



African Union

Support to EBOLA outbreak in West Africa

ASEOWA

31 October 2014



ASEOWA team at work: in Liberia: An ASEOWA nurse (on right) taking care of two young Ebola patients at the Medicine Sans Frontier Ebola Treatment Unit in Monrovia. On the far left is an Ebola survivor.

NKOSAZANA DLAMINI ZUMA: WE CAN PREVENT EBOLA, RECOVER FROM EBOLA AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE FIGHT AGAINST EBOLA



At a joint meeting between the UN Secretary General, World Bank President, delegations from the AFDB and EU Commission and the African Union Commission on Tuesday 28 October 2014, AU Commission Chairperson reiterated the AU's key message on Ebola when she said: "We learnt that Ebola can be prevented, that you can recover from Ebola and that all of us can contribute to the fight against Ebola. "We should not give in to the impression of panic that it cannot be prevented or that once you are infected, that it is a death sentence; we can stop transmission and with early treatment, many can survive and have survived".

The Chairperson called for solidarity with affected countries and reiterated the need to remove restrictions against the affected countries.

To date, 1000 health workers have been pledged: from ECOWAS, the East African Community, the DRC, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and others. This is in addition to the in-kind and financial support already provided and pledged by Member states to the governments of the three countries.

The Chairperson further called on other member states that have not yet responded, to do so in the spirit of solidarity.

NORWAY SIGNS USD 2.75 MILLION DIRECT SUPPORT AGREEMENT TO AU EBOLA OPERATION

Commends the African Union for its Ebola response



The Government of Norway and the African Union have signed a funding agreement providing USD 2,750,000 in direct support for the African Union's Ebola response in West Africa. The agreement was signed by

the Commissioner for Social Affairs, Dr. Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko and State Secretary of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Hans Brattskar, in Addis Ababa, on 28 October 2014.

The new agreement provides a significant contribution to the African Union Ebola Support to West Africa at a crucial time when international efforts against the Ebola virus are being intensified.

AFRICA RESPONDS TO THE EBOLA CRISIS

ETHIOPIA CONTRIBUTES 200 VOLUNTEERS TO AU EBOLA RESPONSE EFFORTS

Ethiopia has answered to the appeal made by the AUC Chairperson, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma to Member States to urgently contribute human resources to the fight against Ebola in West Africa.

The country has pledged to deploy 200 volunteer health professionals to West Africa and also donated 500,000 USD to Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. The health professionals comprise medical doctors, nurses, field epidemiologists, environmental health personnel and public health specialists. These medics will engage in Ebola case management/treatment, surveillance, contact tracing, social mobilization, and community engagement, and will also assist national health systems in the affected countries to continue their essential and basic health, food, water and sanitation services.

ASEOWA TEAMS TO BE DEPLOYED TO LIBERIAN COUNTIES

The ASEOWA Head of Mission Dr Julius Oketta has reported that preparations are underway for the deployment of epidemiologists to counties in Liberia. The ASEOWA team has undergone intensive medical training ahead of their deployment.

EXCERPTS FROM “LETTER TO THE WORLD” BY PRESIDENT ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia recently published a “letter to the world” on Ebola. Some of the key points of the letter are captured below:

- In just over six months, Ebola has managed to bring my country to a standstill.
- We have lost over 2,000 Liberians.
- In the last few years, Liberia was bouncing back. Now Ebola threatens to erase that hard work.
- The virus has been able to spread so rapidly because of the insufficient strength of the emergency, medical and military services that remain under-resourced and without the preparedness to confront such a challenge.
- But one thing is clear. This is a fight in which the whole world has a stake.
- This disease respects no borders.
- The international reaction to this crisis was initially inconsistent and lacking in clear direction or urgency. Now, finally, the world has woken up.
- This fight requires a commitment from every nation that has the capacity to help – whether that is with emergency funds, medical supplies or clinical expertise.
- It is the duty of all of us, as global citizens, to send a message that we will not leave millions of West Africans to fend for themselves against an enemy that they do not know, and against whom they have little defence.
- The time for talking or theorizing is over.
- Only concerted action will save my country, and our neighbours, from experiencing another national tragedy.

COTE D’IVOIRE RESUMES FLIGHTS TO EBOLA AFFECTED COUNTRIES

President Alassane Dramane Ouattara of Cote d’Ivoire informed the African Union Commission Chairperson Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma and her delegation that the country’s national carrier, Air Ivoire, has resumed flights to Conakry, Guinea. He told the AUC Chairperson this on Friday 24 October 2014 when they paid him a courtesy call at his residence in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire. He said that that flights to Liberia and Sierra Leone will begin on Sunday 26 October 2014. Accompanying the AUC Chairperson to the courtesy call with President Ouattara were African Development Bank President Dr. Donald Kaberuka and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Executive Secretary Dr. Carlos Lopez.

ASEOWA TRAINING 41 NEW VOLUNTEERS

41 African paid volunteers are undergoing training at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, in preparation for their deployment to Ebola affected countries.

23 of the volunteers will be deployed to

Conakry, Guinea; 6 will go to Monrovia in Liberia and 12 will be joining other volunteers already in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Deployment is expected to start on Sunday.



CASE UPDATES

All districts in Sierra Leone and all but one in Liberia reported new cases in the week ending 25th October.

In total, 4922 deaths have been reported .

All but one district in Liberia and all districts in Sierra Leone have now reported at least one case since the start of the outbreak.

In the week preceding 24 October, 959 new cases were reported including the one in Mali.

By end of November, if the situation remains as it is, Spain might join the countries declared Ebola free.

More than 400 contacts are being followed in USA, and Spain and Mali.

International support is getting stronger and stronger.

-Source WHO report of 25th October 2014

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

For more information and interview requests contact: Mrs

Wynne Musabayana on MusabayanaW@africa-union.org:

Tel +251922406157