

Ebola kills 2,300, nearly half of deaths in past 21 days: WHO

September 9 2014

The Ebola epidemic in west Africa has claimed nearly 2,300 lives, the World Health Organization said Tuesday, stressing that nearly half had died in less than a month.

As of September 6, 2,288 people had died in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia out of 4,269 [cases](#), the UN's health agency said.

A full 47 percent of the deaths and 49 percent of the cases had come in the prior 21 days, it said.

The countries bearing the brunt of the epidemic are among the world's poorest, with dilapidated medical infrastructures buckling under the strain.

Liberia has been by far the hardest hit by the epidemic, which since it began in neighbouring Guinea at the beginning of the year has ballooned into the deadliest Ebola outbreak the world has ever seen.

It alone accounts for half of all cases and counts a full 1,224 deaths—62 percent of them since mid-August.

WHO warned Monday that Liberia would likely face "many thousands" of new infections in the next three weeks.

Guinea meanwhile counts 555 deaths, while the deadly virus has claimed 509 lives in Sierra Leone, WHO said.

Another eight people have meanwhile died in Nigeria out of 21 cases, while one case of Ebola has been confirmed in Senegal, WHO said.

On Friday, the UN agency had put the overall death toll from the raging epidemic in the five countries at 2,105 out of 3,967 cases.

The Democratic Republic of Congo is meanwhile facing its own outbreak of a separate strain of Ebola, one of the deadliest viruses known to man.

That country, where the virus was first identified in 1976, said at the weekend that it so far had registered 32 Ebola deaths and 59 likely or confirmed cases.

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Citation: Ebola kills 2,300, nearly half of deaths in past 21 days: WHO (2014, September 9) retrieved 5 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-09-ebola-deaths-days.html>

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