

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002084/26
to the Commission
Leire Pajín (S&D)
(20 May 2026)

Subject: EU response to WHO-declared public health emergency of international concern following Ebola outbreak in Central Africa

The World Health Organisation has declared the Ebola outbreak caused by the Bundibugyo virus in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) a public health emergency of international concern. The outbreak has already spread beyond the DRC into Uganda, with suspected and confirmed cases reported in urban and cross-border areas affected by insecurity, humanitarian crises and high population mobility. Given the absence of approved vaccines or treatments for the Bundibugyo strain, the situation poses a serious risk to regional and global health security.

1. What immediate humanitarian, financial and technical support is the Commission providing to the DRC, Uganda and neighbouring countries to strengthen surveillance, testing and isolation capacities and cross-border coordination?
2. What measures is the Commission taking, together with international partners, to support research and development on vaccines and treatments for Ebola, and to protect European citizens?

Submitted: 20.5.2026

Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(28 July 2026)

The Commission is providing immediate support in response to the ongoing Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda by supporting testing, sequencing, detection and isolations capacities through different projects funded by the EU4Health and Global Europe programmes in Africa.

The Commission has already supported the mobilisation of 6.3 tonnes of medical countermeasures and supplies to the DRC through the World Health Organisation (WHO) AFRO Regional Emergency Hub in Dakar, including sample collection kits, viral haemorrhagic fever kits, medications, as well as the deployment of EU Health Task Force expert teams on the ground ⁽¹⁾.

The Union's support amounts to EUR 493 million in emergency aid, vaccines, treatment and health security in the Great Lakes and Uganda region, including EUR 84 million in immediate humanitarian aid ⁽²⁾, development and research ⁽³⁾ funding in response to the outbreak. The Commission is working closely with EU Member States to ensure a coordinated Team Europe response.

The Commission is supporting the WHO Research and Development blueprint which sponsors the development of recommendations on priority candidate vaccines and therapeutics and the establishment of clinical trials.

The Commission is also working with international partners to accelerate research, development, local manufacturing and equitable access to new vaccines and treatments, including via its support to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation through Horizon Europe. Gavi's First Response Fund has been activated, allocating up to USD 50 million for accelerated vaccine access and outbreak response needs ⁽⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁾ The EU Health Task Force has been deployed to support the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention in outbreak coordination and operational planning, as well as to assess exit screening measures in place in the DRC and Uganda.

⁽²⁾ Through the EU Humanitarian Air Bridge, the Commission facilitated the transport of over 140 tonnes of medicines, protective equipment, infection-control materials and tents, with additional flights planned.

⁽³⁾ The EU-funded European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership with Africa is pivoting three Ebola research projects towards validation of treatments, post-exposure prophylaxis, and point-of-care diagnostics.

⁽⁴⁾ The European Union is the fifth largest donor to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and Team Europe is collectively the largest donor.