

Geneva, 2 September 2014

To General Secretaries of affiliated unions in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea

Ebola Outbreak in West Africa

Dear Colleagues,

[IndustriALL Global Union](#) would like to express its condolences to those that have lost loved ones to Ebola. We are gravely concerned of the impact that the outbreak is having on the health of citizens, especially workers.

We have received several requests from affiliated unions to provide assistance. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to get directly involved or provide your union directly with support as responding to the health aspects of such an outbreak is out of our scope. However, should affiliates wish to engage in outreach with workers on the outbreak, we urge you to work with Doctors Without Borders. Should you decide to take such an approach, we will support your efforts by providing publicity and urging affiliates to support these efforts through donations to Doctors Without Borders.

Unfortunately, the longer the outbreak remains uncontained, the greater the risk of the potential negative impact on the economy. There are already reports that airlines are suspending travel and borders with neighbouring countries have been closed. Multinational companies may be scaling back and pulling foreign staff out of your countries.

Our affiliates have an important role to play monitoring the economic impact, in terms of slow down or stoppage in production by companies, especially in the mining sector and its implications for labour in the form of layoffs. Particular attention also is needed to the impact on migrant workers.

Please provide regular updates on your efforts to IndustriALL's Regional Office so that we may do our best to focus attention on the situation for workers as a result of the outbreak of Ebola in your countries and the sub region.

In solidarity,



Jyrki Raina
General Secretary