



# African Union

## Support to EBOLA outbreak in West Africa

### ASEOWA

23rd September 2014

#### AU COMMISSION STAFF MEMBERS DONATE \$100 000 TO EBOLA EFFORT

Staff members of the African Union Commission, through their staff association, have given \$100 000 to the fight against Ebola.

The money had been raised for other emergency situations but had not been expended as per the intended objective. As such, the Association approved payment of \$100,000 to the AU Ebola Trust Fund.

This message was conveyed to the Commission Chairperson Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma by the Acting President of the Association Ms Azeb Gebremedhin on 5th September.

#### ECONOMIC IMPACT OF EBOLA

Before the Ebola outbreak, it was estimated that the three economies of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone would grow about 4.2%, 6.8 % and 13.8 % in 2014. Due to the Ebola outbreak, the growth of the three countries is projected to decrease by 1 to 1.5 percent depending on the length of the crisis (AfDB, 2014).

##### Impact at regional level:

At a regional level, all five regions were expected to experience robust growth in 2014, led by West Africa.

Prior to the crisis, the West African region was supposed to grow by 6.9 per cent in 2014 and 6.7 per cent in 2015, due to permanent investment in oil and mining, which are key sources of growth especially for Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone (ERA, 2014). The current Ebola outbreak will seriously adversely affect these growth prospects which could decrease by 0.5 to 1 per cent in 2014.

##### Impact at continental level:

Prior to the Ebola outbreak, Africa's GDP growth was projected to accelerate to 5.0 per cent in 2014 and 5.1 per cent in 2015, on the back of continuing relatively high commodity prices, increasing domestic demand and improved economic governance and management among African countries. An expected firmer global recovery in 2014, bolstered by robust growth in industrial production in emerging and developing countries led by China, was also anticipated to stimulate growth in Africa through increased trade, investment and capital flows. The current outbreak, regarding the impact on Mano River countries and at regional level will have a negative impact on Africa's growth.

#### EU SUPPORTS AFRICAN UNION MISSION TO FIGHT EBOLA

The European Commission will provide €5 million to the newly established mission of the African Union (AU) "Support to Ebola Outbreak in West-Africa" (ASEOWA) that will join the ongoing efforts to contain the spread of the disease in the region.

European Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs, said "We welcome the AU's new mission and will fully support its work. The EU stands side by side with our African partners - we all need to cooperate closely in fighting this deadly disease. Today's funding is part of our contribution to a strong, coordinated international response."

Kristalina Georgieva, EU Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, said: "The crisis continues to deteriorate, with Ebola cases surging even in places where it was brought under control. We must join forces in the fight against this deadly epidemic. Europe's humanitarian assistance is reaching the affected areas as we speak. The needs, however, are constantly growing."

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- AU Commission Chairperson Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma will address a session at the ongoing UN General Assembly on Ebola, providing updates of the situation, what the AU has done and what it is currently doing to halt the spread of the disease. The session will also be addressed by delegations from the affected countries.
- High level meeting on Ebola, on the 25 September in New York

#### NEWSFLASH

- CAF President Issa Hayatou has promised to support the AU efforts in fighting the Ebola disease outbreak in West Africa. He made the promise in a meeting with the AUC Chairperson on 19 September.
- UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon has officially established the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER)
- A three-day curfew aimed at containing the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone has been declared a success by authorities.
- On 15th September the European Commission hosted a high-level meeting to coordinate the next steps in the European response to the Ebola epidemic in West Africa.

#### Field Dispatch

- Transition training on ETU and ECC for the ASEOWA team will start on Wednesday and will last for two weeks.
- After the training the team members will be ready to begin the field work.

ASEOWA Updates compiled by the ASEOWA Communications Team and published by the AUC Directorate of Information and Communication

<http://pages.au.int/ebola>  
Hashtag #AUonEbola