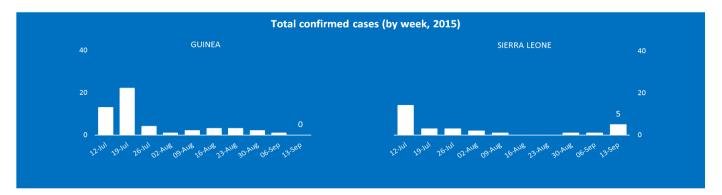
World Health Organization

EBOLA SITUATION REPORT

16 SEPTEMBER 2015



SUMMARY

- There were 5 confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) reported in the week to 13 September, all of which were in Sierra Leone. Guinea recorded its first EVD-free week in over 12 months. All but one of the cases in Sierra Leone were registered contacts associated with the Kambia chain of transmission. A new confirmed case was also reported from the central Sierra Leonean district of Bombali, which has not reported a case for over 5 months. The case, a 16-year-old girl, had severe symptoms in the community for several days before being admitted to an Ebola treatment centre (ETC). There is considered to be a high-risk of further transmission associated with this case, and over 600 contacts have been identified so far. A rapid-response team has been deployed in order to minimise the risk of further transmission and establish the origin of infection. The total number of contacts under observation in Guinea and Sierra Leone has increased from approximately 1300 on 6 September to 1800 on 13 September. The vast majority of these contacts are located in the Sierra Leonean districts of Bombali and Kambia. Approximately 60 contacts are considered to be high-risk.
- Guinea recorded a twelfth consecutive day without a confirmed case on 13 September. The last confirmed case was reported on 1 September from the Ratoma area of the capital, Conakry. However, over 200 contacts remain under follow-up in Conakry and the nearby prefecture of Dubreka; the majority of contacts in Conakry are approximately halfway through their 21-day follow-up period, with those in Dubreka due to complete follow-up on 16 September. A total of 23 contacts have been lost to follow-up during the past 42 days, at least one of whom was considered a high-risk contact. Rapid-response teams remain on alert and ready to deploy should any further cases be reported.
- Of the 5 new confirmed cases reported from Sierra Leone in the week to 13 September, 4 were high-risk contacts associated with the Kambia transmission chain centred on several homes in the village of Sella Kafta, Tonko Limba chiefdom. All 4 cases are close relatives of the initial case in the cluster: an approximately 60-year-old woman identified as a community death during the week to 30 August. Over 840 contacts have been identified in association with the chain of transmission, although the majority of these contacts have been defined by geographical proximity rather than by history of possible exposure, and are therefore considered to be at low risk. Approximately 40 high-risk contacts have been identified in association with the Kambia chain of transmission; one high-risk contact has been lost to follow-up and is being traced. In addition, a case was reported from Bombali Sebora chiefdom in the district of Bombali on 13 September. The case, a 16-year-old girl, was symptomatic in the community for several days before her death shortly after admission to an ETC. The origin of infection is currently under investigation. Bombali had not reported a case for over 5 months. A rapid response team has been deployed to coordinate case investigation and contact tracing. Over 600 contacts in a community of approximately 800 people have been identified so far, of whom 18 are considered to be high-risk contacts; one high-risk contact has not yet been traced.
- No new health worker infections were reported in the week to 13 September. There have been a total of 881 confirmed health worker infections reported from Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone since the start of the outbreak, with 513 reported deaths.

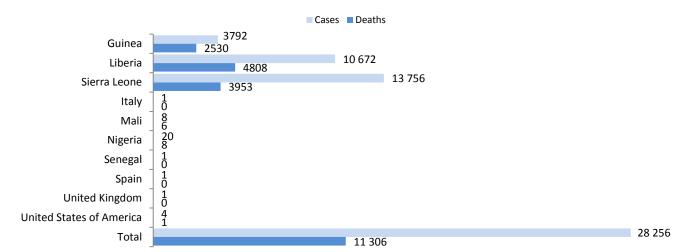


Figure 1: Confirmed, probable, and suspected EVD cases worldwide (data up to 13 September 2015)

COUNTRIES WITH WIDESPREAD AND INTENSE TRANSMISSION

Table 1: Confirmed, probable, and suspected cases in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone

Country	Case definition	Cumulative cases	Cases in past 21 days	Cumulative deaths
	Confirmed	3338	3	2078
Cuinas	Probable	452	*	452
Guinea	Suspected	2	*	‡
	Total	3792	3	2530
	Confirmed	3151		‡
	Probable	1879	-	‡
	Suspected	5636	-	‡
Liberia**	Total	10 666	-	4806
Liberia	Confirmed	6	0	2
	Probable	*	*	‡
	Suspected	‡	*	‡
	Total	6	0	2
	Confirmed	8704	7	3587
Sierra Leone	Probable	287	*	208
Sierra Leone	Suspected	4765	*	158
	Total	13 756	7	3953
	Confirmed	15 199	10	‡
Total	Probable	2618	*	‡
iulai	Suspected	10 403	*	‡
	Total	28 220	10	11 291

Data are based on official information reported by ministries of health. These numbers are subject to change due to ongoing reclassification, retrospective investigation and availability of laboratory results. *Not reported due to the high proportion of probable and suspected cases that are reclassified. [‡]Data not available. **Cases reported before 9 May 2015 are shaded blue. Due to ongoing surveillance and retrospective validation of cases and deaths, these totals may be subject to revision. Liberia was declared free of Ebola virus transmission in the human population on 3 September 2015, and has now entered a period of heightened surveillance.

- There have been a total of 28 220 reported confirmed, probable, and suspected cases¹ of EVD in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone (figure 1, table 1) up to 13 September, with 11 291 reported deaths (this total includes reported deaths among probable and suspected cases, although outcomes for many cases are unknown). Five new cases were reported in the week to 13 September, all of which were in Sierra Leone.
- The total number of confirmed cases is similar in males and females (table 2). Compared with children (people aged 14 years and under), adults aged 15 to 44 are approximately four times more likely to be affected in Guinea and Liberia, and three times more likely to be affected in Sierra Leone.
- No new health worker infections were reported in the week to 13 September. Since the start of the outbreak a total of 881 confirmed health worker infections have been reported in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone; there have been 513 reported deaths (table 5).

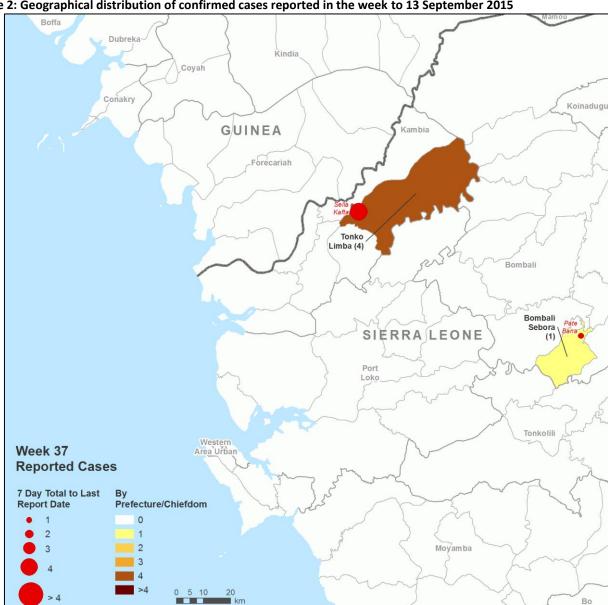


Figure 2: Geographical distribution of confirmed cases reported in the week to 13 September 2015

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

¹Case definition recommendations for Ebola or Marburg Virus Diseases: http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/ebola/ebola-case-definitioncontact-en.pdf?ua=1

Table 2: Cumulative number of confirmed cases by sex and age group in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone

	Cumulative cases								
Country		By sex* 000 population)	By age group‡ (per 100 000 population)						
	Male	Female	0–14 years	15-44 years	45+ years				
Guinea	1594	1739	531	1898	860				
Guinea	(29)	(32)	(11)	(41)	(55)				
Liberia [§]	1911	1838	561	2060	703				
Liberia	(96)	(93)	(33)	(121)	(132)				
Ciarra Lagra	4823	5118	1992	5636	2140				
Sierra Leone	(169)	(176)	(82)	(218)	(290)				

Population figures are based on estimates from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. These numbers are subject to change due to ongoing reclassification, retrospective investigation and availability of laboratory results. *Excludes cases for which data on sex are not available. ‡Excludes cases for which data on age are not available. Data are until 9 May 2015.

Table 3: Cases and contacts by district/prefecture/county over the past 3 weeks

	Prefecture/ District/	W	/eek	7 Sept	8 Sept	9 Sept	10 Sept	11 Sept	12 Sept	13 Sept	Week	Contacts under
	County	35	36	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	37	follow up*
Guinea	Conakry	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	223
Guinea	Dubreka	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
Subtotal		2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	241
Sierra	Bombali	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	680
Leone	Kambia	1	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	844
Subtotal		1	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	5	1524
Total		3	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	5	1765

Data are based on official information reported by ministries of health. These numbers are subject to change due to ongoing reclassification, retrospective investigation, and availability of laboratory results. *Data as of 13 September 2015 for Guinea and Sierra Leone.

GUINEA

- Key performance indicators for the EVD response in Guinea are shown in table 6.
- No cases were reported from Guinea the week to 13 September (table 3, table 4, figure 2, figure 3). This is the first time Guinea has completed a full epidemiological week without a case for over a year. As at 13 September the country had gone 12 consecutive days without reporting a case. However, 23 contacts have been lost to follow-up during the past 42 days, at least one of whom was considered a high-risk contact.
- The last case was a 13-year-old girl and registered contact associated with the Ratoma chain of transmission, and was considered to present a high-risk of further transmission. That case was reported on 1 September.
- The Ebola ça suffit! ring vaccination trial is continuing in Guinea. All rings comprised of contacts and contacts of contacts associated with confirmed cases now receive immediate vaccination with the rVSV-ZEBOV Ebola vaccine. Previously, rings were randomly allocated to receive either immediate vaccination or vaccination 21 days after the confirmation of a case.
- 241 contacts were under follow-up on 13 September in Guinea in 2 adjacent prefectures, Conakry (223 contacts) and Dubreka (18 contacts), compared with 292 contacts in the same 2 prefectures the previous week.
- There was 1 (0.2%) unsafe burial reported in Guinea out of 587 community deaths during the week to 13 September, compared with 9 (2%) unsafe burials out of 542 community deaths during the previous week.
- Including both initial and repeat testing, a total of 765 laboratory samples were tested in the week to 13
 September. Most tests (93% in the week to 13 September) are of post-mortem swabs taken to rule out EVD as

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² United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs: http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Excel-Data/population.htm

the cause of death. In the week to 6 September, 11 (32%) of 34 prefectures in Guinea submitted samples for laboratory testing.

- Locations of the 8 operational Ebola treatment centres (ETCs) are shown in figure 7. No health worker infections were reported in the week to 13 September.
- Locations of the 8 operational laboratories in Guinea are shown in figure 8.

Table 4: Location and epidemiological status of confirmed cases reported in the 3 weeks to 13 September 2015

	Prefecture/	Sub-	Week 35	Week 35 Week 36 W				Week 37 (7 - 13 September 2015)			
Country	District/ County	prefecture/ Chiefdom/ District	(24 - 30 Aug 2015)	(31 Aug - 6 Sept 2015)	Cases	On contact list	Epi- link*	Unknown source of infection [‡]	Confirmed community death [§]	Date of last confirmed case	
Guinea	Conakry	Ratoma	1	1						01/09/2015	
Guinea	Dubreka	Dubreka-centre	1	0						25/08/2015	
Subtotal			2	1	0	0	0	0	0		
Sierra	Bombali	Bombali Sebora	0	0	1			1		13/09/2015	
Leone	Kambia	Tonko Limba	1	1	4	4				09/09/2015	
Subtotal			1	1	5	4	0	1	0		
All			3	2	5	4	0	1	0		

Sub-prefectures/chiefdoms/districts that reported one or more confirmed cases in the 7 days to 13 September are highlighted. *Epi-link refers to cases who were not registered as contacts of a previous case (possibly because they refused to cooperate or were untraceable), but who, after further epidemiological investigation, were found to have had contact with a previous case, OR refers to cases who are resident or are from a community with active transmission in the past 21 days. [‡]Includes cases under epidemiological investigation. [§]A case that is identified as a community death can also be registered as a contact, or subsequently be found to have had contact with a known case (epi-link), or have no known link to a previous case.

SIERRA LEONE

- Key performance indicators for the EVD response in Sierra Leone are shown in table 7.
- Five new confirmed cases were reported from Sierra Leone in the week to 13 September (table 3, table 4, figure 2, figure 3). Four cases were high-risk contacts associated with the Kambia transmission chain centred on several homes in the village of Sella Kafta, Tonko Limba chiefdom. All 4 cases are close relatives of the initial case in the cluster: an approximately 60-year-old woman identified as a community death during the week to 30 August. In addition, a case was reported from Bombali Sebora chiefdom in the district of Bombali on 13 September. The case, a 16-year-old girl, was symptomatic in the community for several days before her death shortly after admission to an ETC. The origin of infection is currently under investigation. Bombali has not reported a case for over 5 months. A rapid response team has been deployed to coordinate case investigation and contact tracing.
- The *Ebola ça suffit!* ring vaccination Phase 3 efficacy trial of the rVSV-ZEBOV vaccine has now been extended from Guinea to Sierra Leone. Contacts and contacts of contacts associated with new confirmed cases and who meet the trial's eligibility criteria will therefore be offered the vaccine.
- As at 13 September a total of 844 contacts had been identified in association with the Kambia chain of transmission, although the majority of these contacts have been defined by geographical proximity rather than by history of possible exposure, and are therefore considered to be at very low risk. Approximately 40 high-risk contacts have been identified and are being monitored closely. One high-risk contact has been lost to follow-up and is being traced. Over 600 contacts from a community of approximately 800 people have been identified so far in association with the case reported from Bombali. Eighteen of those contacts are deemed to have a high risk of developing EVD. One high-risk contact has not yet been traced.
- Locations of the 10 operational Ebola treatment centres (ETCs) in Sierra Leone are shown in figure 7. No health worker infections were reported in the week to 13 September.
- Laboratory indicators continue to reflect a heightened degree of vigilance, with 1778 new samples tested in the week to 6 September. Five new samples tested positive for EVD. Most tests (81% in the week to 13 September) are of post-mortem swabs taken to rule out EVD as the cause of death. In the week to 6

September, all 14 districts in Sierra Leone submitted samples for laboratory testing.

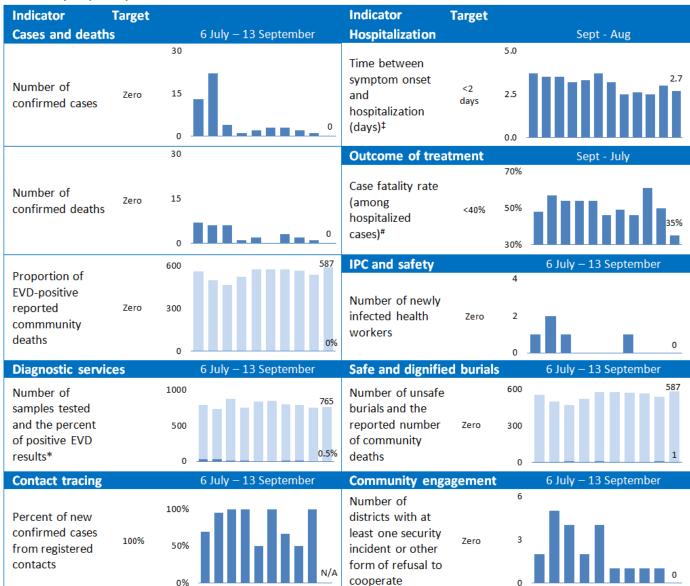
Locations of the 8 operational laboratories in Sierra Leone are shown in figure 8.

Table 5: Ebola virus disease infections in health workers in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone

Country	Cases	Deaths		
Guinea	196	100		
Liberia*	378	192		
Sierra Leone	307	221 [‡]		
Total	881	513		

Data are confirmed cases and deaths only, apart from deaths in Sierra Leone, which include confirmed, probable, and suspected deaths. *Data are until 9 May 2015. [‡]Data as of 17 February 2015.

Table 6: Key response performance indicators for Guinea



For definitions of key performance indicators see Annex 2. Data are given for 7-day periods. *Includes repeat samples. [‡]Data missing for 0–3% of cases. [#]Outcome data missing for 0–3% of hospitalized confirmed cases.

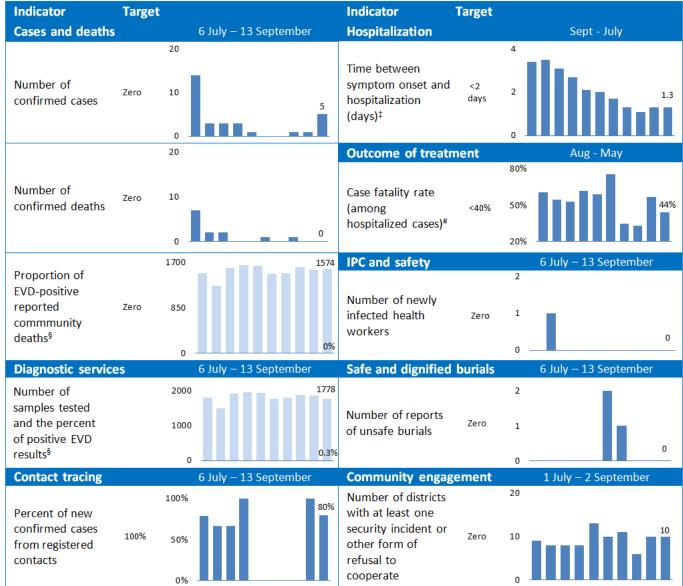


Table 7: Key response performance indicators for Sierra Leone

For definitions of key performance indicators see Annex 2. Data are for 7-day periods. §Laboratory data missing for 14 July. †Data missing for 7–14% of cases. #Outcome data missing for 0–77% of hospitalized confirmed cases. An outcome is known for only 6 hospitalized, confirmed cases in each April and May.

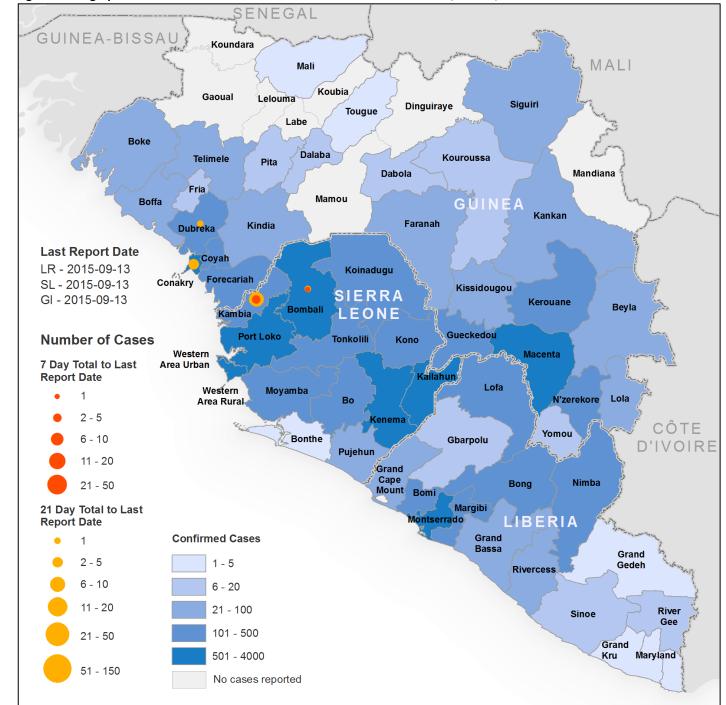
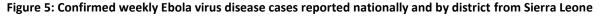


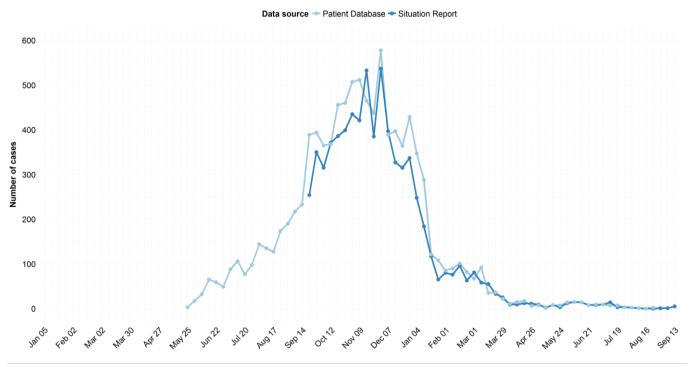
Figure 3: Geographical distribution of new and total confirmed cases in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone

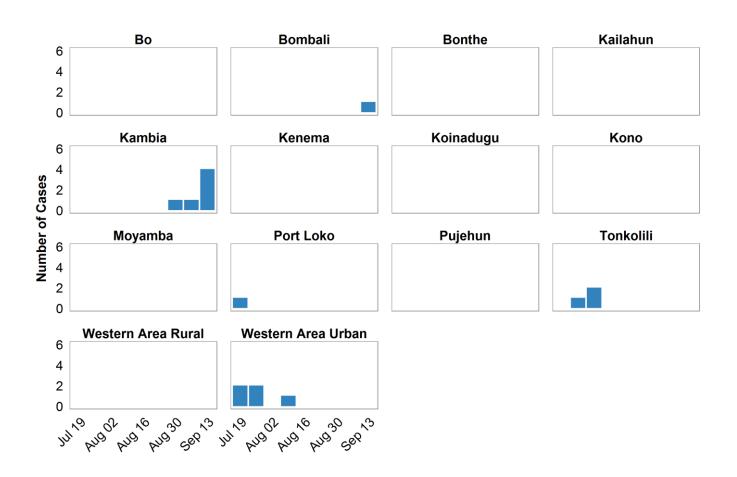
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Data source → Patient Database → Situation Report 600 500 400 Number of cases 300 200 100 **Boffa Dabola** Beyla **Boke** Conakry Coyah 15 10 5 0 Dalaba Dinguiraye Dubreka **Forecariah** Fria **Faranah** 15 10 5 0 Number of Cases Kissidougou Gueckedou Kankan Kerouane **Kindia** Kouroussa 15 10 5 0 Mali N'Zerekore Pita Siguiri Lola Macenta 15 10 5 0 Telimele Yomou **Tougue** 15 10 5

Figure 4: Confirmed weekly Ebola virus disease cases reported nationally and by prefecture from Guinea







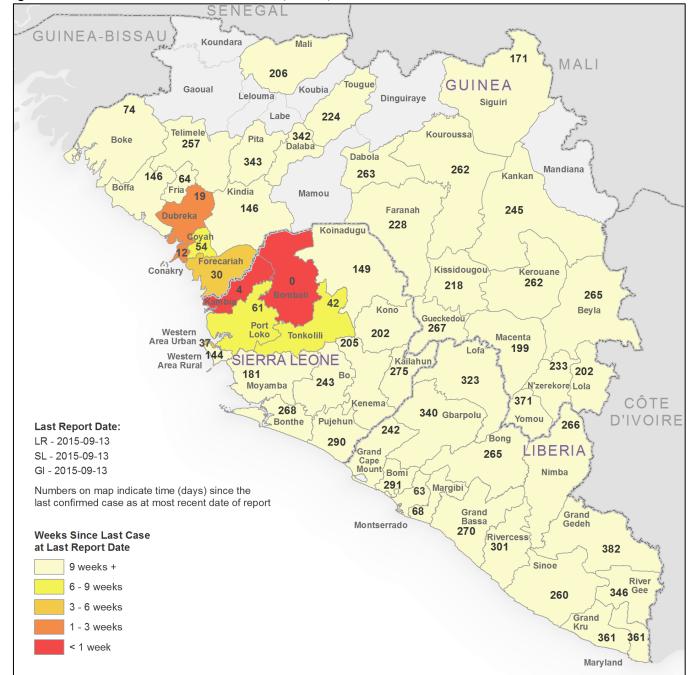


Figure 6: Time since last confirmed case in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone

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OTHER AFFECTED AND PREVIOUSLY AFFECTED COUNTRIES

- Liberia was declared free of Ebola virus transmission in the human population on 3 September 2015, 42 days after the country's last laboratory-confirmed case completed treatment and was confirmed as EVD-negative. It is now 64 days since symptom onset of the last reported confirmed case (figure 6). The country has now entered a 90-day period of heightened surveillance. Laboratory capacity is being increased to speed up the processing of samples.
- Seven countries (Italy, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America)
 have previously reported a case or cases imported from a country with widespread and intense transmission.

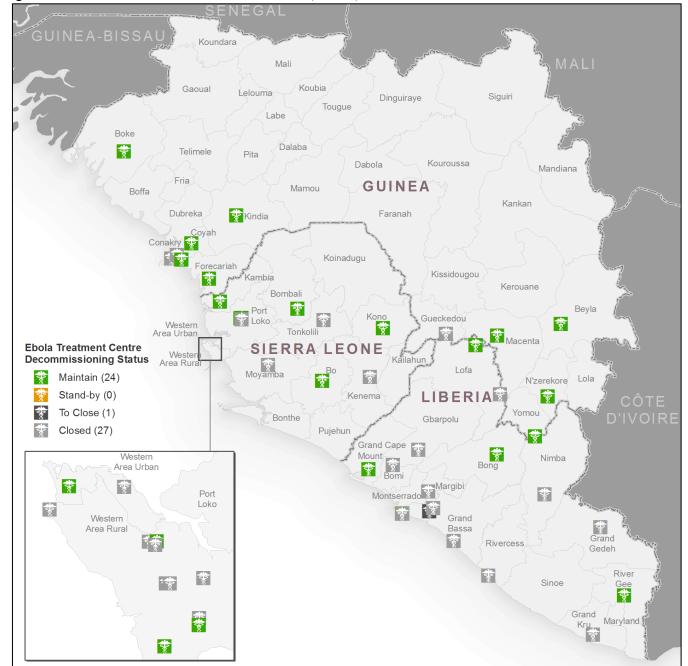


Figure 7: Location of Ebola treatment centres in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone

ETCs scheduled for closure will be decommissioned only when and where the epidemiological situation and the strength of referral pathways through non-EVD facilities allow. Several ETCs will be unstaffed but remain on a stand-by level of readiness, whereby stocks of protective equipment and essential medicines will be kept on-site such that the facility can become operational within 48 hours. This transition would be triggered by higher occupancy rates in nearby ETCs. Strategically located core ETCs will remain fully operational at their current capacity (Maintain). The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

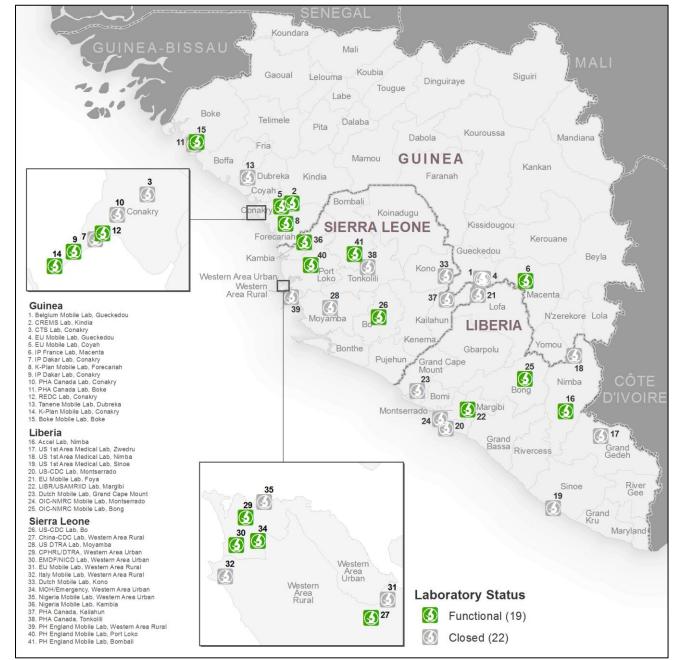


Figure 8: Location of laboratories in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone

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PREPAREDNESS OF COUNTRIES TO RAPIDLY DETECT AND RESPOND TO AN EBOLA EXPOSURE

- The introduction of an EVD case into unaffected countries remains a risk as long as cases exist in any country.
 With adequate preparation, however, such an introduction can be contained through a timely and effective response.
- WHO's preparedness activities aim to ensure all countries are ready to effectively and safely detect, investigate, and report potential EVD cases, and to mount an effective response. WHO provides this support through country support visits by preparedness-strengthening teams (PSTs) to help identify and prioritize gaps and needs, direct technical assistance, and provide technical guidance and tools.

Priority countries in Africa

- The initial focus of support by WHO and partners is on highest priority countries Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, and Senegal—followed by high priority countries—Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Togo. The criteria used to prioritize countries include the geographical proximity to affected countries, the magnitude of trade and migration links, and the relative strength of their health systems.
- Since 20 October 2014, PSTs have provided technical support in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, South Sudan, and Togo. Technical working group meetings, field visits, high-level table-top exercises, and field simulations have helped to identify key areas for improvement. Each country has a tailored plan to strengthen operational readiness.
- From October 2014 to September 2015 WHO has undertaken over 285 field deployments to priority countries to assist with the implementation of national plans.
- WHO provides personal protective equipment (PPE) modules containing minimum stocks to cover staff protection and other equipment needs to support 10 patient-beds for 10 days for all staff with essential functions. PPE modules have been delivered or are in the process of being delivered to all countries on the African continent. In addition, all countries have received a PPE training module.
- Contingency stockpiles of PPE are in place in the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depots (UNHRD) in Accra and Dubai, and are available to any country in the event that they experience a shortage.

Follow-up support to priority countries

- Following initial PST assessment missions to the 14 priority countries in 2014, a second phase of preparednessstrengthening activities have provided support on a country-by-country basis. Activities in the week to 16 September are highlighted below.
- In Guinea-Bissau, preparedness support continues to be provided at the central level, and in two priority regions (Tombali and Gabu) through WHO sub-offices.

EVD preparedness officers

Dedicated EVD preparedness officers have been deployed to support the implementation of country preparedness plans, coordinate partners, provide a focal point for inter-agency collaboration, offer specific technical support in their respective areas of expertise, and develop capacity of national WHO staff. Preparedness officers are currently deployed to Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Togo.

Training, exercises, and simulations

- Priority countries that have achieved a minimum of 50% implementation of preparedness checklist activities are encouraged to undertake a series of drills on elements of an EVD response and a functional exercise to test the coordination of the Ebola operations centre.
- Simulation exercises aimed at testing preparedness capabilities are being planned and will start in the coming weeks in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, and Guinea-Bissau.
- Training in public health functions at points-of-entry is planned for the end of September in Mauritania. At the beginning of October a facilitation team will be deployed to plan a simulation exercise.
- Logistics support will be provided in the Central African Republic from 28 September to 2 October.
- An infection prevention and control (IPC) specialist will be deployed to Togo at the beginning of October to follow-up on activities performed during a previous visit to the country.
- Training in clinical management and IPC will be take place from 4 to 10 October in Côte d'Ivoire.

• A team has been deployed to Benin to plan simulation exercises, and an IPC expert will support the country from the beginning of November.

Surveillance and preparedness indicators

- Indicators based on surveillance data, case-management capacity, laboratory testing, and equipment stocks continue to be collected on a weekly basis from the four countries that share a border with affected countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, and Senegal.
- An interactive preparedness dashboard based on the WHO EVD checklist³ is available online.

ANNEX 1: COORDINATION OF THE EBOLA RESPONSE

WHO continues to work with many partners in response to the EVD outbreak, including the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Mano River Union, national governments, non-governmental organizations, and UN agencies, and technical institutions and networks in the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN). Agencies responsible for coordinating 4 key lines of action in the response are given below.

Lines of action	Lead agency
Case management	wнo
Case finding, laboratory services, and contact tracing	wно
Safe and dignified burials	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
Community engagement and social mobilization	UNICEF

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³ See: http://who.int/csr/resources/publications/ebola/ebola-preparedness-checklist/en/

⁴ See: http://apps.who.int/ebola/preparedness/map

ANNEX 2: DEFINITION OF KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR PHASE 2 OF THE EBOLA RESPONSE

Indicator	Numerator	Numerator source	Denominator	Denominator source				
Cases and deaths				354.45				
Number of confirmed cases	# of confirmed cases	Guinea: Daily WHO situation reports Sierra Leone: Daily Ministry of Health Ebola situation reports	N/A	N/A				
Number of confirmed deaths	# of confirmed deaths	Guinea: Daily WHO situation reports Sierra Leone: Daily Ministry of Health Ebola situation reports	N/A	N/A				
Number of confirmed deaths that occurred in the community	# of deaths that occurred in the community with positive EVD swab results	Guinea: Weekly WHO situation reports Sierra Leone: Daily Ministry of Health	N/A	N/A				
Diagnostic Services								
Number of samples tested and percentage with positive EVD results	# of new samples tested # of new samples tested with a positive EVD result	Guinea: Laboratory database Sierra Leone: Daily Ministry of Health Ebola situation reports	N/A # of new samples tested	Guinea: Laboratory database Sierra Leone: Daily Ministry of Health Ebola situation reports				
Contact tracing								
Percent of new confirmed cases from registered contacts	# of new confirmed cases registered as a contact	Guinea: Weekly WHO situation reports Sierra Leone: Weekly Ministry of Health Surveillance Report	# of new confirmed cases	Guinea: Daily WHO situation reports Sierra Leone: Daily Ministry of Health Ebola situation Reports				
Hospitalization								
Time between symptom onset and hospitalization (days)	Time between symptom onset and hospitalization of confirmed, probable or suspected cases (geometric mean number of days)	Clinical investigation records	N/A	N/A				
Outcome of treatment								
Case fatality rate (among hospitalized cases)	# of deaths among hospitalized cases (confirmed)	Clinical investigation records	# of hospitalized cases (confirmed) with a definitive survival outcome recorded	Clinical investigation records				
Infection Prevention a	nd Control (IPC) and Safety							
Number of newly infected health workers	# of newly infected health workers	Guinea: Daily WHO situation reports Sierra Leone: Daily Ministry of Health Ebola situation Reports	N/A	N/A				
Safe and dignified burials								
Number of unsafe burials reported	# of reports/alerts of burials that were not known to be safe	Guinea: Daily WHO situation reports Sierra Leone: Ministry of Health situation reports	N/A	N/A				
Social mobilization								
Number of districts with at least one security incident or other form of refusal to cooperate	# of districts with at least one security incident or other form of refusal to cooperate in the past week	Guinea: Daily WHO situation reports Sierra Leone: UNICEF	N/A	N/A				