



HIGHLIGHTS

- SRSG Banbury holds a press briefing announcing plans for tangible impact within 60 days
- UNICEF expresses concern for at least 3,700 children who have lost one or both parents to Ebola since the onset of the recent outbreak in West Africa
- U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention confirms first case of Ebola in the U.S
- To date, 25.7 per cent of the USD 988 million identified in OCHA's Overview is received

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. Speaking yesterday afternoon from the Ministry of Information in Accra, the headquarters of the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), in a press briefing in conjunction with the Ghanaian government and the UN Resident Coordinator, SRSG Anthony Banbury advised that the Mission will work on establishing operational capacities in the countries concerned by providing vehicles for transportation, supplies for the health workers and other needs identified by the national governments. Also yesterday in Accra, SRSG Banbury told the media that "70 per cent of infected people need to be under treatment, 70 per cent of burials need to be done in a safe way in order to turn this around and we need to do it in 60 days."
2. In an earlier UNMEER press release yesterday, the acting UN Resident Coordinator Susan Namondo Ngongi, who leads the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Ghana, noted the important role of a number of UN agencies to support the establishment and the operations of UNMEER Headquarters in Ghana. The UNCT will continue to support the Ghana in its own Ebola preparedness.
3. The UNMEER advance team continues work on the establishment of its offices and the identification of priorities and gaps in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. In Guinea yesterday, the UNMEER advance team briefed key partners and the diplomatic corps on the Mission's establishment.
4. Recent reports from the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank all point to the severe economic impacts of Ebola on Liberia, including an increasing shortage of food supplies, exacerbated by the abandonment of fields in some regions due to fear of the spread of Ebola, and restrictions on public transport, internal travel and trade which are constraining the distribution of what food is available. Meanwhile, the IMF has said that food prices have risen rapidly, and is projecting an inflation rate of 13.1 per cent by the year's end, as compared with 7.7 per cent before the Ebola epidemic started to exact its devastating toll. The World Bank has said that rubber, Liberia's largest agricultural export, is estimated to drop by 20 per cent in 2014, and palm oil, another significant industry, has also been badly hit.

Human Rights

5. Following the return of the UNICEF Regional Director for West and Central Africa, Manuel Fontaine, from a two-week visit to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, yesterday, UNICEF expressed concern that at least 3,700 children in those countries have lost one or both parents to Ebola since the onset of the recent outbreak. Mr. Fontaine explained that the vulnerability of these children is exacerbated since "orphans are usually taken in by a member of the extended family, but in some communities, the fear surrounding Ebola is becoming stronger than family ties," causing them to be unwanted or even abandoned. It is particularly concerning to note that, as the death toll from Ebola continues to rise, preliminary reports from the three most-affected countries suggest that the number of children orphaned by Ebola has spiked in the past few weeks and is likely to double by mid-October. In attempt to address these concerns, UNICEF is accelerating its efforts in Liberia by supporting the Government to train 400 additional mental health and social workers, while also working with local authorities to help strengthen support to children affected by Ebola. In Sierra Leone, over the next six months, UNICEF will train more than 2,500 Ebola survivors – now believed to be immune to the disease – to provide care and support to quarantined children in treatment centres, in addition to working with partners to reunite separated children with their families. Meanwhile, in Guinea, UNICEF and partners will be providing about 60,000 vulnerable children and families in Ebola-affected communities with psychosocial support. UNICEF, in conjunction with the Ministry of Social

Welfare of Sierra Leone, will hold a Survivors' Conference in Sierra Leone in October to discuss what role survivors could potentially play in caring for the orphaned and abandoned children.

Medical

6. Yesterday afternoon, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Dr. Tom Frieden and health authorities confirmed the first case of Ebola to be diagnosed in the U.S, following the return of positive laboratory tests. According to the CDC, the patient is being isolated at a hospital in Dallas, Texas, after arriving in the U.S. on 20 September from Liberia. Six days after arriving in Texas, the patient sought treatment, and was admitted two days later to a hospital isolation ward. Dr. Frieden noted that "while it is not impossible that there could be additional cases associated with this patient in the coming weeks, I have no doubt that we will contain this," especially given that the patient was reportedly asymptomatic when leaving West Africa. The CDC has commenced contact tracing with local authorities, and has deployed a team of specialists to support local efforts. U.S. President Barack Obama subsequently discussed "stringent isolation protocols" with the CDC Director to limit the risk of additional Ebola cases following this diagnosis.
7. From 29-30 September, WHO held an expert consultation to take stock of the many efforts currently underway to rapidly test and make available safe and effective Ebola vaccines. More than 70 experts across the industry, including many from affected countries in West Africa, attended the event. It was noted that Phase 1 trials are already underway, or scheduled to begin shortly, at several sites in the U.S., Europe and Africa. These trials, which are being conducted in healthy human volunteers, are designed to evaluate safety and dose selection of vaccines for the later stages of testing and use.
8. Over the weekend, U.S. military transport aircraft landed at Monrovia's Roberts International Airport carrying two mobile Ebola testing laboratories and equipment to build the 25-bed field hospital for health care workers. The mobile laboratories will be placed at the Island Clinic and Bong County ETUs and will provide the ability to rapidly expedite test results. Members of a U.S. Navy Medical Research Unit will operate the laboratories.
9. The Emergency Operations Centre in Sierra Leone issued a press release yesterday to inform the public that the Government "has not declared the end of the Ebola Virus Disease in the country." This release was prompted by crowds surging into the streets of the northern commercial hub of Makeni, chanting "Ebola is no more" and "Ebola has been defeated," following celebrations by a group of suspected Ebola victims being released from a holding centre with negative test results. Media reports indicated that riot police dispersed the crowds and implemented a dusk-till-dawn curfew on residents; there were no reports of deaths or serious injuries.

Logistics

10. According to the most recent update from the Liberian MoHSW, a shortage of vehicles for case investigations and ambulances for prompt referral are creating significant issues for healthcare responders in Margibi County. Similarly, in Sinoe County, there are reportedly no ambulances or a vehicle for the burial team. Meanwhile, burial teams across Liberia also continue to struggle with a lack of adequate supplies, including PPE, rain boots and chlorine, as well challenges posed by families who refuse the removal of deceased relatives' bodies in the absence of a laboratory test or result.
11. According its latest Emergency Appeal Operation Update on EVD, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) noted plans to increase its dead body management capacity from 6 to 20 teams in Liberia's Montserrado County over the next four to five weeks.

Outreach and Education

12. UNDP announced yesterday that it is supporting the Government's Office of National Security in Sierra Leone with an intensive door-to-door campaign in the most densely populated and deprived communities of Freetown to educate people on EVD transmission and prevention.

Security

13. In Guinea, where the Red Cross is playing an active role on the ground, the IFRC indicated that the Government is taking steps to resolve the security situation in the south of Guinea, the epicentre of the Ebola outbreak, which has impacted negatively on the accessibility of the areas for humanitarian agencies, hence slowing down planned Ebola response and prevention activities in the areas.

Resource Mobilisation

14. At yesterday's press briefing in Geneva, OCHA announced that its Financial Tracking Service has begun tracking the funding to the EVD outbreak response in West Africa against the five strategic objectives in the recently presented Overview of Needs and Requirements from September 2014 to

February 2015. To date, 25.7 per cent of the total funding requirement of USD 988 million identified in the Overview has been received, equalling USD 254 million.

15. To incentivize private sector engagement, the UN Ebola Crisis Centre has finalized a Business Engagement Guide, which will be circulated to Global Compact, Business in the Community (UK), the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and others.
16. Further to last week's mention of a USD 52 million grant provided by the World Bank to the Liberian Government, WHO reported that the Government has since signed its first three contract agreements with key implementing partners, including WHO, UNICEF, WFP and UNOPS.

Regional

17. U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention has noted that the Ebola outbreaks in Nigeria and Senegal appear to have been contained, with no new cases of Ebola reported in Nigeria since 31 August and no further cases in Senegal since a single case was confirmed on 29 August.

Upcoming Events

- 1 October – SRSG Banbury to travel to Liberia
- 2 October – “Defeating Ebola in Sierra Leone” pledging conference hosted by the UK in London
- 3 October – SRSG Banbury to travel to Sierra Leone
- 5 October – SRSG Banbury to travel to Guinea