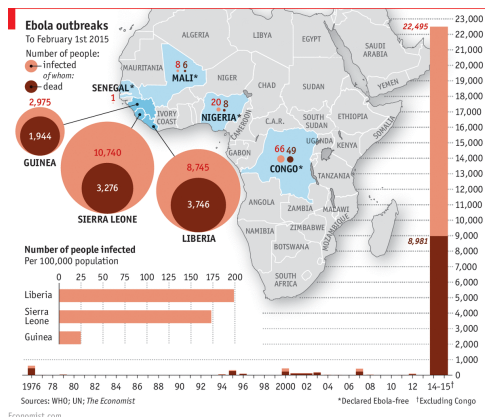




EXPANDING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S COMMITMENT TO THE EBOLA EMERGENCY

The Holy See announces a further commitment €500 000 to the Ebola Emergency in West Africa through a newly established Ebola Emergency Response Fund. Together with other partners and contributors, more than €3 000 000 in additional aid will be available to support people affected by the Ebola epidemic over the course of 2015.



22,000+ PEOPLE IMPACTED

The World Health Organization reports that more than **22,000 people have been infected** with Ebola in Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia, with around **9,000 people have passed away** from this deadly epidemic. In addition, **more than 16,000 children have lost either one or both parents** are often left abandoned by the community or family members because they harbour unfounded fears that the children are capable of infecting others. Although the new infections have decreased, public health experts warn that we cannot be sure that the epidemic has been ended until we have no new cases for at least a 42-day period. Even after this stage has been reached, we know that we will need to accompany the people in these countries as they strive to rebuild their lives and deal with the devastating effects of this epidemic.

EBOLA IS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

Our focus is on comprehensive response that gets help directly to people:

- **50% of the Fund will be for the Health Response:** financial support for health structures, protective supplies, medications, building changes, personnel training, and transport vehicles for patients
- **30% of the Fund will be used for the Community Response:** training residents about the changes necessary to stop the spread of Ebola, provide food and hygiene kits, support families, support orphans and other children, families with special needs, and the re-opening of Catholic schools, and prevent new outbreaks of the disease
- **20% of the Fund will be used for the Pastoral Response:** training and support for clergy, lay pastoral workers, and catechists within the communities



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS A COMMITTED PARTNER

The Church is present in these local communities, it does not come and go, and people turn to the Church in time need. The Church is a visible witness to the presence of Jesus Christ at all times and particularly at times of adversity. Through the centuries, the Church has worked to strengthen local communities so that people of all backgrounds can enjoy the dignity that God has instilled in each and every person. In this regard, the Church is a trusted institution. The Church has made significant financial and personnel contributions and is equally grateful for the efforts of the international community, especially as governments, and society-at-large mobilizes much-needed resources to offer in solidarity with those in the heavily-affected countries.



SUPPORT IS NEEDED: GIVE GENEROUSLY

In order to offer tangible witness to its prioritization of the Ebola Response, the Holy See has granted €500.000 to the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace with a specific mandate from Pope Francis to advance the above-mentioned initiative. After direct consultations with Church-related structures and experts in the field, at least €3.000.000 will be needed. The Catholic Church and Catholic health institutions in the region are uniquely positioned to address the challenges and we sincerely hope you will consider joining us as partners with your generous support to fulfil this vital response aiming to benefit those presently suffering the effects of this devastating epidemic, and to prevent further outbreaks of this magnitude.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING HOW TO DONATE VISIT www.iustitiaetpax.va OR CALL US AT +0039 06 698 79911