

WHO: EBOLA RESPONSE ROADMAP UPDATE
16 September 2014



Following the roadmap structure, country reports fall into two categories: those with widespread and intense transmission (Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone); and those with an initial case or cases, or with localized transmission (Nigeria, Senegal)¹.

A second meeting of the Emergency Committee convened by the Director-General under the International Health Regulations (2005) [IHR (2005)] regarding the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa will begin discussion via email this week. The meeting will review the status of the outbreak as a public health emergency of international concern, and assess the impact of current temporary measures to contain the outbreak and reduce international spread.

1. COUNTRIES WITH WIDESPREAD AND INTENSE TRANSMISSION

4963 (probable, confirmed and suspected; see Annex 1) cases and 2453 deaths have been reported in the current outbreak of Ebola virus disease as at 13 September 2014 by the Ministries of Health of Guinea and Sierra Leone, and as at 9 September by the Ministry of Health of Liberia.

Table 1: Probable, confirmed and suspected cases of Ebola virus disease in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone

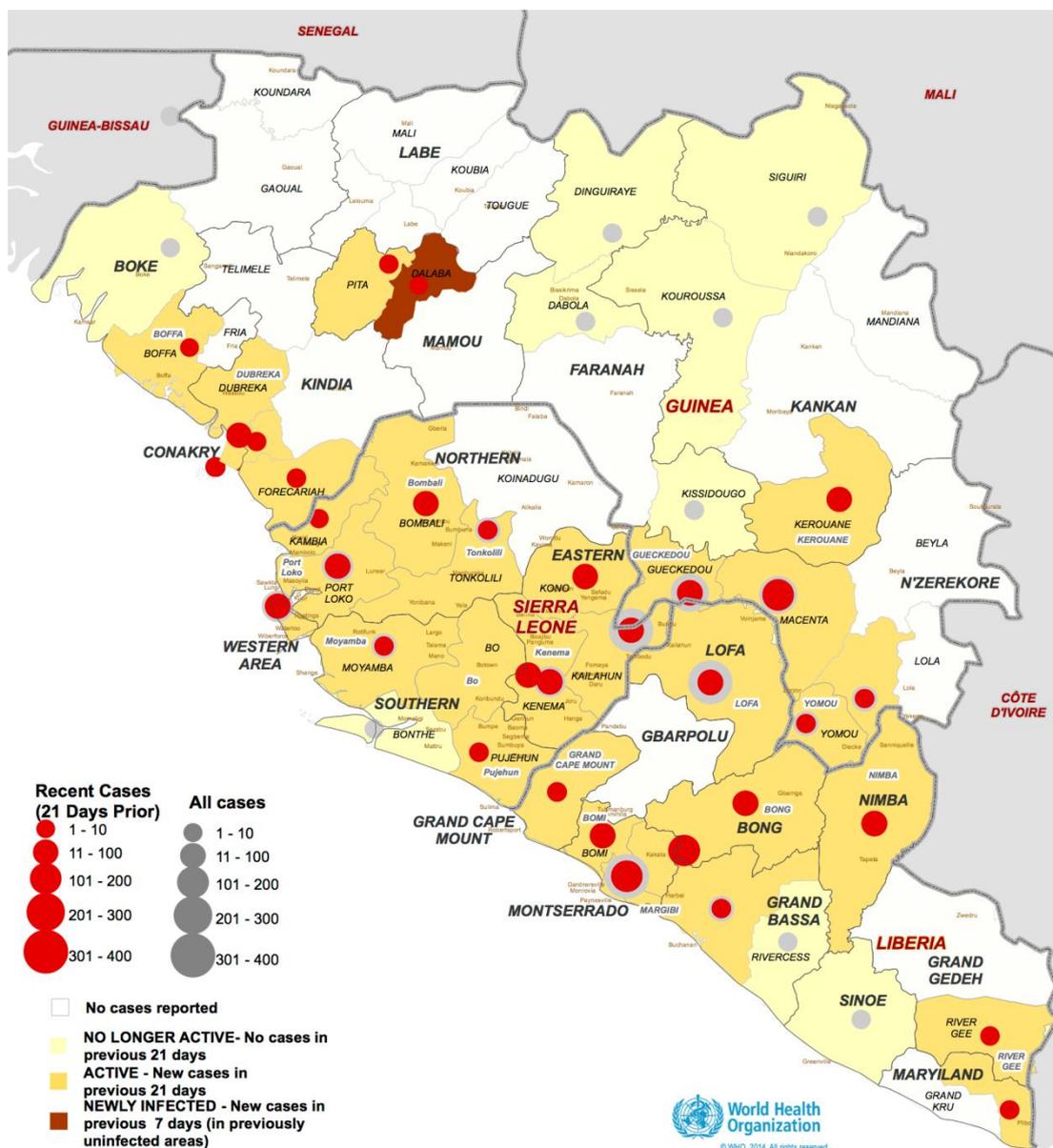
Country	Case definition	Cases			Deaths	
		Total	Past 21 days	Past 21 days/total cases (%)	Total	Deaths/total cases (%)
Guinea	Confirmed	743	276	37	429	58
	Probable	162	21	13	162	100
	Suspected	31	11	35	4	13
	All	936	308	33	595	64
Liberia	Confirmed	790	546	69	563	71
	Probable	1078	539	50	472	44
	Suspected	539	298	55	261	48
	All	2407	1383	57	1296	54
Sierra Leone	Confirmed	1464	583	40	514	35
	Probable	37	0	0	37	100
	Suspected	119	70	59	11	9
	All	1620	653	40	562	35
Total		4963	2344	47	2453	49

Data are based on reported cases up to the end of 13 September 2014 for Guinea and Sierra Leone. Data for Liberia are based on reported cases up to the end of 9 September 2014. Data reported are based on official information reported by Ministries of Health. These numbers are subject to change due to on-going reclassification, retrospective investigation and availability of laboratory results.

¹ A separate outbreak of Ebola virus disease, which is not related to the outbreak in West Africa, is occurring in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. More information can be found in Disease Outbreak News: <http://www.who.int/csr/don/en/>.

There are several points to be considered when interpreting epidemiological data for the Ebola outbreak. Many of the deaths attributed to Ebola virus in this outbreak occurred in people who were suspected, but not confirmed, to have died from the disease. Ebola cases are only confirmed when a sample tests positive in the laboratory. If samples taken from a body test negative for Ebola, that person is no longer counted among Ebola deaths and the figures are adjusted accordingly. However, because laboratory services and treatment centres are currently overwhelmed in several countries, the numbers of probable and suspected cases, together with those confirmed, may be a more accurate reflection of case numbers. Work is also ongoing to resolve discrepancies between different sources of data, which may lead to a revision of the numbers of cases and deaths in the future.

Figure 1: Distribution of cases in countries with intense transmission



Data are based on reported cases up to the end of 13 September 2014 for Guinea and Sierra Leone. Data for Liberia are based on reported cases up to the end of 9 September 2014. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

The map above (figure 1) shows the location of cases throughout the countries with widespread and intense transmission. The cumulative number of cases to date in each area are shown (grey circles), together with the number of cases that have occurred within the past 21 days (red circles). The red circles show that a large proportion of total cases occurred in the 21 days to the end of 13 September in Guinea and Sierra Leone, and in the 21 days to the end of 9 September Liberia. In Guinea, one confirmed case and one suspected case were reported for the first time in the Dalaba district.

2. COUNTRIES WITH AN INITIAL CASE OR CASES, OR WITH LOCALIZED TRANSMISSION

Two countries, Nigeria and Senegal, have now reported a case or cases imported from a country with wide-spread and intense transmission. In Nigeria, there have been 21 cases and eight deaths. In Senegal, there has been one case, but as yet there have been no deaths or further suspected cases attributable to Ebola (table 2).

Contact tracing and follow-up is ongoing in both countries. In Nigeria, 470 contacts have completed 21-day follow-up. Of the 402 contacts who are still being monitored in Nigeria, 373 (93%) were seen on 13 September. In Senegal, all 74 contacts are still under surveillance; 73 were seen on 13 September.

Table 2: Probable, confirmed and suspected cases of Ebola virus disease in Nigeria and Senegal as at end of 13 September 2014

Country	Case definition	Cases			Deaths	
		Total	Past 21 days	Past 21 days/total cases (%)	Total	Deaths/total cases (%)
Nigeria	Confirmed	19	6	32	7	37
	Probable	1	0	0	1	100
	Suspected	1	n.a.	n.a.	0	0
	All	21	6	29	8	38
Senegal	Confirmed	1	1	100	0	0
	Probable	0	0	0	0	0
	Suspected	0	0	0	0	0
	All	1	1	100	0	0
Total		22	7	32	8	36

Data reported are based on official information reported by Ministries of Health. These numbers are subject to change due to ongoing reclassification, retrospective investigation and availability of laboratory results.

ANNEX 1. CRITERIA USED TO CLASSIFY EBOLA CASES

Ebola cases are classified as either suspected, probable, or confirmed depending on whether they meet certain criteria (table 4).

Table 4: Ebola case-classification criteria

Classification	Criteria
Suspected	Any person, alive or dead, who has (or had) sudden onset of high fever and had contact with a suspected, probable or confirmed Ebola case, or a dead or sick animal OR any person with sudden onset of high fever and at least three of the following symptoms: headache, vomiting, anorexia/ loss of appetite, diarrhoea, lethargy, stomach pain, aching muscles or joints, difficulty swallowing, breathing difficulties, or hiccup; or any person with unexplained bleeding OR any sudden, unexplained death.
Probable	Any suspected case evaluated by a clinician OR any person who died from 'suspected' Ebola and had an epidemiological link to a confirmed case but was not tested and did not have laboratory confirmation of the disease.
Confirmed	A probable or suspected case is classified as confirmed when a sample from that person tests positive for Ebola virus in the laboratory.