CRISIS BRIEFING: 10/10/2014

Humanitarian funding analysis: West African Ebola crisis

Figures are correct at time of writing but are subject to frequent change. Updates of funding can be found on the OCHA Financial Tracking Service as they become reported to its system.

1. Summary

- According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)’s Financial Tracking Service (FTS), donors have committed/contributed US$476.3m of humanitarian assistance to the Ebola crisis since the outbreak of the disease in April 2014. Funding reported to the FTS has increased nearly six-fold since the start of September 2014.
- In addition to these totals reported to the FTS, leading donors have announced at least a further US$913m in funding.
- The UN-coordinated overview of needs and requirements for the Ebola virus disease outbreak requests US$988m from donors to respond to the crisis. According to OCHA’s FTS, it is currently 34% funded at US$338m, with a further US$138.1m in contributions made outside of the appeal and US$332m remaining in uncommitted pledges.
- The crisis has attracted a significant amount of in-kind support from both government and private donors, the value of which is sometimes included in the totals reported to the FTS, and sometimes in the overall amount reported in press releases. This includes providing military personnel and assets, providing healthcare workers, investing and developing treatment and vaccines, and supplying medical equipment and emergency food aid.

2. Recent funding provided to the Ebola crisis

Donors have committed or contributed US$476.3m of humanitarian funding to the West African Ebola emergency so far in 2014. There remains US$332.2m in un-committed pledges. These totals include both financial assistance and the financial equivalent of some – but not all – in-kind donations (see Section 5).

The US is the largest donor to the crisis, followed by the World Bank. Between them, these two donors have given 56% of total funding so far. The African Development Bank, the third largest donor, has given a further 10% of the total.

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has so far contributed US$15.7m to the response. Of this, the majority was for Guinea (US$7.3m), followed by Sierra Leone (US$4.5m), Liberia (US$1.9m), Nigeria (US$1.5m) and finally Democratic Republic of Congo (US$0.5m). All CERF funding to the crisis has been made through the Rapid Response window. The CERF was one of the first donors to respond to the crisis in Guinea, giving US$1.5m in April 2014. This was followed by US$234,856 to Sierra Leone in June and US$1.9m to Liberia in July and August. US$7.6m has been given in the last month, the majority of which (US$5.9m) was for Guinea.
Funding has increased nearly six-fold in the last six weeks, from US$82.8m at the beginning of September to its current total of US$476.3m. Ebola cases are currently thought to be doubling every three weeks.
3. Appeals and response plans

The UN-coordinated overview of needs and requirements for the Ebola virus disease outbreak requests US$988m from donors to respond to the crisis. It is currently 34% funded at US$338m. Once committed, the outstanding pledges of US$175.7m to the appeal would bring the proportion of the appeal funded up to 51%.

A significant proportion of committed/contributed and pledged funding is going to agencies and activities outside of the UN appeal, including Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

4. In-kind contributions

The UN and MSF have highlighted the urgent need for in-kind contributions as well as financial assistance, including staff, equipment and logistical capabilities. Resources are being mobilised from a wide cross-section of actors including military and the private sector. The full extent of such pledges and contributions is hard to track, as is the extent to which its value is included in official reporting of commitments, contributions and pledges (see section 2 above).

Contributions of in-kind assistance include:

- **Military**: The African Union’s Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) have authorised a civil-military mission – African Union Support to Ebola Outbreak in West Africa (ASEOWA) at an estimated cost of US$25m. China (US$2m), the US (US$10m) and the EU (US$6.4m) have all provided financial support to this African Union mission. The US and the UK (through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism) have also separately pledged at least 3,000 troops and 750 troops, respectively, as well as considerable logistics. Other countries, such as Germany, have used military logistics to deliver in-kind assistance. While others, for example India, Bangladesh and Jordan, continue to maintain troops in the UN peacekeeping mission in Liberia (UNMIL), which will support the newly formed the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER – see section 6 below).

- **Health professionals**: Some countries have pledged the deployment of healthcare workers (Cuba, the Philippines, the UK), while others have contributed specialists to medical teams and clinics (Japan, France, Canada, China, Israel, African Union) many of whom will train local workers.

- **Medical equipment, clinics and protective clothing**: A large number of countries have pledged medical supplies, some of which is likely to be included in financial pledges (US, Japan, EU, Switzerland, France), while others are reported as donations in-kind (Malaysia, Brazil).

- **Development and sharing of vaccines**: Canada donated an un-trialled vaccine to the affected countries, while Germany, Russia, Japan and France have reported committing funds for research into developing a vaccine. A number of global pharmaceutical companies have also announced new investment in the development of vaccines. The African Union has pledged to set up a new African Centre for Disease Control and Prevention to work with the Centre for Disease Control (CDC).

- **Logistics**: Some countries are supporting the humanitarian corridor into the affected countries. For example, as part of the €30m (US$38m) new EU funding announced at the end of September, €4m (US$5m) will be used through the European Commission’s Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) to transport supplies to Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea, while another €3m (US$4m) will be used for emergency evacuation of medical staff.

5. Other recent developments

On 18 September 2014 the UN Security Council (UNSC) passed resolution 2177 on the Ebola response. This established an emergency health mission – the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) – with an initial US$49.9m, which has been endorsed by the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly. Ebola Crisis Managers have been appointed for Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone as part of UNMEER (UN).

On 2 October 2014 the UK government held the ‘Defeating Ebola in Sierra Leone’ conference in London, at which governments and agencies pledged funding and in-kind contributions. (UK government)

On 8 October 2014 the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (UN FAO) announced a programme to assist vulnerable households in the three countries most affected by the Ebola outbreak in response to concerns over food security (UN).

On 10 October 2014 the Global Ebola Response Coalition (GERC) was launched as a system-wide response by political, business and health leaders to focus global attention and resources on the Ebola crisis.
On 10 October 2014, the International Monetary Fund announced it was relaxing rules on borrowing and deficits to allow those West African countries affected by the Ebola crisis to run up larger budget deficits to help them to respond to the crisis.

6. **Long-term economic impact and response**

Health workers continue to be disproportionately affected by the virus, with the total number of deaths in all affected countries at 232 with the majority in Sierra Leone (95) and Liberia (94). The long-term impact on healthcare in these countries remains a concern and is to a certain extent being reflected in financial and in kind contributions. A [World Bank report](https://web.archive.org/web/20160311062540/http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2014/08/14/world-bank-evaluates-impact-of-ebola-virus) on the Economic Impact of Ebola in the short and medium term underlined concerns, with the worst-case scenario claiming that the economic impact over two years could reach US$3.6bn. The [UN Peacebuilding Commission](https://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/) (active in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) will also continue its engagement in the three countries and will address the impact of the crisis in the longer term. The [UN FAQ](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/) has also warned of medium- to long-term disruption in other sectors such as agriculture with livelihoods and rural economies at risk. ([WHO](https://www.who.int/))

7. **Other information**

Restricted logistical capacity to reach and evacuate affected areas not only within the country but also from abroad for key humanitarian workers underlines the importance of maintaining logistical infrastructure. A number of airlines carriers have continued to fly to those countries, including Royal Air Maroc (Morocco) and Turkish Airlines (Turkey). Other carriers such as Air France (France), British Airways (UK), Arik Air (Nigeria), Emirates Airline (UAE), ASKY (Togo) and Kenya Airways (Kenya), amongst others, have halted flights. However, Kenya Airways and Air Cote d’Ivoire have announced that they will restart flights in late October. ([AllAfrica](https://www.allafrica.com))