BioSpectrum the business of Bio & Health Sciences ASIA EDITION

Bill Gates commits $50 mn to combat Ebola

September 12, 2014 | News | By BioSpectrum Bureau



Singapore: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has commited USD50 million to support the scale up of emergency efforts to contain the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and interrupt transmission of the virus.

The foundation will release flexible funds to United Nations agencies and international organizations involved in the response to enable them and national governments to purchase badly needed supplies and scale up emergency operations in affected countries. In addition, the foundation will work with public and private sector partners to accelerate the development of therapies, vaccines, and diagnostics that could be effective in treating patients and preventing further transmission of the disease.

"We are working urgently with our partners to identify the most effective ways to help them save lives now and stop transmission of this deadly disease," said Dr Sue Desmond-Hellmann, CEO, Gates Foundation. "We also want to accelerate the development of treatments, vaccines and diagnostics that can help end this epidemic and prevent future outbreaks."

Gates Foundation has committed more than USD10 million of the USD50 million to fight the Ebola outbreak, including USD5 million to WHO for emergency operations and R&D assessments and USD5 million to the US Fund for UNICEF to support efforts in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea to purchase essential medical supplies, coordinate response activities, and provide at-risk communities with life-saving health information. An additional USD2 million will also be committed immediately to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support incident management, treatment, and health care system strengthening.