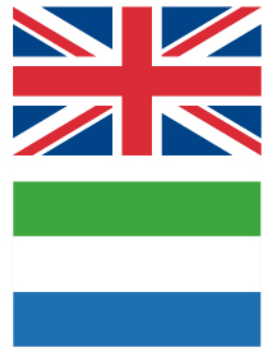


# UK ACTION PLAN TO DEFEAT EBOLA IN SIERRA LEONE



## Background paper: An international call for assistance

The Governments of the UK and Sierra Leone urge international partners to contribute to the fight against the Ebola outbreak.

The UK has committed to support 700 Ebola treatment beds in the coming months. The most urgent priority is for international medical and management teams to staff and run new Ebola treatment centres. We also urgently need more NGO capacity on the ground supporting work at the community level.

This note provides a basic overview of the UK's action and sets out our requests for assistance to deliver the plan.

This plan alone is not enough to defeat Ebola in Sierra Leone. Other governments are urged to step up their support for beds beyond the 700 and for increased community level care.

## 1. Command and control

The UK will set up a forward command and control logistical hub that will provide the backbone of infrastructure, commodities, training and management needed to scale up the response in Sierra Leone. The hub will be staffed by a large multi-agency team including military, humanitarian and health experts. It will work closely with international partners and with the Government of Sierra Leone.

Offers of technical support to this central organisational and logistics function are needed, including information management, Geographic Information Systems support and urgent additional capacity to maintain air support for personnel and supplies.

## 2. Treatment centres

The UK is already supporting over 200 Ebola treatment beds in Freetown and Kenema.

Using military oversight and local contractors we will establish the physical infrastructure for an additional 500 new beds. We are building at least four new Ebola Treatment Facilities (ETFs) near urban centres where demand is projected to be highest. In order of priority we will establish these in Port Loko, Freetown, Makeni, and Bo.



The UK will cover all the construction and operating costs for these 500 new facilities and will pay for the associated commodities.

The priority need is for international teams that can provide the management and medical care for these 500 beds. We urgently need offers from organisations who will run and manage the facilities.

WHO have estimated the absolute minimum numbers of international workers needed as follows:

- **Facility management teams** – over 100 people
- **International clinical staff** – over 600 immediately and more as teams rotate out. This includes doctors, nurses, nurse aids, pharmacologists, pharmacists and logistics support.
- **Management support** for over 2,500 local clinical staff.

### **3. Training international and national health workers**

The UK will offer training for foreign medical teams supporting the 700 beds.

The UK is already supporting the World Health Organisation to train 90 national health workers a week. This will be significantly increased to deliver the hundreds of trained national health workers that are needed.

The UK will cover the full salary and operating costs for the national staff, and if needed, for foreign medical teams.

We urgently need offers of additional international medical trainers to boost training capacity.

### **4. Health care for international staff**

The UK is already building a 62 bed treatment facility in Kerrytown, 40km south of Freetown. The Facility will be in two integrated parts, using shared services: a 12 bed tented unit for national and international Ebola health workers; and a 50 bed open access unit for any victims of the disease.

The 12 beds will be protected for all national and international health workers who become infected with Ebola and provide them with a UK-comparable standard of care. Our partner agency will be Save the Children.

The UK commits to provide the same standard of care for all international staff working on the 700 beds as we do for British Nationals. This includes access to the Kerrytown facility for international health care workers, when it is up and running, and where the quality of care will be comparable to that available in the UK.

### **5. Other care and infection control services**

The UK will work with partners already on the ground to significantly scale up support for social mobilisation, contact tracing, burial services and community level care. Much of the transmission takes place within the community, in the interval between Ebola patients becoming infectious and being isolated.



Working with WHO and UNICEF, the UK is urgently assessing then most appropriate approach to tackle this issue. We stand ready to scale up our work in this area rapidly.

We also need additional laboratory capacity to ensure that cases are identified early and to increase the speed of discharge to free up beds in treatment facilities.

International organisations and NGOs who can support work in the community are needed. We will be issuing a call for proposals through the Department for International Development's Rapid Response Facility.

## 6. Financial need

We estimate that this plan will cost at least £100 million to deliver the command and control hub, construct and operate 700 beds, and to pay for international and national staff, associated commodities and community care. The UK is already making a substantial contribution and is committing to the full £100 million.

But this is not enough to defeat Ebola in Sierra Leone. More financial support can urgently help extend activities beyond this plan – to scale up support to community care and treatment and to provide commodities, more treatment beds and other essential needs for the Government of Sierra Leone.

For governments who are not able to provide technical support but to provide additional financial contributions the UK will work with the UN to direct financial contributions to where they are needed, including the Government of Sierra Leone and to international NGO partner organisations.

The UK will issue soon a call for proposals to the NGO sector to ensure that no NGO with the capacity to support treatment or other work in the community is going unfunded.

Support is also requested from private sector organisations, particularly with regard to air transport and logistics management.

## Contact details

For more information or to express support please contact the UK Government:  
[ebola-response@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:ebola-response@dfid.gov.uk)

Offers of Foreign Medical Teams to staff the 700 beds should be sent to the WHO Foreign Medical Teams Unit through Ian Norton ([nortoni@who.org](mailto:nortoni@who.org)) or Christine Yvonne Tretter ([tretterc@who.int](mailto:tretterc@who.int)). These will be mobilised and passed through to the UK Command and Control Platform.

To channel other offers or to make offers beyond the UK plan, please also see the UN Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak Appeal at  
[https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/Ebola\\_outbreak\\_Sep\\_2014.pdf](https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/CAP/Ebola_outbreak_Sep_2014.pdf)

