

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

27 October 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

- 10,141 cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) have been reported and 4922 deaths.
- The UN Secretary-General hosted a global Town Hall to brief UN staff members on measures being taken to protect them from EVD.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. The UN Secretary-General hosted a global Town Hall to brief UN staff members on measures being taken to protect them from EVD. He stressed that the UN has an obligation to the affected countries to end the epidemic and, at the same time, an obligation to protect its personnel. He said that with EVD prominent in the media, it is important that our messages are based on facts and evidence, and that we must convey a sense of urgency without inciting panic. Strict protocols are in place in the affected countries to protect UN personnel and prevent further transmission, while UN clinics in the three affected countries are being upgraded.
2. UNMEER ECM for Guinea, Marcel Rudasingwa, met with the US Ambassador to Guinea, members of USAID, and the Centres for Disease Control. The role of the ECM in building trust through strategic partnerships and concrete action on the ground was discussed. Central factors in stemming the crisis were also identified including, contact tracing, ensuring that the Cellule Nationale was effective and efficient and balancing the epidemiological response with an anthropological one.
3. African Union Commission Chairperson Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, the African Development Bank President Dr Donald Kaberuka, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa Executive Secretary, Dr. Carlos Lopes, concluded an EVD awareness-raising trip through the region. The visit commenced in Ghana and included Sierra Leone, Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire, before finishing off in Guinea. They met with Heads of State, cabinet Ministers, parliamentarians, civil society and media in the affected countries, as well as with leaders of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.

Human Rights

4. LGBT campaigners in Liberia have reported that homosexual people in the capital Monrovia have been harassed, and physically attacked by others blaming them for the EVD outbreak after some religious leaders in Liberia said EVD was a punishment from God for homosexuality.

Medical

5. 10,141 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in countries with widespread and intense transmission (Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone), countries with a localized or initial case (Mali, Spain, and the US) and previously affected countries (Nigeria, Senegal). There have been 4922 reported deaths.
6. 450 health-care workers (HCWs) have been infected with EVD and a total of 244 HCWs have died.
7. Mali reported its first confirmed case of EVD on 23 October 2014. The patient was a 2-year old girl who travelled from Guinea with her grandmother to the city of Kayes in western Mali, which is approximately 600 km from the Malian capital Bamako and lies close to the border with Senegal. The patient was symptomatic for much of the journey. On 22 October the patient was taken to hospital in Kayes, where she died on 24 October. 43 contacts are being monitored and efforts to trace further contacts are ongoing. A WHO team was already in Mali to assess the country's state of readiness for an initial case and this has been supplemented with a rapid-response team.
8. The Democratic Republic of Congo could be declared Ebola-free in late November, as its two-month EVD outbreak appears to have come to an end. The WHO reported that all contacts have been

traced and monitored, and the last one has now tested negative for EVD. There had been 67 cases and 49 deaths.

9. WHO has set out plans for speeding up development and deployment of experimental EVD vaccines, saying up to 1 million doses could be ready for use in West Africa by the middle of 2015.
10. New York and New Jersey announced that travellers returning to these states after having contact with EVD patients in the three affected countries will be subjected to a mandatory 21-day quarantine. The Governor of New York, Andrew Cuomo, has since clarified that healthcare workers returning to his state would be quarantined at home and receive twice-daily monitoring from medical professionals. New York State will also compensate for any lost wages.
11. Mauretania has now closed its border with Mali in response to concerns over the spread of EVD.

Logistics

12. UNICEF delivered 8 pickups to the Guinean Red Cross to support the transportation of patients and bodies of the deceased, and 100 motorbikes to reinforce logistics capacities of the Ebola Coordination and Rural Radios. UNICEF also assisted the Pharmacie Générale de Guinée in planning the distribution of chlorine in the affected areas, with a first batch of 120,000 bottles distributed using WFP/cluster transport services. UNICEF negotiated with the local producer of plastic bottles used for the chlorine who agreed to import a new machine, which will triple local production in the next 6 weeks.

Resource Mobilisation

13. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements of USD 988 million has received USD 491 million, which is over 49 per cent of the total ask.
14. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has deposits of USD 8.8 million. In total USD 116 million has been pledged, surpassing the target of USD 100 million by end of October 2014.
15. European Union leaders agreed to boost aid for EVD to one billion euros (USD 1.26 billion).
16. President Xi Jinping of China has pledged to provide \$81 million for the EVD crisis response to be used for emergency goods, to set up a treatment center in Liberia, and to send nearly 200 Chinese medical staff and quarantine experts to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.
17. 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.

Essential Services

18. WFP reported that should the EVD epidemic last another 4-5 months, when farmers begin to prepare their land, planting for the 2015 harvest could be affected.

Upcoming Events

- 26-29 October US Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, travels to Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Ghana.
- 11 December - Global Compact CEO-level Action Pledge Event at the UN.