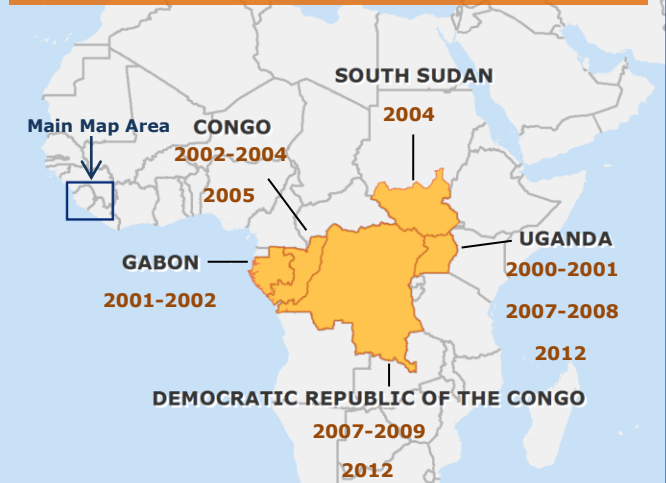




Ebola* Outbreaks in Africa 2000 - 2012



* This data is based on the WHO reports for each country and does not try to differentiate between single, long-lasting outbreaks and short, separate ones in each year.

SITUATION

- On 22 March, the Ministry of Health (MoH) of Guinea notified the World Health Organisation (WHO) of an outbreak of the Ebola Haemorrhagic Fever in the forest area of south-east Guinea.
- Cases of the disease - among the most virulent pathogens known to infect humans, with a fatality rate of up to 90 percent - have been confirmed in four south-eastern districts, namely Kissidougou in Faranah Region and Gueckedou, Macenta and N'Zerekore in N'Zerekore Region. Six out of seven samples subjected to PCR* analysis at the Institute Pasteur in Lyon, France, were found positive for the Ebola virus.
- Suspected cases with similar symptoms have been reported in the Region of Conakry, as well as in areas of Sierra Leone and Liberia bordering Guinea.
- The disease has no previous record in the country. As of 24 March, 86 cases, of which 59 deaths, have been reported since February 9. However, not all of them are due to the EHF virus and investigations are still ongoing in areas with suspected cases. According to the Guinean MoH situation report of 24 March, three such cases in Conakry were found negative for the Ebola virus.
- On 22 March, the Medecins Sans Frontières launched an emergency response, including sending approximately 33 tons of medicines and isolation, sanitation and protective equipment in two planes leaving from Belgium and France.

*PCR: Polymerase Chain Reaction
Sources: WHO (1, 2), MSF, Reuters, BBC, Ministry of Health of Guinea

Médecins Sans Frontières - Suisse

- Set-up of quarantine infrastructure for suspected cases
- 24 members of medical staff and associated experts already in place
- 33 tons of material en route from Belgium and France