



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

17 November 2014

### KEY POINTS

- Liberia has set a goal of having no new cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) by December 25.
- The G-20 has pledged to do "what is necessary" to defeat EVD.
- A total of 14,413 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in 8 countries. There have been 5,177 reported deaths.

### Key Political and Economic Developments

1. Liberia has set a goal of having no new cases of EVD by December 25, president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said in a radio address on Sunday, another sign that authorities believe they are getting on top of the virus. "We continue to combat the Ebola virus and strive to achieve our national objective of zero new cases by Christmas," Sirleaf said. She also announced a cabinet reshuffle, naming George Werner to replace Walter Gwenigale as health minister, a key position given the epidemic.
2. G-20 leaders pledged to do "what is necessary" to defeat EVD and to address the outbreak's economic and humanitarian costs, they said in a statement after their summit this weekend. The leaders urged governments that haven't contributed to the fight against the disease to provide financial aid, medical staff, equipment and medicine. The statement called on the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to continue their "strong support for the affected countries" and welcomed the IMF's initiative to make available a further \$300 million to stem the outbreak and ease pressures on Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, through a combination of concessional loans, debt relief, and grants. The leaders also asked the IMF and World Bank to explore new, flexible mechanisms to address the economic effects of future comparable crises.
3. World Bank president Jim Yong Kim welcomed the G-20 leaders' call for the World Bank to explore new flexible mechanisms to deal with the economic impact of future comparable crises. The bank is exploring a global pandemic facility that could use insurance and other market mechanisms to make resources immediately available and more broadly share costs and risks.
4. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged the G-20 to step up so that the 70/70 goal can be met: isolating and treating 70 per cent of all EVD cases and providing safe and dignified burials to 70 per cent of those who have died. He further stated that the secondary impacts on healthcare, education and soaring food prices caused by a disruption in farming should be addressed.
5. The UNMEER Ebola Crisis Manager in Sierra Leone, Amadu Kamara, spent two days traveling with President Koroma to several districts (Makeni, Pujehun and Tonkolili) to see the response mechanisms in place and witness first-hand the remaining gaps, so they can be addressed in a timely and effective manner. Earlier this week, Mr. Kamara met with the British Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Mark Francois, as well as former British prime minister and founder of the Africa Governance Initiative, Tony Blair, to discuss collaboration in the fight against EVD in Sierra Leone.
6. In a meeting in Monrovia on 14 November, UNMEER ECM Peter Graaff and WHO Assistant Director-General Bruce Aylward agreed with partners that the overall response to the EVD epidemic needs to be revised: the EVD response has to become more county-focused, with strong emphasis on active case finding and contact tracing.

### Human Rights

7. NSTR

### Response Efforts and Health

8. WHO has begun assessing more than 120 potential treatments for EVD patients but so far has found none that definitely work, and some that definitely do not. The apparent effect of ZMapp and other

drugs may be a result of the care the patients received, or the fact that they were well-nourished before falling ill, or of other medicines. Because many patients received multiple drugs, it is impossible to conclude which drugs work. Among treatments touted in the three affected countries are silver, selenium, green tea and Nescafé. WHO aims to provide clarity by pooling knowledge about all potential treatments and educate people on which ones should definitely be ruled out.

9. Kenya will dispatch 700 volunteer medical workers to the three affected countries in late November. The 700 doctors and nurses have enrolled in a voluntary regional program to assist Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone in fighting against EVD. In October, Kenya commenced the training of 30,000 medical workers to enable them to respond effectively to an outbreak. The doctors and nurses who will be deployed to West Africa have participated in this training program.
10. A Chinese deployment of 160 health workers arrived in Liberia on Sunday. The Chinese doctors, epidemiologists and nurses will staff a US\$ 41 million Ebola treatment unit which is being built and will be up and running in 10 days. The health workers have had previous experience in tackling SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) in Asia.
11. On November 14, the director of operations of UNMEER Liberia accompanied a team led by Assistant Minister Tolbert Nyenswah to Jenewonde village in Grand Cape Mount, a new “hotspot” area. Since early September, 26 people have died in the Jenewonde area. The most recent case was the local vaccinator that likely contracted the illness while treating patients from home as the local health center was closed. A CCC was just being completed and supplies were on hand. Quarantine guidelines were not being strictly observed and villagers were refusing to take suspect cases to either the ETU or CCC. Both CDC and WHO field staff are active in the area.

### Logistics

12. Since 4th September 2014, the Logistics Cluster has received storage requests from 30 organisations for over 25,800m<sup>3</sup> of humanitarian cargo.
13. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

### Resource Mobilisation

14. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements of US\$ 988 million has been funded for \$ 694 million, which is around 70 per cent of the total ask.
15. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 71.9 million in commitments. In total \$ 121 million has been pledged.
16. 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](mailto:fts@un.org).

### Outreach and Education

17. The UNMEER Field Crisis Manager in Nimba county, Liberia, participated in a series of meetings with international and local counterparts. Local authorities pleaded for additional support, with emphasis on social mobilization campaigns as the main tool for countering the spread of EVD.
18. In N'Zérékoré, Guinea, UNDP organized a large public outreach session together with muslim, catholic and protestant leaders, educating 3,500 local men, women and children on how EVD spreads and how to protect themselves and their families.
19. With UNICEF support, over 1.5 million subscribers of three leading mobile networks were reached through SMS messaging across Sierra Leone since mid-October. In addition, the president called on all 149 paramount chiefs to lead social mobilization activities in their respective chiefdoms.

### Essential Services

20. The preliminary results of a nation-wide assessment in Sierra Leone conducted by FAO in partnership with the government and the Food Security Cluster, revealed that the EVD outbreak has caused shortage of labour for weeding, harvesting and other crucial activities. Disruption and closure of periodic markets has caused significant changes in prices of commodities. Urgent measures are needed to address the current food security gaps and rehabilitate key agricultural markets.

### Upcoming Events

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

### Attachments and resources

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