

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

20 November 2014

KEY POINTS

- The World Bank expects the impact of EVD on Sub-Saharan Africa's economy to be US\$ 3-4 billion.
- In Sierra Leone, UNDP has facilitated the first bi-monthly government payment to 20,000 EVD Response Workers (ERW) country-wide.
- A total of 15,145 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in 8 countries. There have been 5,420 reported deaths.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. The World Bank now expects the impact of the EVD epidemic on Sub-Saharan Africa's economy to be around US\$ 3-4 billion, well below a previously outlined worst-case scenario of \$ 32 billion. The risk of the highest case of economic impact of EVD has been reduced because of the success of containment in some countries, the bank said. In a report in October, the World Bank had said that if the virus spread significantly outside the three affected countries, this could potentially cost Africa tens of billions of dollars in disrupted cross-border trade, supply chains and tourism.
2. The UN called Wednesday for an end to defecation in the open, with fears growing that it has helped spread EVD in West Africa. Half the population of Liberia, the country worst hit by the epidemic, have no access to toilets, while in Sierra Leone nearly a third of people live without latrines. Nearly a billion people worldwide are forced to go to the toilet in the open. But the health risks of the practice are not confined to EVD. In sub-Saharan Africa, where the UN said a quarter of the population defecate outside, diarrhoea is the third biggest killer of children under five years old.

Human Rights

3. UNDP is working with Prisons Watch Sierra Leone, a local human rights NGO, to decongest prisons by speeding up legal processes, reducing the risk of EVD spreading there. Many inmates are without files or are detained for minor offences and remain unassisted. People represented include those who cannot afford a lawyer but face long detention if not assisted through the system. The initiative, which started in mid-October, led to the identification of 540 cases and discharge of 154 people.

Response Efforts and Health

4. A Cuban doctor, part of the country's medical team that is fighting EVD in Sierra Leone, has been infected by the virus and will be flown to Geneva, Switzerland to be treated, Cuban officials said. On November 16 the doctor, who had attended EVD patients, came down with a high fever without showing any other symptoms of the disease. He was then moved to the treatment center in Kerry Town set up for UN officials where Cuban professionals also work. A diagnostic test was conducted on Monday which was positive for EVD.
5. UNMEER in Guinea deployed an additional Field Crisis Manager (FCM) yesterday who is based in Macenta. Two other FCM's are based in Nzérékoré, who will cover Guéckédou and Lola prefectures in a hub-and-spoke configuration. All three prefectures are located in the hard-hit Nzérékoré region. The FCM's will be coordinating response efforts with local health authorities, interacting with and monitoring national teams involved in community engagement and contact tracing, and reporting on progress on the ground to UNMEER HQ via the mission's regional base in Nzérékoré.
6. UNMEER Liberia will lead on a Greater Monrovia Urban Operational Plan, which was adopted yesterday. Greater Monrovia represents over 50% of the EVD caseload and a wide variety of communities, originating from all over Liberia, and even the wider region. The virus keeps being imported and exported out of the capital and partners are in agreement that the virus needs to be 'hunted down' in the city to make national success a possibility. This requires a more focused and flexible approach, tailored to the specific challenges of the city, on which UNMEER will lead.

7. UNMEER Sierra Leone conducted an introductory training for the first seven Field Crisis Managers to be deployed to the districts by the end of the week. Their role will be to coordinate and facilitate the work of UN agencies and partners in the field, and to provide the government's district coordinators with technical expertise and assistance.
8. A total of 15,145 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in 8 countries. There have been 5,420 reported deaths.

Logistics

9. The government of the Netherlands is studying the option of its navy transport vessel Karel Doorman making a second trip carrying response item from Europe to the three affected countries. If there is enough material to transport, the vessel can travel again. The Karel Doorman started unloading its first cargo in Freetown yesterday, and will go to Conakry and Monrovia after. It is carrying around US\$ 6.5 million worth of supplies, including PPE, mobile clinics, and over 100 vehicles.
10. Since the beginning of the outbreak, UNICEF has procured over US\$ 13 million worth of supplies to aid the EVD response in Liberia. As part of this, UNICEF has airlifted 1,104 metric tons of emergency aid, including essential protective gear, tents, diarrheal kits and emergency health kits.
11. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

12. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling US\$ 1.5 billion, has been funded for \$ 737 million, which is around 49 per cent of the total ask.
13. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 71.9 million in commitments. In total \$ 121 million has been pledged.
14. 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

15. In Liberia, the Bong County EVD Task Force has indicated more needs to be done on social mobilization at community level. UNICEF reported distributing preventive messages in the recently affected communities in Taylor-town and Boto-town areas. However, recruiting and training of more supervisors and volunteers for each district is necessary.

Essential Services

16. In Sierra Leone, UNDP has facilitated the first bi-monthly government payment to 20,000 EVD Response Workers (ERW) countrywide. UNDP is helping to address delays in payments and put in place a grievance mechanism/complaints resolution system. The process involves verifying government lists and matching them with individual IDs on the ground, as well as documenting grievances, requests and discrepancies. This payment system will also be used, over time, to support survivors and families of Ebola victims so they can recover from the crisis.
17. The World Bank says the impact of EVD on the three most affected economies has already been severe, hitting everything from food output to employment levels. In Liberia, nearly half of those working when the outbreak was first detected in March no longer have jobs as of early November, according to a World Bank report on Wednesday, based on surveys carried out via mobile phones. More than 90 percent of those surveyed in Liberia worried that their household would not have enough to eat.

Upcoming Events

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

Attachments and resources

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