



# African Union

## Support to EBOLA outbreak in West Africa

### ASEOWA

9 October 2014

#### DR. NKOSAZANA DLAMINI ZUMA URGES COORDINATED AND URGENT RESPONSES TO EBOLA CRISIS



The Ebola outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone has caused untold misery to the peoples of these countries and therefore requires solidarity, coordinated responses and urgent interventions.

AUC Chairperson Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma made these comments to the High level Meeting on Ebola Response at the UN General Assembly in New York on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September.

The Chairperson said the occurrence of Ebola in countries that have just emerged from conflicts and are still rebuilding their public health systems, as well as public trust and social cohesion, makes this a huge burden. It has a severe impact on health workers and women, who are at the frontline of the disease in these countries. It also adversely affects children, who are often left orphaned, with no families to take care of them.

She urged for coordinated and urgent responses to the crisis to provide the three countries with financial assistance, equipment, protective clothing, mobile laboratories and other facilities, to be able to track and contain the disease, and to provide treatment to the sick in a secure environment.

The Chairperson highlighted that ASEOWA has deployed the first team of medical and other volunteer personnel from various African countries to Liberia and added that more teams will be sent to Sierra Leone and Guinea. She however added that the numbers being sent are “a drop in the ocean, we need hundreds more volunteers”.

Dr Dlamini Zuma recalled the emergency session of the African Union Executive Council held on 8 September, which noted that Africa should avoid compounding the burden on the affected states by taking measures whose impact may lead to worse consequences than the disease itself.

She said the Global Coalition which was launched during the UN session must look at all the immediate and urgent issues. Finally, the Chairperson assured the world that the African Union will continue to stand by the affected countries and the region during this difficult period, and thanked all partners and the UN system for their continued support and solidarity.

#### AU COMMISSIONER IN WEST AFRICA IN FOLLOW UP TO AU DECISIONS



In a follow up to the decisions of the AU peace and Security Council and the Executive Council on the AU's response to the Ebola crisis, AU Commissioner of Social Affairs Dr. Mustapha Kaloko has briefed the Nigerian Federal Minister

of Health Professor Onyebuchi Chukwu on the deployment of the ASEOWA mission. He commended the exemplary action of the Nigerian Government in containing the disease.

Commissioner Kaloko emphasized the need for strong health institutions and called for the lifting of restrictions and opening of humanitarian corridors so as to get food supplies and other commodities to the affected countries. He called for concerted efforts in the fight against Ebola and underscored the need for fast tracking of the establishment of an African Center for Disease Control. He appealed to Nigeria to continue training more field epidemiologists in the region. In response, the Nigerian Federal Minister of Health, commended the AU for the deployment of health experts in the affected region. He assured the AU of Nigeria's commitment to maintain open borders with the affected countries and encouraged other Member States to do likewise in accordance with the positions of ECOWAS and the AU.

In another engagement, the AU Commissioner met the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Amb. Alhaji Aminu Wali and briefed him on the interventions the AU has put in place in the fight against Ebola. While commending the AU for showing strong leadership in the fight against Ebola, the Minister appealed to Member States to end the stigmatization and closure of borders with affected countries. He pledged to engage ECOWAS Member States and some regional airlines with the view of allowing the free movements of people and supplies to the affected countries. The Commissioner commended the minister on Nigeria's position.

He also commended ECOWAS for the role it is playing in the fight to tackle the EVD.

#### COMMISSIONER KALOKO BRIEFS PRESIDENT SIRLEAF ON AU RESPONSE TO EBOLA



#### President expresses appreciation for AU role

The African Union Commissioner for Social Affairs H. E. Dr. Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko, accompanied by the Head of the African Union Support to Ebola Outbreak in West Africa (ASEOWA) Dr Julius Oketta and AU Representative to Liberia and Sierra Leone Ambassador Harrison Solaja, on Saturday 4 October 2014 briefed the President of the Republic of Liberia H.E Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf on the African Union interventions in the fight against Ebola.

In response, President Johnson-Sirleaf expressed appreciation with the role the AU is playing under the leadership of the African Union Commission Chairperson, HE Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma in the fight against Ebola. She welcomed the deployment of the AU medical team and AU decisions that called upon Member States to lift travel restrictions imposed on the affected countries. The President underlined the need for proper coordination among all humanitarian actors on the ground. She also pointed out that her Government has put in place proper structures to facilitate the coordination of the exercise

Commissioner Kaloko also met and briefed the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General (SRSG) to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the UN Resident Coordinator and the World Health Organisation (WHO) on the ASEOWA operation and other interventions that the AU has put in place to combat the spread of the Ebola Virus Disease. The Commissioner called upon the media to intensify public campaigns to contain the spread of Ebola.

#### ASEOWA personnel undergoing training

The Medical team from ASEOWA has commenced their clinical training in preparation to assume duty at their assigned Ebola treatment center (ETU) in Liberia. The training, which began on 29 September is being conducted by WHO (World Health Organization) trainers at the training center in Congo town, Monrovia. The logistics team also commenced training at the ELWA 3 ETU. The training is expected to last 2 weeks.

#### Traditional practices hampering Ebola fight

On September 29th, Dr Julius Oketta in the company of Ambassador Toyin Solaja, paid a courtesy visit to the Ambassador of Sierra Leone in Liberia, Ambassador Brima Acha Kamara. They discussed ASEOWA coordination and plans for fighting the Ebola virus disease.

The Ambassador emphasized coordination of teams and stated that the Sierra Leone people have been very cooperative. The Ambassador also hinted that traditions and practices are hindering the fight against Ebola especially with respect to burial practices.

**Country Case Statistical Update** (Nearly 7,500 confirmed infections worldwide)

<b>Liberia</b> Sitrep #142 (4 Oct)	<b>Sierra-Leone</b> (4 Oct)	<b>Guinea</b> (1 Oct)	<b>DRC</b> (24 <sup>th</sup> Sept)
New Confirmed Cases: 5	New Confirmed Cases: 81	New Confirmed Cases: 6	New Confirmed Cases: 2
Suspected Cases: 1190	Suspected Cases: 279	Suspected Cases: 45	Total Confirmed Cases: 30
Probable Cases: 1796	Probable Cases: 37	Probable Cases: 177	Cum Cases: 70
Total Confirmed Cases: 935	Total Confirmed Cases: 2411	Total Confirmed Cases: 977	
Cumulative Cases: 3921	Cumulative Cases: 2727	Cumulative Cases: 1199	
<b>Health Care Workers (HCW)</b>	<b>Health Care Workers (HCW)</b>	<b>Health Care Workers (HCW)</b>	
New Reported Case: 1	New Reported Case: 1	New Reported Case: 2	
Cumulative Cases: 190	Cumulative Cases: 190	Cumulative Cases: 69	
New Deaths: 0	New Deaths: 0	New Deaths: 0	
Cumulative Deaths: 92	Cumulative Deaths: 92	Cumulative Deaths: 35	
<b>Isolation &amp; Discharges</b>	<b>Isolation &amp; Discharges</b>	<b>Isolation &amp; Discharges</b>	
New Admission: 42	New Admission: 18	New Admission: 25	
Total No. currently in Treatment Units: 448	Total No. currently in Treatment Units: 202	Total No. currently in Treatment Units: 114	
Total Discharges on Oct 4: 25	Total Discharges as of Oct 4: 9	Total Discharges on Oct 1: 29	
New Deaths: 43	New Deaths: 10	New Deaths: 15	New Deaths: 0
Suspected Deaths: 488	Suspected Deaths: 30	Suspected Deaths: 0	Confirmed Deaths: 16
Probable Deaths: 699	Probable Deaths: 123	Probable Deaths: 177	Cumulative Deaths: 42
Confirmed Deaths: 1012	Confirmed Deaths: 678	Confirmed Deaths: 562	CFR : 61.2 %
Cumulative Deaths: 2199	Cumulative Deaths: 831	Cumulative Deaths: 739	
CFR: 62.7 %	CFR: 28.1%	CFR: 62%	
<b>Contacts</b>	<b>Contacts</b>	<b>Contacts</b>	
Newly Reported Contacts: 207	Newly Reported Contacts: 135	Newly Reported Contacts: 0	
Total Contacts Listed: 15271	Total Contacts Listed: 15911	Total Contacts Listed: 11772	
Currently Under Follow-up: 6689	Currently Under Follow-up: 8239	Currently Under Follow-up: 2661	
Contacts who comp 21-day Follow-up: 132	Contacts who comp 21-day Follow-up: 7734	Contacts who comp 21-day Follow-up: 9110	

**Statistical Analysis: Liberia**

- More deaths from confirmed cases than reported total cases
- Of the 25 reported new deaths, 17 were from the ETUs and 8 occurred in communities.
- 3 Counties (Maryland, Grand Gedeh & Gbarpolu) currently have 0 reported confirmed cases
- River Gee county has 3 confirmed cases but no reported deaths.
- Bong county (70 confirmed cases) accounts for 7.5% of total confirmed reported cases. 23% of confirmed deaths (16 deaths) from confirmed cases.
- 40% of healthcare workers reported cases from Montserrado county where Monrovia is located. With Bong and Lofa County accounting for 14% and 12% respectively
- 48% of reported infected HCW have died. Bong County has the highest survival rate amongst HCWs with 73% of the 26 reported cases.

**Statistical Analysis: Sierra Leone**

- Kenema (232) and Kilahun (216) record the highest confirmed deaths accounting for 34% and 32% of confirmed deaths respectively.
- 32% of admitted patients have been discharged(477 out of 1506)
- Koinadugu still remains the only district that has not registered confirmed cases of Ebola in Sierra Leone
- Increase in the number of deaths is a result of ongoing data cleaning.
- 6 Ebola Holding Centers with 79 beds (Cannaught Hosp, Emergency/Laka, 34 Military Hospital, Macauley Hospital, PCMH, Rokupa Hosp) currently admitting 75% of their capacity .
- 6 Ebola holding Centers record 31% fatality rate within admitted patients
- Nation-wide 49% of contacts have completed their 21 day follow-up.
- Port Loko and Kenema have the highest contacts listed with 2859 and 2818 contacts respectively.
- Bonthe and Bo districts record the best contact tracing statistics:  
**Bonthe**– 86% of total contacts have completed 21 day follow-up (90 of 105)  
**Bo**–75% of total contacts listed have completed 21 day follow-up. (661 of 887)  
-The remaining contacts (226) are currently being followed.  
-99% if contacts seen by tracers in the last 24 hrs

**Statistical Analysis: Guinea**

- 3 major affected areas with the highest reported confirmed cases are: Macenta (378), Gueckedou(248), and Conakry (170).
- Gueckedou (76%) has the highest deaths from confirmed cases out of the three districts. Conakry reports 40% fatality rate amongst confirmed cases.
- Dinguiraye district remains the only district with no reported confirmed
- Conakry remains the district that has the highest HCW exposure with 40 reported cases out of 69 amongst HCWs. Conakry accounts for 58% of cases within healthcare workers
- Gueckedou district has had the highest admissions into Ebola Treatment Centers (ETU) accounting for 924 cases out of 1576.
- 5 districts record activity of ETU's: Conakry, Gueckedou, Macenta, Telimele, Siguiri
- 2 Labs (Conakry, Gueckedou) : 25 samples collected

**NEWSFLASH**

- US Ebola Patient Thomas Duncan dies in Dallas.
- Spanish nurse tests positive for Ebola after treating patient in Spain. Investigations are currently underway
- A Norwegian woman infected with Ebola in Sierra Leone is to be given the last remaining dose of ZMapp in the world.
- ASEOWA mission pre-deployment training schedule to start on 10 October 2014 at the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa
- Sierra Leone burial crews reportedly on strike and leave bodies on the streets due to lack of hazard pay.

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