

UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) External Situation Report

19 December 2014

KEY POINTS

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has started his visit to West Africa in Ghana.
- A warehouse with supplies for the EVD operation caught fire yesterday morning at the main humanitarian logistics base in Conakry, Guinea.
- In Sierra Leone, WFP has started distributing food baskets to prevent households from going to local markets during the Western Area Surge.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon arrived in Ghana yesterday, the first stop on his visit to West Africa. He met with Ghanaian president John Dramani Mahama to discuss the EVD response, which is being directed from the UNMEER headquarters in Accra. He was briefed on the response and UNMEER's work by Tony Banbury, the head of UNMEER, and the UNMEER senior leadership. Today the Secretary-General will visit Liberia and Sierra Leone.
2. A warehouse with supplies for the EVD operation caught fire yesterday morning in Conakry, at the main humanitarian logistics base located at the city's airport. No casualties were reported. The fire in the warehouse, mainly containing pharmaceutical supplies and laboratory materials, was discovered when the workers arrived in the morning. The warehouse is used by Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, the Red Cross, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Pharmacie Centrale de Guinée to store supplies for the EVD emergency response under the umbrella of UNMEER. The exact amount of property and material damaged as a result of the fire is not yet known. Firefighters of the airport and of the city of Conakry, who immediately intervened, extinguished the fire. An investigation is ongoing. "This is a regrettable loss, but no one was hurt and we will move quickly together with our partners to replace the lost supplies", SRSG Banbury said. "We certainly won't be deterred in our fight against Ebola."

Human Rights

3. NSTR

Response Efforts and Health

4. According to WHO, a number of healthcare workers have tested EVD positive in the main health centre in Kérouané, Guinea. The affected personnel includes the centre's director, a midwife, 2 nurses and an ambulance driver. The patients have been transferred to the Donka ETC in Conakry, and contacts are being identified and followed up. Following the spread of this news, a security incident occurred on 17 December when members of the local community including groups of youths threatened to ransack the EVD transit centre in Kérouané. The prefectural coordination appealed for calm and instructed responders from WHO, African Union and ECOWAS/ West African Health Organization to suspend their activities and remain in their hotel. The authorities also dispatched a police unit. As a result of these measures, the threats of violence were not carried out.
5. UNMEER placed a request for 120 motorbikes as part of a donation by the South African government. If received, this number will meet 100% of the identified requirements for the phase 2 county strategy plan, to support contract tracing and active case finding in Liberia.
6. China has approved a domestically developed experimental EVD vaccine for clinical trials. The Chinese vaccine is being developed by the Academy of Military Medical Sciences, a military research unit which is also involved in developing a drug to treat the disease. It has been reported that the trials would start this month.
7. In the last 21 days, there have been 1,660 new cases of EVD in the three most affected countries, and 1,109 deaths. By far the most new cases were in Sierra Leone, where these figures were 1,261

and 687, respectively. In total, 18,569 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries, where there have been 6,900 reported deaths.

Logistics

8. To offset the Western Area Surge in Sierra Leone, WFP and its partner, CIDO, began a nine-day distribution on 12 December of more than 3,000 metric tons of food to over 240,000 beneficiaries in Waterloo, a peri-urban area outside Freetown. The aim of the distribution is to provide households with food rations to prevent them from resorting to local markets, where the risk of spreading or contracting the virus is higher. WFP's food basket includes rice, super cereal, pulses, salt and vegetable oil - it feeds a family of five for one month.
9. The Logistics Cluster, through the Air Coordination Cell (ACC) in Copenhagen, is coordinating four additional fully-funded flights, on behalf of the humanitarian community, from the Cologne Staging Area; two free-of-charge flights have been provided to date. Partners have been requested to communicate their needs to the ACC in order to ensure optimal use of available space on these four flights. The first flight is currently planned to depart Cologne for Freetown and Monrovia between 30 December and 3 January.
10. WFP is optimising the capacity and flexibility of dedicated aircraft stationed at WFP's Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) in Accra. On 18 December, the Logistics Cluster, through WFP's UNHRD, coordinated the transport of 14 motorbikes (part of the 400 donated by the government of Germany), from Accra to Monrovia, via a C-160 aircraft. The aircraft flew on to Freetown to dispatch 576 Household Protection Kits on behalf of UNICEF; it then flew back to Monrovia transporting technical equipment on behalf of WFP.
11. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

12. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling US\$ 1.5 billion, has been funded for \$ 1.04 billion, which is around 69 percent of the total ask.
13. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 129.8 million in commitments. In total \$ 140 million has been pledged.
14. All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (<http://fts.unocha.org>) of contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org.

Outreach and Education

15. Following a flare-up in Polay Town, Sinoe County, Liberia (4 confirmed cases), UNICEF joined partners in organizing social mobilizers to engage the population of the quarantined village and neighboring villages. Mobilizers are using house-to-house visits, town hall meetings and focus group discussions focusing on prevention practices, rapid reporting and isolation of sick family members, where they address issues of stigma and ask residents if anyone was sick in their community. In addition, necessary supplies such as RITE (Rapid Isolation and Treatment of Ebola) kits, tents, life-saving medical and infection control supplies were flown in to support the temporary ETU in Greenville.

Essential Services

16. In Liberia, the Education Cluster is looking at the possibility of renovating a school in West Point, Monrovia, which was damaged following its usage as a holding area for suspected EVD cases earlier in the year. Its current condition would not allow for it to be reopened when a decision is made to restart schooling next year.
17. A temporary accommodation center for children affected by EVD was opened in Guéckédou, Guinea, with support from UNICEF. The center offers unaccompanied or separated children a protected environment and complete services pending their reintegration into their families or communities. Admitted children include those whose parents are being treated in the ETC in Guéckédou as well as those who have survived Ebola or have been orphaned by the epidemic.

Upcoming Events

- 18-20 December – UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will visit Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Mali and Ghana, to raise awareness about the ongoing EVD outbreak.

Attachments and resources

- Reliefweb: [Maps on the EVD response](#)