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Directorate of Information and Communication

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ASEOWA Guinea- Epidemiologists in the Field

Wednesday 26th November, 2014 – The African Union Support to Ebola Outbreak in West Africa (ASEOWA), has deployed epidemiologists into communities to enhance contact tracing efforts in Guinea. These expert volunteers coming from several African countries are now in six prefectures in Guinea, namely; Kouroussa, Faranah, Kankan, Kérouane, Nzérékoré and Siguiri.

According to the ASEOWA Deputy Head of Mission, Dr Aguide Soumouk, “The main objective is to break the chain of transmission of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). Their deployment is meant to strengthen systems to identify persons who may have come in contact with EVD cases and follow them up for twenty one days. Those who manifest signs and symptoms of EVD will then be isolated to stop the spread of the disease in the community.”

The ASEOWA epidemiologists are also expected to develop capacity of local staff for disease surveillance and response. This deployment happens at a crucial moment as 2,147 persons have so far been infected with EVD since the epidemic started in Guinea, with 1,266 lives lost, as of 24th November, 2014, according to the National Coordination Cell in the fight Against Ebola.

The head of the ASEOWA Mission in the region, General Dr. Julius Oketta, in his recent visit to Conakry, Guinea, on November 17th, 2014, briefed the team about the objectives of the mission and the role they are expected to play in order to stop this deadly disease.

For more information, visit <http://www.au.int>

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