

SLOF Bulletin

Current Ebola Outbreak in West Africa in a Nutshell

Ebola disrupts farming

The Ebola Outbreak in West Africa is creating food shortages in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea as regional trade is disrupted says Kanya Nwanze (President, International Fund for Agricultural Development). In Sierra Leone about 40 % of farms have been abandoned in the worst affected areas. Crops are left to rot when the farmers stay home in fear, explains BBC's Umaru Fofana from Sierra Leone. The food security issue and negative economic impact have hampered the purchasing power of the most vulnerable households. This means less food on the plates for many Sierra Leoneans.

However, Prince Kamara from Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security tells the BBC that the Sierra Leone government has been encouraging farmers to return to the fields for the harvest.

Current outbreak

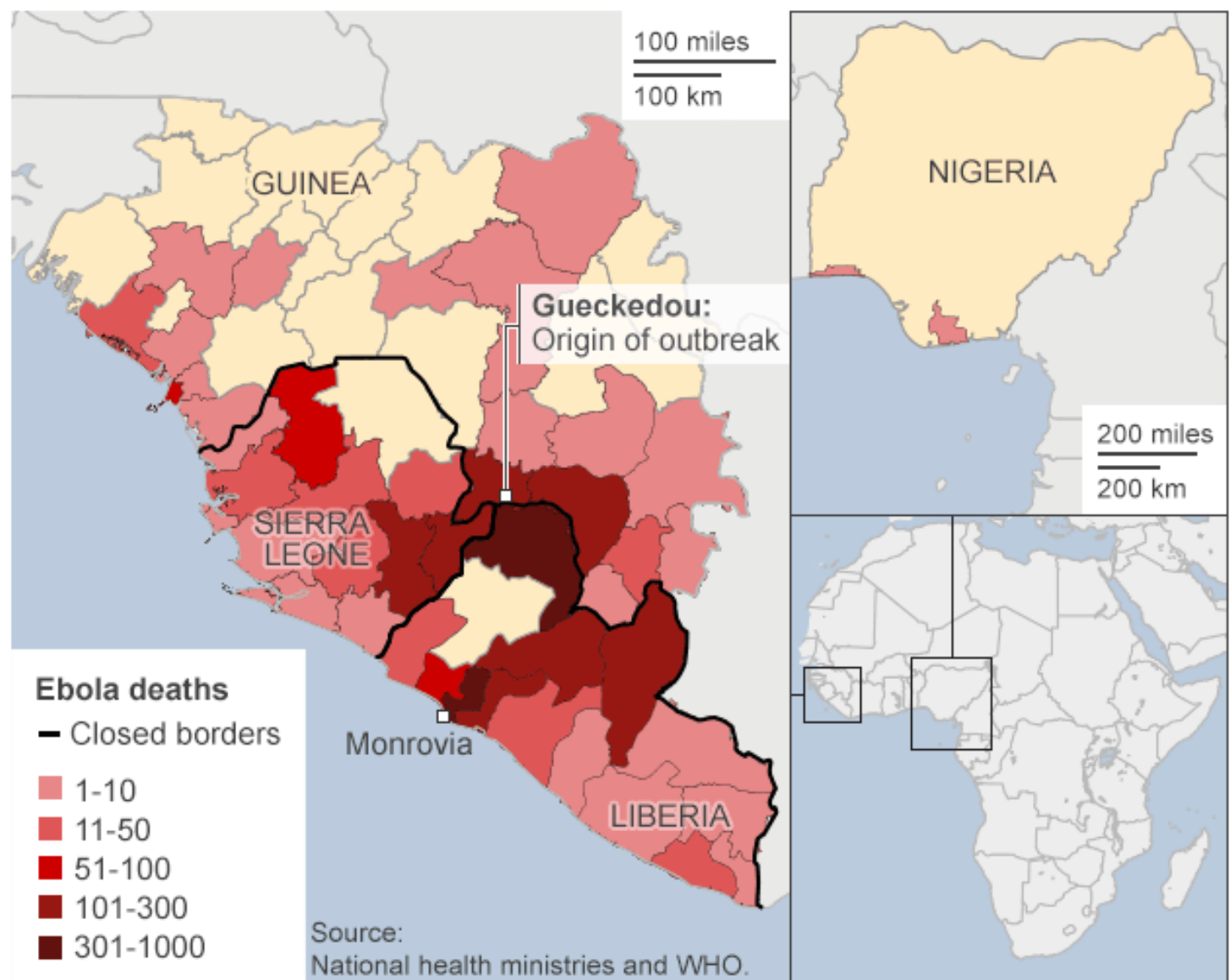


Figure accurate 4-6 October, depending on country. Death toll in Liberia includes probable, suspect and confirmed cases, while in Sierra Leone and Guinea only confirmed cases are shown.

Ebola death rate in West Africa has risen according to WHO (World Health Organization) and is currently 70 per cent. The total death toll is 4493 by the 12th of October. More than 9,000 people are infected now with Ebola Virus in West Africa. WHO estimates that the figure will rise to 20,000 in November. WHO points out that the figures they get from affected countries are underestimated. On 15th of October, WHO also warned that about 5,000 – 10,000 persons per week could catch the Ebola virus by December. These estimated figures can turn out to be true if more effort is not done discussed Dr. Christopher Dye from WHO.

Ebola Deaths in West Africa, Confirmed and Suspected:

Liberia: 2,458, Guinea; 843, Sierra Leone: 1183, and Nigeria: 8.

Ebola Deaths outside West Africa:

Spain: 2, Germany: 1, and USA: 1

SLOF ry takes the opportunity to offer relevant information concerning Ebola Outbreak in West Africa, especially in Sierra Leone. Our bulletin includes news in a nutshell concerning a particular topic about Ebola which may be relevant for Sierra Leoneans living in Finland. SLOF information sources are WHO, MSF, BBC and other media. SLOF is not responsible for any misinformation.

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