



Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak

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BACKGROUND

26 December 2013 - Africa's first case of this Ebola outbreak (retrospect)

23 March: Formal notification of an outbreak of Ebola virus disease in Guinea on WHO website,

- Reinforced activities on the field - GOARN partners - NGOs

2-3 July: Emergency Ministerial meeting in Accra, Ghana

- operations coordination centre in Conakry, Guinea
- Ebola Outbreak Response Plan



BACKGROUND

8 August: DG/WHO calls for 1st IHR Emergency Committee Meeting, declares the Public Health Emergency of International Concern – PHEIC and issued Temporary Recommendations.

- WHO Call to establish International Travel and Transport Task Force
- WHO Ebola response road map

United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution that affirmed the threat this outbreak poses to peace and security

- UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response - UNMEER

22 Sept. 2014 – 2nd IHR Emergency Committee

23 Oct. 2014 – 3rd IHR Emergency Committee Meeting



EBOLA - PH Emergency of International Concern

What the UN Security Council said about IHR

- **IHR contribute to global public health security** by providing a framework for the coordination/ management of potential PHEICs, and aim to improve the capacity of all countries to detect, assess, notify and respond to public health threats and *underscoring* the importance of WHO Member States abiding by these commitments;"
- **Urged Member States to implement IHR temporary recommendations**, and lead the organization, coordination and implementation of national preparedness and response activities, including in collaboration with international development and humanitarian partners;



EVD BACKGROUND

This outbreak has since evolved into the largest, most severe and most complex outbreak in the history of the disease.

- 1) The most-affected countries, with widespread and intense transmission: Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone
- 2) Countries with or that have had an initial case or cases, or with localized transmission : Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Spain and USA
- 3) Unrelated outbreak of EVD in the Democratic Republic of the Congo





HIGHLIGHTS

- There have been 14 413 reported Ebola cases in eight countries since the outbreak began, with 5177 reported deaths.
- Case incidence continues to increase in Sierra Leone, and transmission also remains intense in Guinea and Liberia.
- A total of 4 cases, including 3 deaths, have been reported in Mali.

CASES / DEATHS

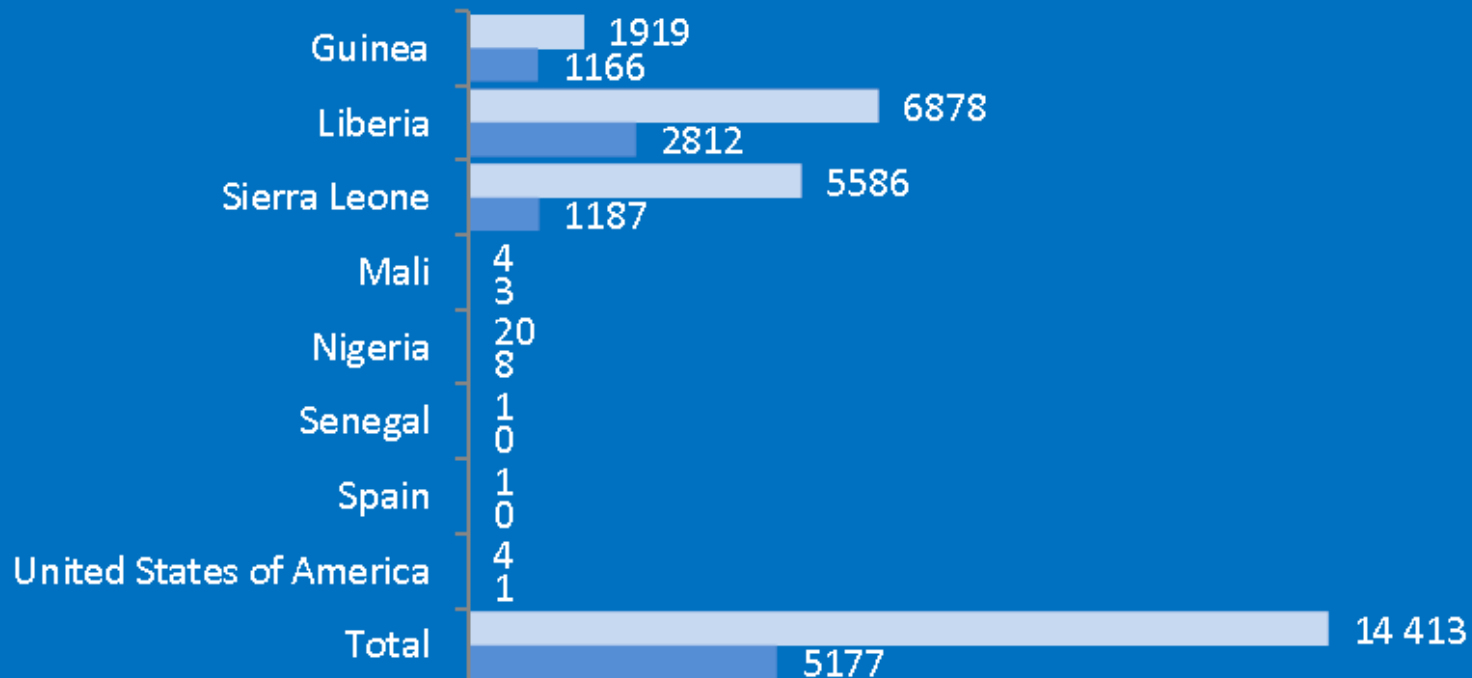
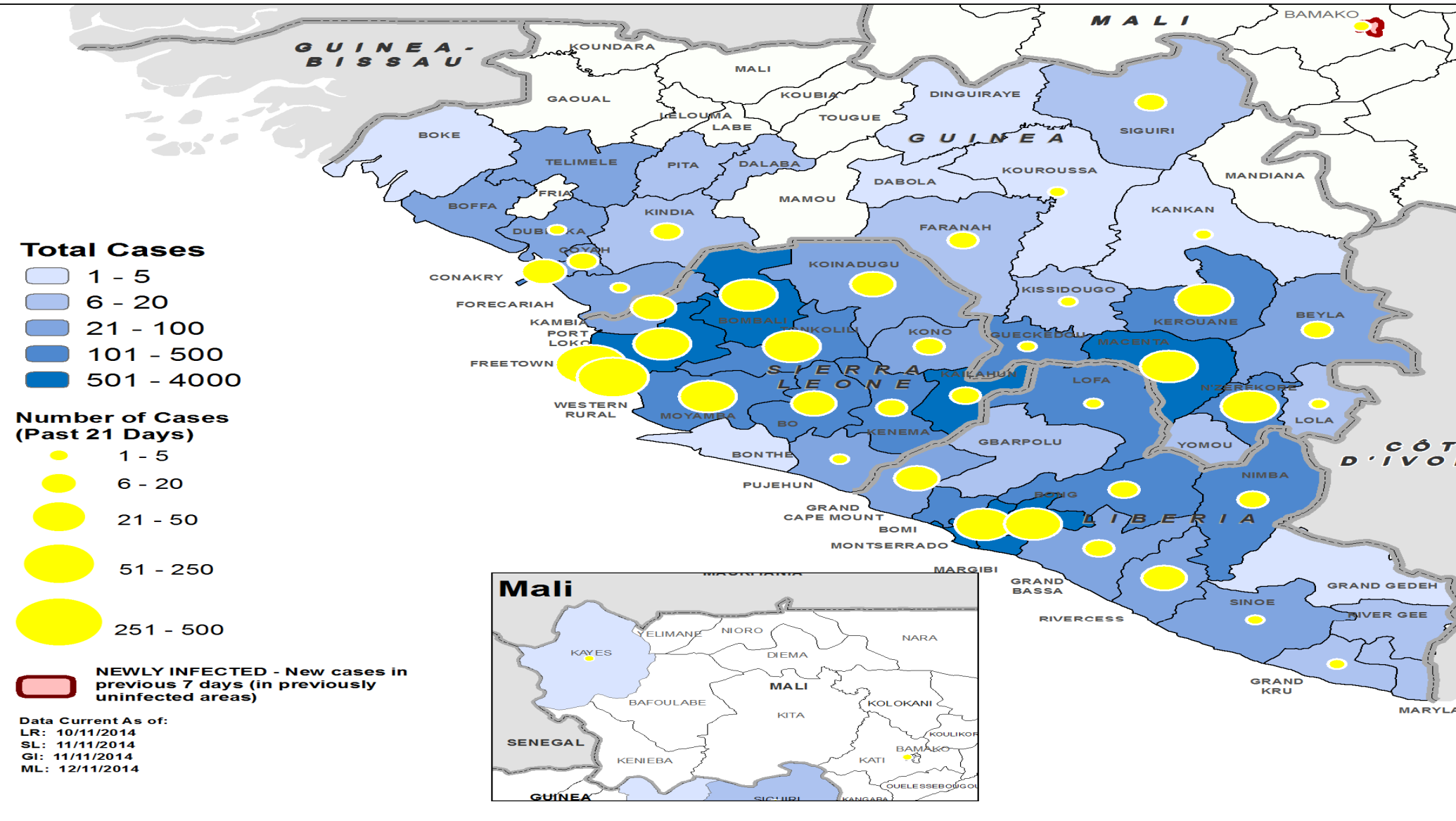


Figure 1: Geographical distribution of cases in the past 21 days and total cases in Guinea, Liberia, Mali and Sierra Leone



WHO Roadmap for EBOLA

The goal is to stop Ebola transmission in affected countries within 6-9 months and prevent international spread

OBJECTIVES	KEY MILESTONES
1 Full geographic coverage with complementary Ebola response activities in countries with widespread & intense transmission	Reverse trend in new cases & areas within 2 months; stop all Ebola within 6-9 months
2 Emergency application of comprehensive Ebola response in countries with initial case(s) or localized transmission	Stop all transmission within 6-8 weeks of index case
3 Preparedness of all countries, esp. those sharing land borders with intense transmission areas and with international transportation hubs	Surveillance, preparedness, in all bordering areas & int'l transport hubs in 1 month



Ebola Virus Disease in humans

- The incubation period of Ebola virus disease (EVD) (the interval from infection to the onset of symptoms) ranges from 2 to 21 days.
- Start with feverish syndrome: often characterized by the sudden onset of fever, intense weakness, muscle pain, headache and sore throat
- Followed by vomiting, diarrhoea, rash, impaired kidney and liver function, and in some cases, both internal and external bleeding

FEAR, RUMOURS & STIGMATIZATION

Rumours and panic are spreading faster than the virus.

Ebola sparks nearly universal fear. Fear vastly amplifies social disruption and economic losses well beyond the outbreak zones.

This costs money. The World Bank estimates that the vast majority of economic losses during any outbreak arise from the uncoordinated and irrational efforts of the public to avoid infection.

In trade, tourism and travel, all of sub-Saharan Africa is suffering. The perception out there is that this is an “African disease”, that all of the African Region is somehow contaminated.

This is, of course, not true. People don't even bother to look at maps. The whole continent is being stigmatized unfairly, unjustifiably. (M.Chan)



Travel and Transport issues

- **Travel and transport restriction:** issued by countries (even not affected ones) with high impact in transport, travel and tourism in Africa and creating difficulties for access to humanitarian aid in affected countries
- **Crew not able to step out of the ship or ship in long detention for quarantine (over 21 days)**
- **Several airlines suspended full or partial operations**
- **Medivac – evacuation by air ambulances is also affected**
- **Refusal / difficulty for shipment of specimens for lab tests**
- **Closure of land borders**



EBOLA

Will the present disaster become a catastrophe?

- Not if we implement proven control measures now.
- As today's assessment of the situation in Nigeria and Senegal shows, conventional control tools can be highly effective at the start of an outbreak, even under some extremely challenging conditions.
- Moreover, countries with well-developed health systems and services are unlikely to see much – if any – onward transmission of Ebola virus disease following an imported case (e.g. USA, SPAIN).

Travel & Health - Key messages

- Principal mode of transmission: Person-to-person transmission by means of direct contact with infected, symptomatic persons or their body fluids/secretions or with infected dead bodies or animals, all unlikely exposures for the average traveller.
- People are not infective during the incubation period, become infective with the onset of symptoms.
- The risk of a traveller becoming infected with Ebola virus during a visit to affected areas is extremely low.
- WHO therefore does not recommend travel restrictions to or from the countries affected.



Travel & Health - Key messages (2)

- Exit screening of all passengers is being undertaken at international air and sea ports and major land crossings in affected countries with high level of transmission.
- Up-to-date information on the disease is provided to travellers.
- Travellers should seek out such information, keep it readily available and be aware of action to take in the unlikely event that they develop relevant symptoms.
- Early treatment improves the chance of recovery.



Guidance at WHO EBOLA website

- E-learning on EBOLA event management at PoE
<https://extranet.who.int/ihr/training/course/view.php?id=96>
- EBOLA event management at PoE
<http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/ebola/event-management-poe/en/>
- Travel and transport risk assessment + updated
<http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/ebola/travel-guidance/en/>
- Exit screening <http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/ebola/exit-screening-guidance/en/>



EBOLA WHO website

<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en/>

- Technical information
 - Infection control
 - Social mobilization
 - Epidemiology
 - Preparedness and response
 - Patient care
- Guidelines
- Meeting reports
- Disease outbreak news

The screenshot shows the WHO website's 'Global Alert and Response (GAR)' section for Ebola. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'Health topics', 'Data', 'Media centre', 'Publications', 'Countries', 'Programmes', and 'About WHO'. The 'Programmes' tab is active. Below the navigation is a search bar and a 'Global Alert and Response (GAR)' header. The main content area features a sidebar with links to 'GAR Home', 'Alert & Response Operations', 'Diseases', 'Global Outbreak Alert & Response Network', and 'Biorisk Reduction'. The main article is titled 'Ebola: identifying the cause of death' and includes a photo of a person in a white protective suit and yellow gloves handling a sample in a container. The article text states: '17 November 2014 -- Dead bodies can be very contagious when it comes to Ebola, but that does not mean that every deceased person has died due to the disease. In order to speed up the process of identifying the cause of death of each patient, WHO is working closely with the Liberia Institute for Biomedical Research to train burial teams on how to collect an oral swab from deceased patients safely.' Below the article is a 'Read the photo story' link. To the right of the article are four featured links: 'Ebola news and top stories', 'Ebola identifying the cause of death', 'Ebola outbreak features map', and 'Safe Ebola burials'. Below the article is a 'Highlights on Ebola' section with four items: 'Ebola travel advice', 'Fact sheet on Ebola virus disease', 'Frequently asked questions on Ebola', and 'Ebola situation assessments'. At the bottom of the page, there are sections for 'Highlighted resources', 'Situation reports: Ebola response roadmap', 'Related news on Ebola', 'International Health Regulations', and 'Technical Information'. The WHO logo is visible in the bottom right corner.