



HIGHLIGHTS

- SRSG Banbury continues his visit in Liberia, including to a treatment facility in Lofa County
- Appointment of Victor Kisob to lead the Ebola Response Liaison office at UN Headquarters in New York
- Numerous new pledges made during the “Defeating Ebola in Sierra Leone” conference held in London yesterday attended by Special Envoy Nabarro; U.K. announces pilot scheme for community healthcare centres in Sierra Leone
- WFP and UNDP raise concerns about the impact of Ebola on West African economies, trade activities and food security

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. Yesterday, Special Envoy Dr. David Nabarro and UNMEER SRSG Mr. Anthony Banbury announced the appointment of Mr. Victor Kisob from the Executive Office of the Secretary-General to lead the Ebola Response Liaison Office at UN Headquarters (UNHQ) in New York. In leading the Office, Mr. Kisob will support the Office of the Special Envoy and UNMEER through ensuring effective coordination, harmonisation and working level collaboration with inter-governmental bodies.
2. Yesterday, the U.K. Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond and International Development Secretary Justine Greening co-hosted a “Defeating Ebola in Sierra Leone” conference in London, which brought together ministers, diplomats and health officials from around 20 countries and world organisations. During the conference, the U.K. announced plans for a pilot scheme that would involve setting up community healthcare centres in Sierra Leone for people to seek swift and accurate diagnosis. The healthcare centres would also provide appropriate isolation and care for any individual with Ebola, until they can be safely transferred to a full Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU). At the conference, Save the Children warned that “five people are being infected with Ebola every hour in Sierra Leone and demand for treatment beds is far outstripping supply.” Furthermore, if the current “terrifying” rate of infection continues, then 10 people every hour will be infected with the deadly virus in Sierra Leone by the end of October. To compound this problem, there were an estimated 765 new cases last week, the charity said, but only 327 beds across the country. Meanwhile, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) highlighted that the greatest demand at this stage was for medical teams rather than cash.
3. During his introductory visit in Liberia, SRSG Banbury met with international nongovernmental organizations (INGOs) and civil society groups working directly on the Ebola operational response. The INGOs expressed concerns regarding the lack of vehicles and logistical support to sustain the response, especially to transport bodies for burials and for transport of patients to Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs) without contributing to further transmission through the use of public transport. The INGOs stressed the importance of community care centres and of providing personal protective equipment for family members who staff them. In the subsequent meeting with civil society, the civil society representatives emphasized that sensitization must be managed carefully with messages delivered by trusted community leaders who work in partnership with county health teams.
4. Yesterday, SRSG Banbury visited a MSF treatment facility in Foya, Lofa County. It was shared that the facility had a successful approach to treatment that combined robust medical procedures with strong community involvement. Following yesterday’s visit to Lofa County to meet with district health officials and to tour the MSF treatment facility, UNMEER SRSG Banbury and Acting UNMEER Ebola Crisis Manager for Liberia Mr. Richard Regan held a press conference in Monrovia. During the conference, Mr. Regan indicated that his role would be to focus exclusively on Liberia, as he works with the national Government, UN agencies and partners to “find the gaps that need to be filled and work with people who can fill them.”
5. As Ebola continues to proliferate, there are increasing concerns not only about its implications for the health sector but also regarding its impact on West African economies, trade activities and food security. WFP released an update yesterday stating that the closure of markets, internal travel restrictions and fear of infection has curtailed food trade, causing supply shortages on local markets.

In Sierra Leone's Lofa County – the heart of the Ebola outbreak in the country – the current average price of imported rice has increased by 20 per cent, as compared to August. Similarly, increases of 22 to 23 per cent in the price of imported rice have been reported in Liberia, where restricted movement and border closures are also constraining food traders from moving food from the capital to rural areas and across borders.

6. In Guinea, WFP reports that border closures to neighbouring countries has led to a decline in trade of volumes of agricultural commodities.

Medical

7. Late Wednesday, 62 doctors and 103 nurses departed Cuba for Sierra Leone, as part of the Cuban contribution to global efforts to curb the spread of EVD. Prior to deployment, Cuban health professionals are undergoing more than two weeks of training with international experts at a Havana hospital specialising in tropical diseases. Another 296 Cuban doctors and nurses will deploy to Liberia and Guinea once their training has been completed.
8. Following confirmation on Tuesday of the first case of Ebola to be diagnosed in the U.S., health officials told media yesterday that up to 100 people may have directly or indirectly come into contact with the male patient prior to his hospitalisation. Related to this, the Liberian Government will reportedly seek to prosecute the patient, stating that he had lied on his airport health questionnaire when asked if he had contact with anyone infected with EVD. The conditions in which the individual contracted EVD are not as yet clear, with some reports indicating it is likely the man contracted the disease from a pregnant woman whom he was assisting to seek health services.

Resource Mobilisation

9. During yesterday's donor's conference in London, a number of [pledges](#) were made to contain, control and defeat Ebola in Sierra Leone. These included the equivalent of GBP 54.9 million (approximately USD 88.5 million) in enhanced support from the German Government; a further GBP 18.6 million (approximately USD 30 million) by the Canadian Government; and an additional AUD 10 million (approximately USD 8.8 million) to the UN Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund from the Australian Government; as well as a number of donations from Ireland, Italy and Japan, *inter alia*.
10. The UAE announced yesterday in Dubai the provision of AED 18.3 million (almost USD 4.5 million) to be channeled through UNICEF for response efforts to combat the current outbreak of Ebola in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.
11. According to the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) quarterly update, it has granted USD 13.5 million during the third quarter of 2014 to help humanitarian partners in West Africa fight the Ebola virus, bringing total allocations since April 2014 to USD 15.2 million. The funds are being used by the UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO for emergency health activities and public awareness campaigns in Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. CERF funds are also used to provide emergency food assistance and to support the WFP-run UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) for the urgent deployment of healthcare personnel and medical supplies throughout the region.

Upcoming Events

- 3 October – SRSG Banbury to travel to Sierra Leone
- 7-8 October – SRSG Banbury to travel to Guinea
- 21 October – "Survivors' Conference" in Kenema, Sierra Leone, hosted by the Government of Sierra Leone and UNICEF

Attachments and Resources

- [OCHA: Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak, as of 30 September](#)