

More than 20,000 Ebola Cases Feared August 28, 2014

The World Health Organization fears a rapid increase in Ebola cases in West Africa. Nearly half the cases have been recorded in the past three weeks. Health workers became aware of the Ebola outbreak in March.

From Geneva/Lagos: The World Health Organization fears that the number of Ebola cases in West Africa could increase rapidly. With the announcement of new measures against the spread of the disease, the WHO in Geneva announced on Thursday that they have succeeded in containing the illness, though the number of infections could climb to more than 20,000. According to WHO data, more than 3000 people have been infected with the virus since the beginning of the year, and more than 1500 people in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria have died.

The Ebola virus is one of the most deadly pathogens in the world. It is a hemorrhagic disease, that is, with heavy bleeding to go along with the fever.

The mortality rate in West Africa therefore averages 52 percent. It has reached 42 percent in Sierra Leone and up to 66 percent in Guinea. According to statistics, the current epidemic has claimed as many lives as in all previous epidemics combined. According to the WHO, the current outbreak has recorded a total of 2387 Ebola cases, of whom 1590 have died.

The Nigerian Health Minister Onyebuchi Chukwu confirmed on Thursday the first Ebola deaths outside the metropolis of Lagos. A doctor died on August 22 in the oil-trading center in Port Harcourt Rivers State. "After his widow reported the death we investigated the case thoroughly. The laboratory analysis shows that the doctor died of Ebola," the minister said. The doctor had treated a case of Ebola.

Meanwhile, an Ebola patient from Senegal is being treated at the University Medical Center in Hamburg-Eppendorf. He landed on Wednesday morning on a special flight in the Hanseatic city.