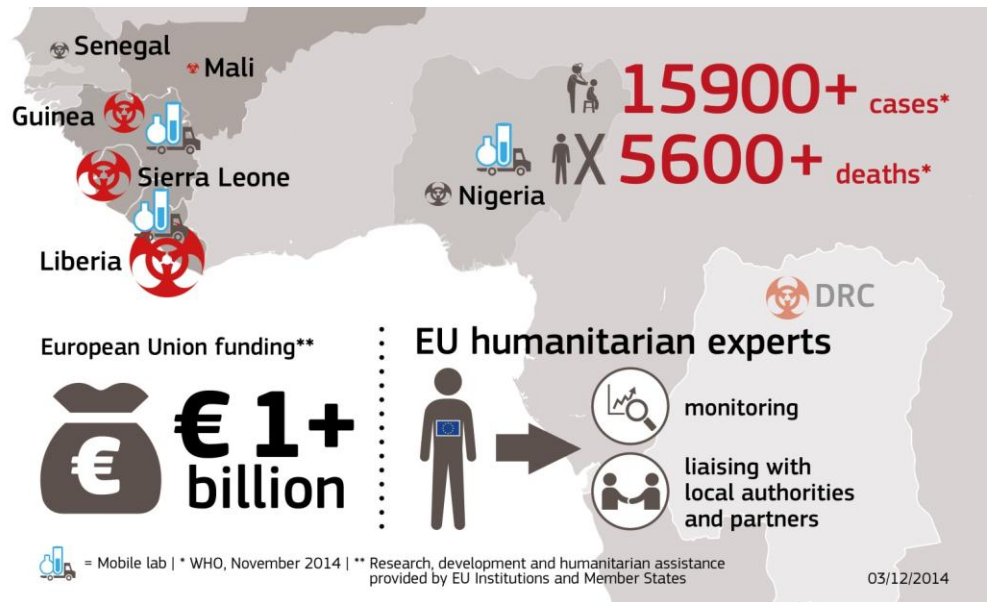
## Facts & Figures

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

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

**Number of suspected, probable and confirmed cases (WHO)\*:**  
over 15 900

**Number of deaths (WHO)\*:**  
over 5 600



## EU funding

**European Union's response (Commission and Member States):**  
**close to EUR 1.1 billion**

**European Commission:**  
**EUR 372 million**

\* As of 23 November 2014  
(source: World Health Organisation, Ebola Response Roadmap Situation Report of Nov 26, 2014)

Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection  
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel.: (+32 2) 295 44 00  
Fax: (+32 2) 295 45 72  
email: [echo-info@ec.europa.eu](mailto:echo-info@ec.europa.eu)  
Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/echo>



\* All the latest ECHO Factsheets:  
[bit.ly/echo-fs](http://bit.ly/echo-fs)

## Key messages

- West Africa is experiencing the worst Ebola epidemic on record. As of 23 November over **15 900 people have been infected** and more than **5 600 people have died** in the affected countries.
- The situation **continues to deteriorate** and risks having deeper impact on the economies of the countries concerned. The Ebola outbreak generates further humanitarian needs, such as food, clean water and sanitation. More **health personnel**, trainers for health workers, and logisticians are urgently needed on the ground.
- The EU Ebola Coordinator and Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, **Christos Stylianides**, travelled to the region in November.
- The European Union is using all available resources to help fight the epidemic. The EU and its Member States have pledged almost **EUR 1.1 billion**.
- **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 to facilitate and support the rapid deployment of material assistance and experts to the region.
- The Commission has mobilised **medical evacuation** capacity for infected international 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 \(ERCC\)](#).

## 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. 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 weak healthcare systems of the affected countries and due to the mobility of people in the region, the virus has spread quickly and across a large territory. The virus is believed to have first 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 World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared the epidemic a **Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)**. The Ebola epidemic is taking a devastating toll in Guinea, [Liberia](#), Sierra Leone and now Mali. According to the WHO, this is the largest recorded outbreak in terms of cases, deaths and geographical coverage. [Nigeria](#) and Senegal have been declared Ebola-free by the WHO.

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 medical equipment, and securing transport corridors for medical staff and supplies.

## The European Union's Humanitarian response

The Commission has provided over EUR 372 million for humanitarian and development aid and medical research. Together with the funding of EU Member States, this brings the **total EU contribution close to EUR 1.1 billion**. In addition, emergency supplies and experts are being ferried in to the worst affected areas.

Since March 2014, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) has allocated EUR 58 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, such as **MSF, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, IMC, Save the Children, IRC, Alima, WFP's Humanitarian Air Service, UNICEF** and **WHO**. The assistance contributes directly to epidemic surveillance, the diagnosis and treatment of patients, medical training and medical supplies, including personal protective equipment.

### A coherent European response

The European Commission's approach to combating Ebola also includes funding and support to the affected countries in development aid and to research into vaccines, treatments and diagnostics.

Through its Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC), the Commission 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. Several participating states have made offers to send aid to West Africa (see table below). In addition, Member States are also supporting the fight against Ebola through bilateral pledges, including funding and in-kind assistance.



International health and aid workers operating directly on the ground are the backbone of the global response to the Ebola epidemic. **More health workers are urgently needed.** To support their deployment to the affected region, the EU has established a system for medical evacuations. Through its Member States and commercial partners, the European Union provides specially equipped aircraft and trained personnel for the **evacuation within 48 hours of international humanitarian workers** who have contracted Ebola to hospitals in Europe equipped to handle the virus.

### Emergency supplies and experts offered through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism\*

	Vehicles (cars, airplanes, vessels)	Medical Equipment	Hospital Equipment/mobile hospitals	Patient Care/Medication	Safe Burial Equipment	Personal Protection Equipment	Experts/medical staff/training	Sanitation equipment (toilets, disinfectant)
Austria	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
Belgium	✓						✓	
Czech Republic					✓	✓		
Denmark			✓				✓	
Finland		✓	✓					
France		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Germany	✓		✓					✓
Hungary				✓		✓		✓
Netherlands	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Norway							✓	
Romania	✓							
Slovakia		✓	✓					✓
Sweden			✓	✓			✓	
UK	✓		✓	✓		✓		

\*This information is valid as of 3 December 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)

