



**World Health  
Organization**



Photo: WHO/Gervais Folefack

# **Ebola virus disease preparedness**

## **Progress update - July 2015**

The World Health Organization (WHO) and partner organizations continue to provide dedicated and on-the-ground preparedness support to priority countries in the African region: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, South Sudan and Togo.

In these countries, WHO is supporting governments to implement accelerated preparedness activities to operationalise EVD response plans to be ready to detect, response and contain a suspected case of EVD. Initial assessments carried out by the Preparedness Strengthening

Team Missions in all priority countries have been followed up with additional support through the:

- Implementation of national operational plans;
- Coordination of partner activities
- Provision of technical assistance, training and equipment; and,
- Testing of response systems through simulation exercises.

In July 2015, deployments of subject matter experts have taken place to support preparedness

activities in four priority countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, and Mali. Ongoing preparedness efforts are directly linked to strengthening health systems and the implementation of the International Health Regulations and focus on activities to improve capability to rapidly detect, identify, report and respond to public health threats.

## Progress in numbers

- As of 31 July, 64% of priority countries have achieved a score of at least 50% based on the Ebola preparedness checklist (7% in Dec 2014), and the average score across all priority countries is 48%.
- WHO has supported more than 150 countries across all 6 WHO regions to determine whether countries are adequately prepared to respond to Ebola and other disease outbreaks.
- Since October 2014, WHO has conducted 255 multi-partner deployments to 15 priority African countries
- Spent 1954 days in the field and provided dedicated assistance to 15 priority countries between October 2014 and July 2015.
- Delivered contingency response and personal protective equipment to all countries on the African continent.

Progress made by priority countries is regularly updated and shared publicly on the WHO [EVD Preparedness Dashboard](#).

## Activity highlights

### Testing response systems in priority countries

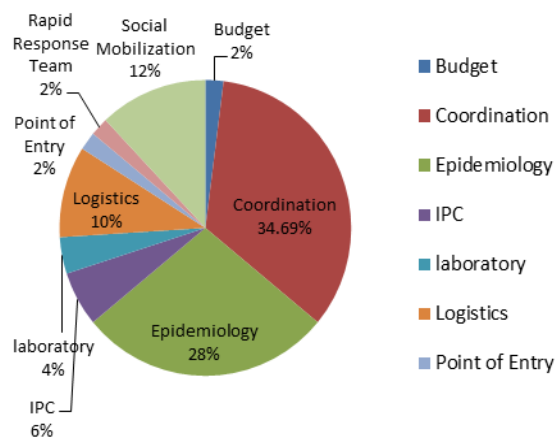
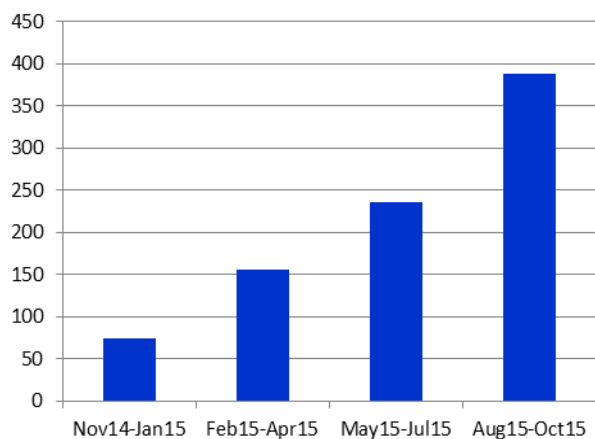
In June and July 2015, WHO carried out field exercises in Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali. Specific procedures put to the test during these simulations are listed in the table below. Each of these countries has reached over 50% implementation of the EVD Preparedness Checklist and has decided to test its response systems.

WHO provides support to countries in planning for and facilitation of Ebola virus disease simulations, as well as in developing training and exercise plans in line with their national preparedness plans. Simulations test the existing capability to respond in a safe and effective manner using tailor-made scenarios that define who should undertake key actions required, thereby enabling evidence-based evaluation.

### Strengthening capacity in Guinea-Bissau

With ongoing transmission of EVD along the border with Guinea, The Ministry of Health and the National Institute of Public Health (INASA) in Guinea Bissau is working closely with WHO and

	EXERCISE 1	EXERCISE 2	EXERCISE 3	EXERCISE 4
	Senegal	Côte-d'Ivoire	Côte-d'Ivoire	Mali
<i>Tested functions during field exercises</i>	Regions de Tambacounda/Kolda	Region de Cavalry – Guémon (Guiglo)	Region de Cavalry – Guémon (Toulepleu)	Bamako
Investigation of community alerts			X	
Screening / procedures at a Point of Entry/ border crossing	X			X
Screening and triage at a health centre		X		
Deployment and activities of the Rapid Response Team	X	X	X	X
Contact identification and follow-up	X	X	X	X
Case management at the holding centre	X			
Isolation at an Ebola Treatment Centre	X	X		X
Clinical management at an Ebola Treatment Centre				
Safe and dignified burials	X	X		



Days of WHO deployments to Guinea Bissau by quarter (from November 2014) / Deployments to Guinea Bissau by role (n=50)

partners to strengthen and maintain Guinea-Bissau's level of alert.

WHO sub-offices covering Gabu and Tombali regions have been established with a permanent coordinator and epidemiological teams to serve as operational hubs supporting health authorities. WHO is also supporting the establishment of a public health Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) within the Ministry of Health, the organigram and location for which have been identified and agreed at the central level. Regional EOCs will also be established.

Experts in incident management and emergency operations centres, safe burials, logistics, infection prevention and control, epidemiology, planning, partner coordination, community engagement and anthropology have been deployed.

WHO also led an interagency mission to identify and establish of an emergency operations centre (EOC), appoint a national EOC manager,

and strengthen partner coordination. The mission also served to propose a sampling and testing regime to strengthen the country's ability to detect and identify Ebola cases, and to prioritize other identified gaps in preparedness and response.

## Workshop on national Training Modules & Standard Operating Procedures in Côte d'Ivoire

The Ministry of Health of Côte d'Ivoire, WHO and partners held a week-long workshop in Yamoussoukro to review and harmonise training modules and standard operating procedures in the country.

## Clinical management training in Benin

National trainers, who had been trained by WHO during a train-the-trainer course in Dakar in May, led a training in Cotonou on the clinical management of Ebola cases. The course also addresses other emerging viral diseases, including Lassa, Marburg and Congo-Crimean hemorrhagic fevers.

## Partner support and coordination

### Partner Meeting on Building Health Security Beyond Ebola

This high-level meeting on was convened by WHO and the Government of South Africa in Cape Town on 13-15 July 2015. Its aim was to encourage cooperative work between countries, and with WHO and other partners, to strengthen preparedness for disease outbreaks in Africa and, in the longer term, other countries and regions. The meeting brought together over 200 participants representing Ebola-affected countries, other countries, global experts and institutions, and donor agencies to review strategies used for Ebola preparedness work with a view to developing a longer term health security strategies.

## IOM-CDC-WHO West Africa Joint Mission

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and WHO undertook a joint mission to Mali, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Senegal to review mobility pattern mapping and improve cross border collaboration between the organizations at the field level. A technical working group composed of the three organizations is continuing to develop and share tools and guidance for cross-border activities related to awareness of Ebola among travellers, epidemiological surveillance, screening procedures, and population mobility.

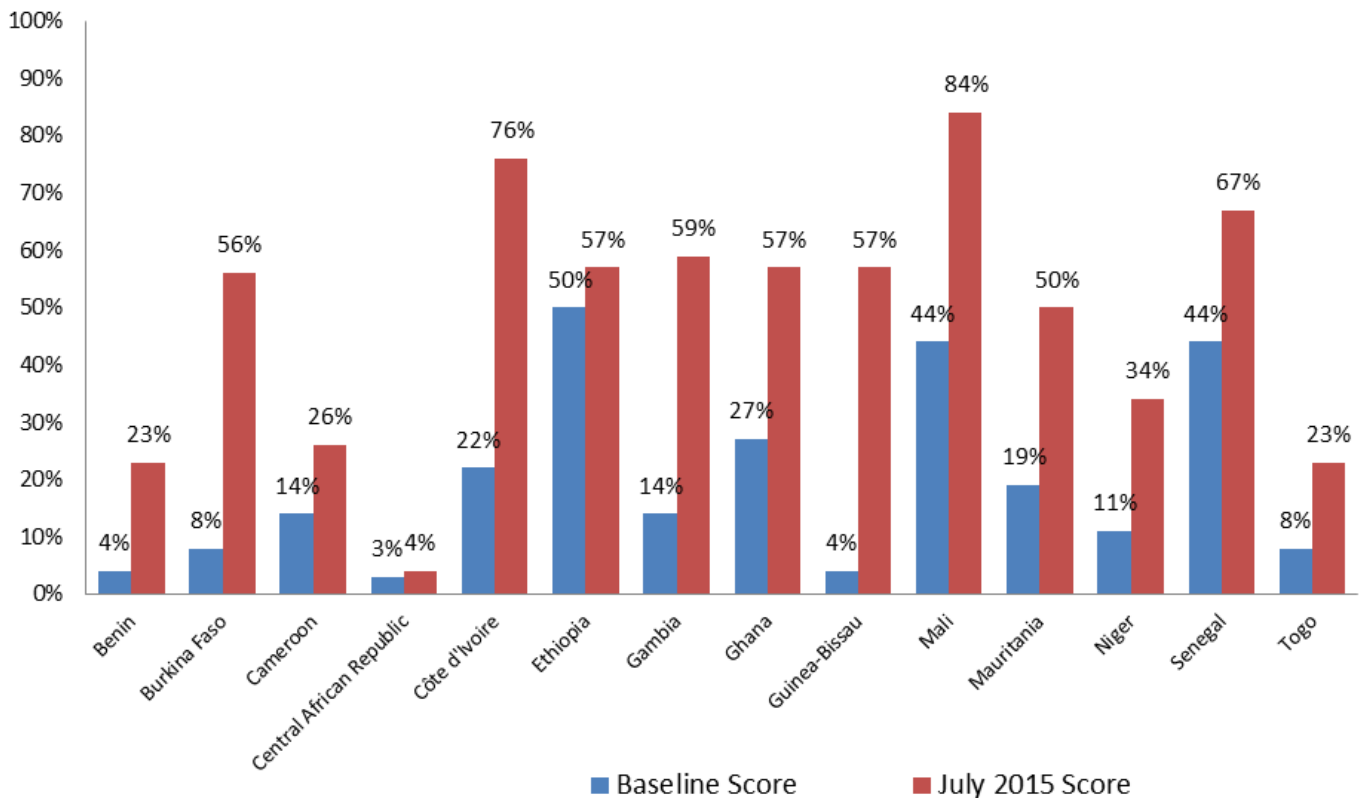
## Deployments

Dedicated EVD Preparedness Officers are already in place in each of the priority countries, except Burkina Faso where this is planned from August. Since October 2014, a total of 255 external and WHO personnel have been deployed as part of EVD Preparedness activities in priority African countries at high risk of EVD. A total of

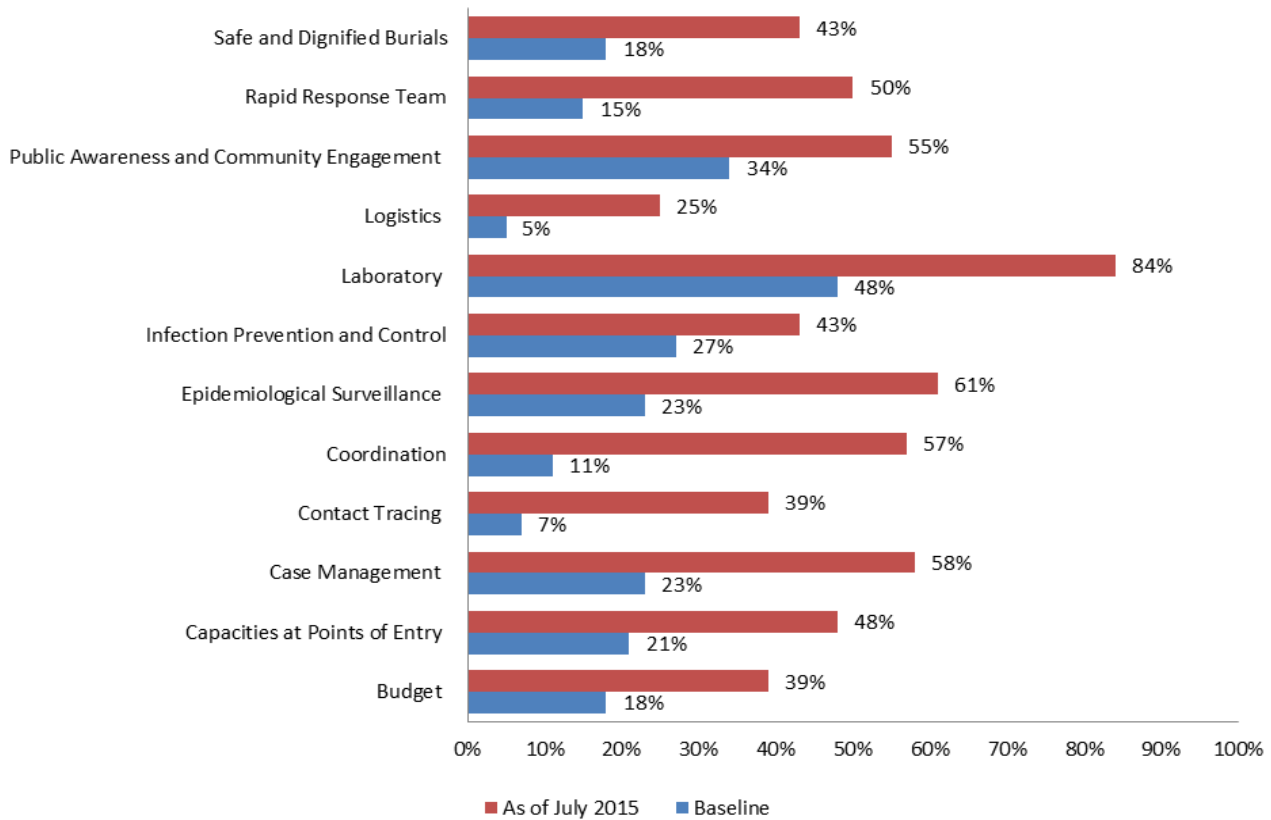
1954 days of technical work have been completed in these countries during the same period. The average length of deployments has increased over time, as the approach has moved from assessment towards targeted technical support. In July 2015, 19 deployments, including 182 days of technical work were undertaken.



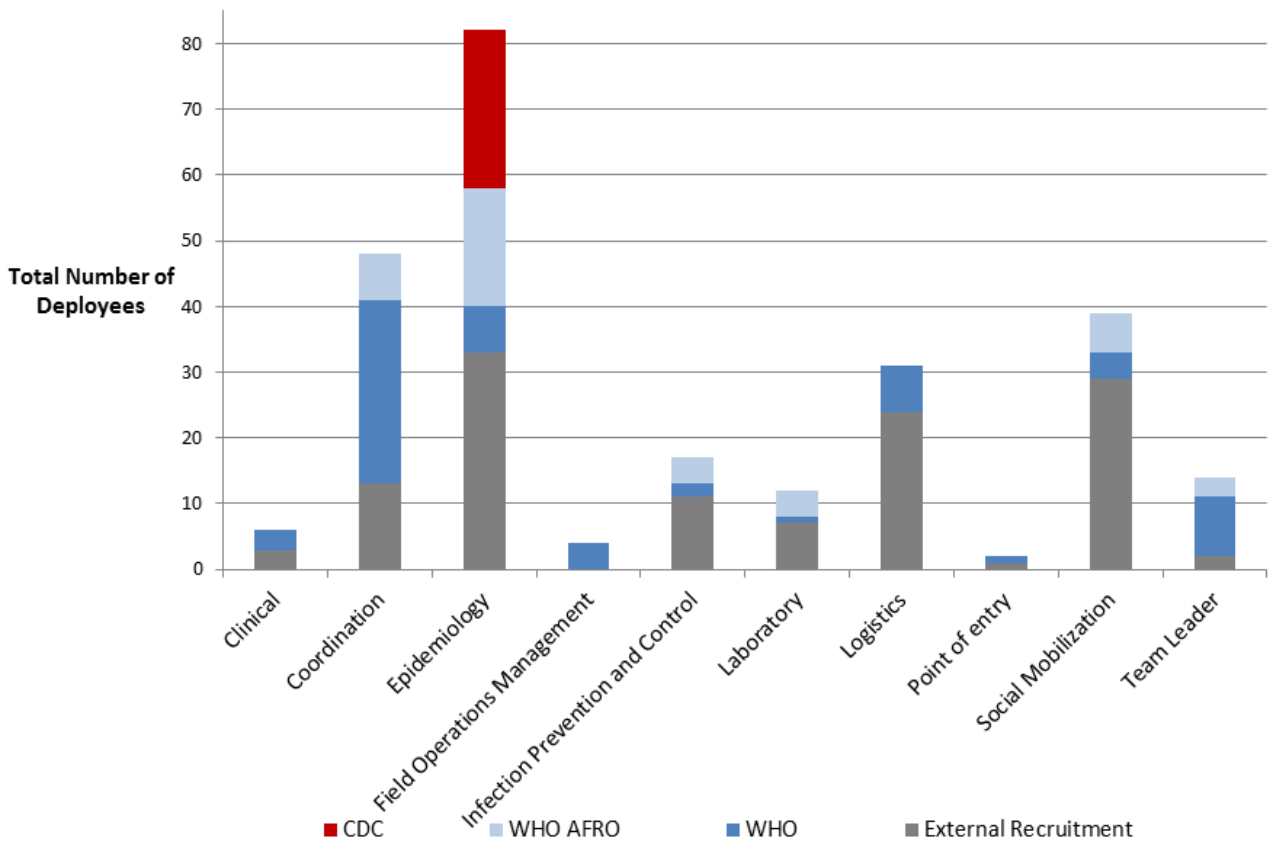
Photos from the field exercises held in Bamako, Mali, that involved a simulated EVD case presenting at the international airport in Bamako. WHO/Elsa Calduch.



Overall score of the priority countries on the EVD Preparedness Dashboard at the end of 2014 (baseline) and at end of June 2015. This reflects progress in the implementation of EVD preparedness activities of the checklist.



Average of all priority countries scores per component. This reflects progress in the implementation of EVD preparedness activities of the Checklist, component by component.



The total number of deployed staff between October 2014 and July 2015 by area of expertise

[http://apps.who.int/ebola/en/our-work/preparedness\\_evd\\_prep@who.int](http://apps.who.int/ebola/en/our-work/preparedness_evd_prep@who.int)

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