

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

11 December 2014

KEY POINTS

- Sierra Leonean authorities have imposed a two-week lockdown in Kono district in response to a major flare-up of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in the area.
- UNDP has completed 2 prison isolation units in Freetown, Sierra Leone, which will serve as observation centers for new inmates, to help prevent an outbreak among the prison population.
- 17,908 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) have been reported in the three most affected countries, where there have been 6,373 reported deaths.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. The head of the Guinean National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) appeared before parliament on 10 December to defend the CENI's allocation in the draft national budget. He indicated that the state intended to cover the financing of the forthcoming municipal and presidential elections in 2015, and would avoid relying on international donors.
2. US magazine TIME has declared the Ebola fighters their "Person of the Year 2014". In explaining its choice, the magazine noted: "The rest of the world can sleep at night because a group of men and women are willing to stand and fight. For tireless acts of courage and mercy, for buying the world time to boost its defenses, for risking, for persisting, for sacrificing and saving, the Ebola fighters are TIME's 2014 Person of the Year." The magazine also notes the importance of learning from this outbreak, to strengthen healthcare and response services and be better prepared in future.

Human Rights

3. On 10 December, in celebration of international Human Rights Day, OHCHR organized an awareness sensitization campaign under the theme "the inclusion of human rights in the management of the Ebola epidemic" in Nzérékoré, in Guinea's Forest Region. The event was attended by 27 imams, 17 community leaders, representatives of youth groups and more than 50 members of the local community. The campaign's messages addressed EVD patients' right to access healthcare services and the need to combat stigmatization and discrimination of EVD survivors.

Response Efforts and Health

4. Sierra Leonean authorities have imposed a two-week lockdown in Kono district, where a major EVD flare-up has gone largely unreported until now. Although rapid reaction has helped contain the virus to about half of the 15 chiefdoms in Kono, WHO teams that arrived in the area 10 days ago were taken aback at the situation they encountered. In the space of 11 days, two WHO teams buried 87 victims, including a nurse and an ambulance driver enlisted to help dispose of corpses piling up in the local hospital. 25 people had died in a hastily cordoned off section of the hospital in the five days before the team arrived. "We are only seeing the ears of the hippo," said Dr. Amara Jambai, Sierra Leone's Director of Disease Prevention and Control, expressing concern that the official figures underrepresent the size of the outbreak in Kono district.
5. UNDP has completed 2 prison isolation units for incoming prisoners in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The two facilities will serve as observation centers for new inmates (male and female separately) in Freetown's correctional centers, to help prevent an outbreak among the prison population. The units will open officially on Friday 12 December. Further, UNDP is scaling up a nationwide prison sensitization and equipment campaign to improve conditions and strengthen protection against the spread of EVD inside detention facilities.
6. In an editorial in the International Journal of Epidemiology, experts from the Departments of Psychiatry and Epidemiology at Columbia University are calling for survivors of the EVD epidemic to be mobilized in a bid to hasten containment of the disease. Survivors have developed immunity and

are effectively the only people in the world protected from the virus, which allows them to care for the sick without risking their lives. As survivors speak local languages and are familiar with local culture, they might also be seen more favorably than outsiders by local communities, who often mistrust foreigners, chase away health workers and shun treatment. Although survivors can still face stigmatization by their communities, people are starting to see them as a real sign of hope and help, UNICEF has noted.

7. UNDP has trained 35 workers from the '34 Military hospital' in Freetown on general infectious waste disposal, EVD-related waste and use of autoclaves, the infectious waste disposal machines that are to be installed later this week at two locations in the capital. The autoclaves will ensure EVD-infected items are sterilized and decontaminated prior to disposal.
8. 17,908 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries, where there have been 6,373 reported deaths.

Logistics

9. The Air Coordination Cell is coordinating a flight from the Europe Staging Area in Cologne to Freetown and Conakry, on behalf of the humanitarian community. The flight is expected to depart on 11 December. So far over 90 metric tons of goods has been submitted for transport by 11 organisations.
10. In Sierra Leone, UNMEER has requested WFP to rapidly dispatch equipment to be installed in a decontamination area which is supporting an ETC located in Hastings.
11. A WFP delivery of 400 bags' worth of WFP food parcels, facilitated by the Logistics Cluster via UK military assets, was completed on 8 December in Sierra Leone. A Merlin helicopter, carrying 1.1 metric ton per journey, made over 180 rotations to transport the parcels. It took them from the British navy vessel on which the cargo had been transported from Freetown to the distribution sites: 15 remote locations around Sherbo and Turtle Islands, Bonthe District.
12. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

13. 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.
14. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 108.2 million in commitments. In total \$ 131 million has been pledged.
15. 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

16. In Sierra Leone, social mobilizers reached out to 458 religious leaders and 125 paramount chiefs in Bo, Moyamba, Tonkokili and Western Area Urban and Rural, to encourage them to support social mobilization. In preparation of the Western Area Surge, WHO and the Social Mobilization Consortium (SMAC) will conduct a joint training session of 900 community mobilizers. Last-mile transportation for these activities remains insufficient, making it challenging to reach remote areas.

Essential Services

17. NSTR

Upcoming Events

- 10-11 December - High-level meeting on building resilient health systems in EVD-affected countries
- 11 December - Global Compact CEO-level Action Pledge Event at the UN.

Attachments and resources

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