



EU Response to the Ebola epidemic

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

End of Ebola transmission in West Africa:

- Sierra Leone:
17 March 2016
- Guinea:
1 June 2016
- Liberia:
9 June 2016

Number of suspected, probable and confirmed cases:

- in West Africa
more than 28 600
- in DRC 20
suspected and 2
confirmed

Number of deaths*:

More than 11 300

EU funding

European Union's response (Commission and Member States):
close to €2 billion

EC: close to €870 million



Photo credit: EU/ECHO/Jonathan Hyams

Key messages

- The European Union, together with its Member States, made available close to **€2 billion in financial aid** to help West Africa contain and recover from the outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) that devastated the region in 2014-15.
- For West Africa, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the end of Ebola transmission in March 2016. The period with higher risk of re-emergence is over and the national authorities in the concerned countries have taken back the task of surveillance.
- On 12 May 2007, a new case of Ebola was confirmed in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with a number of suspected cases reported in the following days. The situation is closely monitored by the **Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC)**, which served as a response hub under the authority of the **EU Ebola Coordinator, Humanitarian Aid commissioner Christos Stylianides**.
- During the outbreak in West Africa, the European Commission coordinated EU support and provided affected countries with **humanitarian aid**, technical expertise, longer-term **development assistance**, investment in research for a **vaccine** and **evacuation** means for international humanitarian workers.
- Activation of the **EU Civil Protection Mechanism** enabled the rapid, coordinated deployment of emergency supplies and experts offered by the Member States.
- The Commission is now fully focused on **long term recovery**: financing programs for healthcare, agriculture, infrastructure, education, sanitation, macro-economic stability and transport.

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* All the latest ECHO
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Background

Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone were the countries where the virus took the heaviest toll on life. Beyond the human tragedy, the disease had devastating effects on the security, economies and health care systems of the whole region. The European Union was active in the response to the Ebola emergency from the start. It mobilised all available political, financial and scientific resources to help contain, control, treat and ultimately defeat Ebola.

The EU's assistance

The financial contribution of the EU to fight the epidemic in West Africa amounts to close to €2 billion, including funding from the Member States. The European Commission allocated close to €870 million for emergency measures and longer-term support.

Humanitarian Aid

Since March 2014, the European Commission provided close to €70 million in **humanitarian aid to address the most urgent needs**. These funds were channelled through humanitarian partner organisations, including the UN, International Organisations and NGOs. EU humanitarian aid contributed to epidemic surveillance, diagnostics, treatment and medical supplies; deployment of doctors and nurses and training of health workers; awareness-raising among the population and promotion of safe burials.

As part of its coordinated response, the EU provided emergency supplies and sent experts to the affected countries. The [EU Civil Protection Mechanism](#) facilitated the delivery of material **support from the Member States** through the [Emergency Response Coordination Centre](#) (ERCC). EU Member States provided mobile laboratories, treatment centres, ambulances and field hospitals. The EU organized logistical support including multiple airlifting operations and supports the deployment of navy ships to transport emergency supplies provided by the Member States, such as food aid, medical kits, clean blankets and chlorine for sanitations.

Development Aid

In addition to existing development partnerships, the European Commission is providing **€660 million in development and early recovery assistance** to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to reinforce the capacity of governments to deliver vital public services and facilitate a smooth transition to recovery. Development funds are used to strengthen food security and improve water and sanitation and to finance mobile laboratories for the detection of the virus and the training of health workers.

Medical Research

An Ebola research programme was launched by the EU in 2014 with a budget of nearly €240 million for vaccine development, diagnostic tests and treatments. The EU is also involved in the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership programme, with a budget of €2 billion over the next ten years.

Advocacy, coordination and diplomatic outreach

From the onset of the crisis, the EU was in constant contact with the United Nations, relief agencies on the ground, the governments in the region as well as with regional organizations. The creation of an EU Ebola Task Force further strengthened the coordination amongst European institutions, Member States and other international and regional organisations.

The European Union co-**chaired a high-level international conference on Ebola** in March 2015 to take stock of the response against Ebola and **coordinate further action**.

