

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

13 November 2014

KEY POINTS

- SRSG Banbury says that UNMEER's response strategy will shift its focus towards smaller, more geographically dispersed healthcare facilities.
- WFP has contracted a 5,500mt vessel to transport cargo between Monrovia and Harper ports, to speed up transport time between the main logistics hub and the Forward Logistics Bases.
- A total of 14,098 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) have been reported. There have been 5,160 reported deaths.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. UNMEER SRSG Anthony Banbury has told the New York Times that, considering the changing situation on the ground, "we need to be more nimble and flexible. Instead of trying to build 100-bed facilities, I believe we need smaller facilities, more geographically dispersed, and to rely more on trained national medical professionals to provide the clinical care", he said in the interview.
2. Some 600 EVD workers surrounded Liberia's Ministry of Health Monday demanding back payment of salaries and entitlements dating from early September. The enraged workers, whose labors are essential to stemming the epidemic, shouted angrily for hours. In Sierra Leone, more than 400 health workers at the only Ebola treatment unit in the south of the country went on strike on Wednesday over unpaid risk allowances the government is meant to fund.
3. Liberia urged the United Nations on Wednesday not to reduce its peacekeeping force in the country, warning that the EVD epidemic is threatening peace and social cohesion. Liberia's UN Ambassador Marjon Kamara appealed to the Security Council to extend the mission's mandate for a year and put off consideration of a reduction in the force, which had just over 4,500 military personnel at the end of September. UN peacekeeping chief Hervé Ladsous said the United Nations supports extending the mission's mandate until September 2015 and deferring a reduction of troops until health authorities report that the Ebola crisis is over.
4. In Mali, a doctor has tested positive for EVD. He works in the same private clinic in Bamako as the nurse that died of EVD on Tuesday. 186 contacts have been identified so far and are being monitored. Contact identification will continue. Around 20 MINUSMA troops that are being treated in the clinic for injuries sustained during their mission in the north of Mali are also being monitored for the virus. The likely source of the Bamako outbreak, a man from the town of Kouremale on the border with Guinea, was never tested for EVD. In a series of ceremonies that may have exposed many mourners to the virus, his highly contagious body was washed in a Bamako mosque and returned to Guinea for burial without precautions against EVD.
5. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon called on Asian countries to step up efforts in the global fight against EVD. He noted that Asia has more than half the world's population. While the continent has not publicly recorded any cases, experts worry that border control measures and other preparations are insufficient and that Asian countries should be doing more to fight the outbreak in West Africa. He urged governments to help fill huge gaps in funding, equipment and medical personnel.
6. UN Special Envoy David Nabarro on Wednesday encouraged people to maintain travel and tourism to the EVD affected countries in West Africa. "It is not appropriate to say 'Do not travel there because there is Ebola'", he said. The United Nations have repeatedly urged airlines to maintain flights to the three countries to allow desperately-needed teams of doctors, nurses and health workers to travel there. Nabarro also made an appeal to combat stigmatization surrounding EVD by calling for a global social media campaign to express solidarity and prevent discrimination.

Human Rights

7. NSTR

Response Efforts and Health

8. In Sierra Leone, the Ministry of Health has been working with survivors to see what role they can play in EVD response and treatment efforts. In October, along with UNICEF and other partners, they held the first in a series of survivor conferences, where survivors come together to tell their stories and discuss helping current patients. In light of their likely immunity, survivors are already working in roles perceived by many as dangerous. In Liberia, UNICEF has been working on a similar programme and has trained survivors to look after children who are under 21-day isolation watch.
9. The Pentagon no longer plans to deploy the full 4,000 US troops to Liberia. The current 2,200 troops will grow to nearly 3,000 by mid-December. But the military does not expect more soldiers on the ground will be necessary.
10. In Liberia, UNMEER staff reported concern over an emerging repetitive pattern of violent EVD-outbreaks in remote communities – three locations in the bordering area between the Bong and Gbarpolu counties over a period of two weeks. Reaching these locations requires 3-4 hours trekking through the deep forest area and canoeing a river. It is expected that residents of the affected communities might become mobile and flee the area in search for safe haven, thus contributing to the spread of the epidemic.
11. A total of 14,098 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported, the vast majority of which was in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. There have been 5,160 reported deaths.

Logistics

12. A flight carrying 58 metric tons of humanitarian supplies worth US\$412,000 to support the EVD response landed in Guinea from UNHRD in Brindisi, Italy. The aircraft was carrying much-needed supplies for the WFP's emergency response to the EVD crisis, including prefabricated structures, generators and tents. Since the beginning of the emergency response to the crisis, a total of 829 metric tons of materials has been dispatched from UNHRD bases in Brindisi, Dubai, Las Palmas and Accra, on behalf of the humanitarian community.
13. In Liberia, WFP has contracted a 5,500mt vessel to transport humanitarian cargo between Monrovia and Harper ports in order to speed up transport time between the main logistics hub and the Forward Logistics Bases. The contractor also has capacity for small boats to deliver cargo to smaller ports on the coast from the large vessel, as well as for trucks to deliver it to the final destination.
14. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

15. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements of US\$ 988 million has been funded for \$ 656 million, which is around 66 per cent of the total ask.
16. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 71.9 million in commitments. In total \$ 121 million has been pledged.
17. 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

18. NSTR

Essential Services

19. NSTR

Upcoming Events

- 11 December - Global Compact CEO-level Action Pledge Event at the UN.

Attachments and resources

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