In response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, the AfDB responded swiftly to support the countries in the region. It was the first Multilateral Development Bank to respond to the Ebola crisis with a grant of $3 million in April 2014.

By December 2014, the Bank approved a total, USD 223 million for nine (9) operations to fight the epidemic, covering the three most affected and at risk countries in (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone), and also Côte d’Ivoire, Nigeria, Senegal, Mali and DRC.

1. USD 3 million project for Guinea and neighbouring countries (23rd April 2014);
2. USD 56 million project for ECOWAS countries (18th August 2014);
3. USD 1 million emergency operation for Guinea (18th August 2014);
4. USD 1 million emergency operation for Liberia (18th August 2014);
5. USD 1 million emergency operation for Sierra Leone (18th August 2014);
6. USD 1 million emergency operation for Nigeria (18th August 2014);
7. USD 1 million emergency operation for DRC (22nd September 2014);
8. USD 150 million budget support for Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (1st October 2014);
9. USD 7.7 million Technical Assistance for Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (1st October 2014).

The support included multinational operations, operations aiming to strengthen West Africa’s public health systems, operations providing crisis response technical assistance, as well as multinational and national emergency assistance operations. The funds have been channeled through the World Health Organization and through the beneficiary governments. The crisis response technical assistance component has been carried out in association with the African Union and ECOWAS to deploy Foreign Medical Teams and provide training to local health workers.

The Bank is also a member of national task forces in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Côte d’Ivoire, WHO partner meetings, and has posted a staff in the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) with the aim of enhancing the collective international response to the Ebola crises.

The Bank is currently preparing two new operations to fight Ebola.

(i) the establishment of an Africa Centre for Disease Control (CDC): a project that responds to the call of the Executive Council of the African Union for the establishment of an African CDC, together with the establishment of regional centers, including the enhancement of early warning systems and the harmonisation of health domestic regulations and interventions.
(ii) a post Ebola Livelihoods Restoration Project (PELREP)” a project to increase access to basic socio-economic services; increase the productive capacity of the poor, particularly
women and youth by developing income generating activities through establishment of a Social Investment Fund