



## HIGHLIGHTS

- 8668 cases of Ebola Virus Disease have been reported in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone - there have been 4151 deaths
- United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon spoke yesterday afternoon with US President Obama to review the international response to the Ebola
- Special Envoy Dr. David Nabarro briefed donors on the Ebola Multi Partner Trust Fund - a key part of the Ebola financing effort

## Key Political and Economic Developments

1. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon spoke yesterday afternoon with US President Obama to review the international response to the Ebola epidemic in West Africa and the need for more robust commitments and rapid delivery of assistance by the international community. Both the Secretary General and the President agreed that given the threat posed by Ebola, members of the international community must redouble their commitment to decisively address the Ebola crisis.
2. The office of SRSG Banbury met with Ghana's Minister for Health Dr. Kwaku Agyeman-Mensah to discuss UNMEER in Ghana. The Minister welcomed the proposal to hold a conference on preparedness, prevention and response in Accra, inviting Leaders of the most affected countries and the other members of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). It was agreed that dates for the conference would be discussed at the next meeting between SRSG Banbury and the President of Ghana.
3. UNDP's Director for Africa Abdoulaye Mar Dieye met with Ghana's President John Dramani Mahama (also current ECOWAS chairperson) on 10 October to discuss UN support to the EVD crisis in Western Africa. President Mahama highlighted the efforts of ECOWAS Member States to support the most affected countries, mentioned plans to organize a donor conference to mobilize additional resources, and welcomed the UN System's support to early recovery strategies.
4. Despite calls from the Liberian National Health Workers Association for a nationwide strike of health care workers to start on 13 October, reports from across the country indicated that the majority of hospitals and clinics were operating normally. The National Health Workers Association is requesting an increase in the monthly risk fee paid to those treating Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) cases
5. UNDP's Director of Policy and Programmes Magdy Martínez-Solimán led a delegation to Sierra Leone, and met with government officials, including President Koroma and international representatives including Paul Farmer, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General for community-based medicine. On October 11, the delegation visited community leaders in Freetown speaking with some of the 200 UNDP-sponsored volunteers leading education and outreach efforts there.
6. On 13 October the Head of IFAD, Mr. Kanayo Nwanze, informed in a news conference that there are already food shortages in Senegal and other countries in West Africa because regional trade has been disrupted. He added that "up to 40 percent of farms have been abandoned in areas of Sierra Leone affected the worst by the Ebola outbreak" and that preliminary reports suggest "trade volume in these markets is half of what it was at this time last year."
7. A UNDP policy note on the socio-economic impact of Ebola finds that gains in household income over the past one and a half decades are being destroyed by EVD. Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone have consistently experienced an improved level of per capita income since 2001, averaging an annual growth rate of 4.3 per cent in Guinea, 8.7 per cent in Liberia and 13.5 per cent in Sierra Leone. The outbreak of EVD has led to severe loss in household incomes 35 per cent in Liberia, 29.7 per cent in Sierra Leone and 12.7 per cent in Guinea.

## Human Rights

8. Local and international media rights groups report an intensifying crackdown on journalists in Liberia. Several media rights groups accuse the Liberian government of preventing journalists from reporting the magnitude of the crisis.
9. As a response to major child protection concerns in Liberia arising from the significant increase in orphans and unaccompanied and separated children, the first dedicated children's Interim Care Center has opened in Monrovia with support from UNICEF. This center will serve as a safe place for children - who have lost one or both parents to Ebola - during the 21-day quarantine period after the child last had contact with someone infected with Ebola.
10. The second part of the trial against the 55 individuals arrested in connection to the violent demonstrations that occurred in Guinea on 28 August 2014 is underway. OHCHR has reported that the trial is not in full compliance with international due process and human rights standards.
11. UNDP in Sierra Leone is working with uniformed forces in Freetown to implement standard operating procedures at checkpoints, quarantines, and screening areas that take into account respect for human rights and physical needs like access to food and water.

## Medical

12. 8668 (probable, confirmed and suspected) cases of EVD have been reported up to the end of 10 October 2014 by the Ministries of Health of Guinea, and Sierra Leone, and up to the end of 9 October by the Ministry of Health of Liberia. There have been 4151 deaths.
13. WHO and partner organizations meeting in Brazzaville on 10 October agreed on a range of tools to support countries unaffected by Ebola in strengthening their preparedness in the event of an outbreak. One of these tools is a comprehensive checklist of core principles, standards, capacities and practices, which all countries should have or meet.
14. WHO chief Margaret Chan on Monday urged East Asian and Pacific countries to strengthen defenses against the Ebola outbreak, warning that the whole world may be at risk. The region of 1.8 billion has been a hotspot for many emerging diseases including Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and bird flu.
15. The United States confirmed it has no plans to halt travel from countries in West Africa to the United States. Screening upon arrival of passengers from selected West African countries has begun in key US and British airports.

## Logistics

16. As part of UNICEF's continuing response to the Ebola outbreak, 25,719 Household Protection Kits have been airlifted to Liberia as of today. UNICEF also provided 6,000 kg of chlorine to the Liberian government which will be used to disinfect Ebola Treatment Units and health facilities and also to manage dead bodies.
17. Existing treatment centers in Guinea have reached their maximum capacity, the establishment of additional centers is considered vital.

## Outreach and Education

18. UNICEF released household hygiene promotion kits - in an effort to promote hand washing with water and chlorine at the household level as a key pillar in the fight against hand-to-hand transmission - to 1,397 families in communities residing near Monrovia's SKD Stadium.

## Resource Mobilisation

19. Special Envoy Dr. David Nabarro briefed donors on the Ebola Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) - a key part of the Ebola financing effort. Dr Nabarro explained the MPTF has limited transaction costs and will be the primary source of funding for the activities of UNMEER. Funds invested will be put to use within 7 days of their receipt. The target is to secure USD 100 million immediately and USD 500 million before the end of the year. Currently, the fund has received USD 22 million.
20. The Canadian Government had offered to donate 1000 beds for the response in Sierra Leone. It is expected these can bridge the current gap in requirements for beds at holding and treatment centers. The Government of Sri Lanka has also donated 1 million gloves.
21. All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: [fts@un.org](mailto:fts@un.org).

## Essential Services

22. Essential Services Directors for UNMEER in each of the most affected countries have been appointed and will be deployed shortly.

## Upcoming Events

- 6-14 October – UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support and UNDP Deputy Assistant Administrator to travel to Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia
- 9-14 October – UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa to visit Ghana and Senegal
- 13-17 October - U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Rajiv Shah will travel to Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Senegal
- 14 October – Security Council Meeting
- 14 October – Second emergency meeting of UN Regional Directors
- 15-18 October – Crisis management operational planning meeting UNMEER HQ, Accra
- 16 October – Meeting of EU health ministers to discuss screening possible EVD victims when entering the EU block
- 16 October: VTC - UNMIL/Liberia CRC meeting
- 21 October – “Survivors’ Conference” in Kenema, Sierra Leone, hosted by the Government of Sierra Leone and UNICEF
- 11 December – Global Compact CEO-level Action Pledge Event at the UN