



African Union

Support to EBOLA outbreak in West Africa

ASEOWA

December 17 2014

566 AFRICAN HEALTH WORKERS NOW ON THE GROUND IN EBOLA AFFECTED COUNTRIES

566 health workers are now on the ground in Ebola affected countries under the umbrella of the African Union Support to Ebola Outbreak in West Africa (ASEOWA), boosted by the deployment on 16 December of 187 Ethiopian health workers.

The Ethiopian contingent comprises field epidemiologists, nurses, medical officers, public health officers, pharmacists and communication officers.

To mark their departure, a special dinner was organized by the Ethiopian government on Monday 15th December, attended by Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister Mr Demeke Mekonnen, African Union Commission Deputy Chairperson Mr Erastus Mwencha, African Union Commissioner of Social Affairs Dr Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko, and Ethiopian Minister of Health Dr Kesete-Birhan Admasu.

The African Union's message to the health workers was delivered by The Commission's Deputy Chairperson Mr Erastus Mwencha on behalf of the Commission's Chairperson Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma. He praised the volunteers for their selflessness and dedication to ensuring an Ebola free Africa. "The spirit to fight back and roll Ebola back has been heartening. The spirit of African solidarity has prevailed", he said. Mr Mwencha also applauded the African private sector for working with the African Union to raise the resources needed to support the deployments of health workers.

Under the resource mobilisation drive launched by the telecommunications sector, it is now possible for anyone in participating countries to contribute US\$1 by sending STOP EBOLA to a specified country code. The codes in operation are: 7979 for Botswana, Burundi, Central African Republic, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe; 40797 in South Africa; 6969 in Chad and 1919 in Senegal. Donations may also be made via the website www.africaagainstebola.org. By donating,



each person will be helping to win the fight against Ebola.

The send-off dinner also witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between AU Commissioner for Social Affairs and Ethiopia's Minister of Health.

The African Union aims to send 1000 health workers on a rotational basis over a six month period (December 2014-May 2015). The ASEOWA deployment cycle is divided into three stages: Pre-deployment, Deployment and Exit or Rotation.

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

<http://pages.au.int/ebola>

Hashtag #AUonEbola

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