

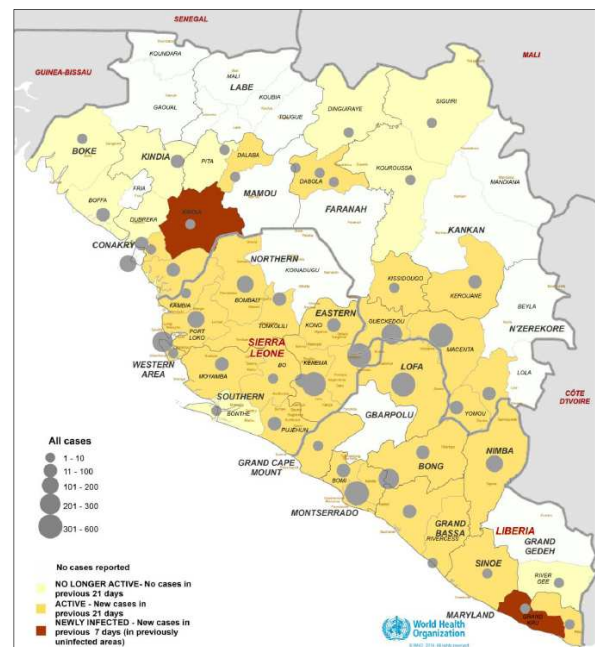


## HIGHLIGHTS

- Special Envoy Dr. Nabarro and WHO Director-General Dr. Chan attended today's Global Health Security Agenda in Washington D.C, during which U.S. President Obama announced an additional pledge of personal protective equipment for healthcare workers
- Latest updates from WHO indicate a total of 6,553 cases and 3,083 deaths during the current outbreak of Ebola in West Africa
- First confirmed case in Liberia's Kindia district; first cases in Liberia's Grand Kru district, following reports of six confirmed cases and four deaths

## Key Political and Economic Developments

1. Yesterday, Special Envoy Dr. David Nabarro and the WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan attended the Global Health Security Agenda (GHS) Summit hosted by U.S. President Barack Obama and National Security Adviser Susan Rice in Washington D.C and attended by national health ministers from around the world. During the Summit, Liberian doctor, Dr. Melvin Korkor, shared his personal experience as a survivor of EVD. The meeting concluded with an address by President Obama, in which he once again urged swift and decisive action, and stressed the importance of accountability for pledges of future action. The President also announced that the U.S. would fund the mass production of personal protective suits with better ventilation for healthcare workers – reportedly one of the biggest weaknesses of the current range of suits – aiming to have them in the region within the next few months.
2. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met yesterday with H.E. Mr. Alpha Condé, the President of the Republic of Guinea, to discuss UN support to Guinea to contain the spread of Ebola, stem the crisis and save lives.
3. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved USD 130 million in emergency aid to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to cover part of the immediate balance of payments and budget needs of the three countries. The head of the IMF said that the organization was “working hard with the authorities of the affected countries and their development partners to ensure that the outbreak is quickly brought under control and to assist in the economic rebuilding that must follow.” Under the outlay, Liberia has been allocated USD 49 million, Guinea USD 41 million and Sierra Leone USD 40 million. The IMF said that the affected countries require an additional USD 170 million.
4. In response to yesterday's fresh global pledges towards overcoming the EVD epidemic, today Liberia welcomed the contributions which demonstrated that “the entire world now understands the urgency of the reaction to [the] threat of Ebola.” The Liberian Information Minister also cautioned that, unless these commitments are quickly followed by action, there is a risk of those being impacted by the epidemic losing patience and blaming their governments.



## Human Rights

5. The Human Rights Council, yesterday, issued a statement that countries must not trample over human rights during the battle against Ebola. The Council, whose 47 members include Sierra Leone,

in a unanimous decision called upon countries to “respect, protect and promote all human rights on the basis of equality while combatting the epidemic on the ground.” It said that the countries must be mindful of the human rights and freedoms of their citizens when implementing measures to limit the spread of the virus. Concerns have been raised that the extreme measures taken by authorities, such as forcible quarantines, could worsen the epidemic by heightening mistrust of authorities and alienating at-risk populations.

### **Medical**

6. Based on the latest WHO Ebola Response Roadmap Update, a total of 6,553 cases and 3,083 deaths have been reported in the current outbreak of EVD, as of 23 September 2014 according to the Ministries of Health of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Notably, in Guinea, the district of Kindia reported its first confirmed case. While the Liberian district of Grand Kru, a rural area close to the border with Côte d'Ivoire, also reported its first EVD cases, following the confirmation of six cases and four deaths.
7. During a press briefing today in Geneva, the WHO Assistant Director-General on Health Information and Systems Dr. Marie Paule Kieny advised that the WHO is continuing to cooperate with a wide range of partners to accelerate work on experimental therapies and vaccines. Dr. Kieny indicated that the WHO was focusing on the acceleration of clinical trials for two experimental vaccines, which will determine whether they are effective and safe. Provided testing is successful, these vaccines could be ready for use at the beginning of 2015, although they would not be available in such quantities that would enable mass vaccinations.
8. In response to interest from affected countries and many partners, the WHO has also released guidelines for safe use of blood transfusions for the treatment of EVD patients, and is working with partners to help distribute materials to make it possible to treat current patients using plasma extracted from recovered patients.

### **Resource Mobilisation**

9. Today, Cuba announced that it will send a further 300 doctors and nurses to Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia to help fight the Ebola epidemic. This will greatly augment the previously announced team of more than 160 Cuban healthcare workers, the first of whom began to arrive earlier this week.
10. Yesterday, the Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Lilianne Ploumen pledged an additional EUR 3 million (approximately USD 3.8 million) to be allocated for improving water management and sanitation in the three most-affected countries, since “both [of these activities] are essential in preventing Ebola infection.”
11. Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf publicly expressed her gratitude to the Chinese Government’s commitment on Wednesday to end the spread of Ebola, following a donation of over USD 3 million. Of this sum, USD 1 million will be provided to the Liberian Government, USD 2 million to WFP for food assistance to Liberia, and USD 211,781 to the Liberian National Police for logistic support.

### **Attachments and Resources**

- WHO: Ebola Response Roadmap Update, as of 26 September
- [Logistics Cluster: Map of access constraints in Liberia, as of 24 September](#)
- [Assessment Capacities Project Briefing Note: Ebola Impact on Health, as of 26 September](#)