

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

18 December 2014

KEY POINTS

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will start his visit to West Africa today in Accra, Ghana.
- The number of people facing food insecurity due to the EVD epidemic in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone could top 1 million by March 2015, FAO and WFP have warned.
- In the last 21 days, 1,695 new cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) have been reported in the three most affected countries, 1,261 of which in Sierra Leone.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today will start his visit to the African countries affected by the EVD outbreak, to express his support and advocate for continued international assistance until the epidemic ends. He will start his tour in Accra, Ghana, where UNMEER's headquarters are located. He will be joined by Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization, David Nabarro, his special envoy on Ebola, and Tony Banbury, head of UNMEER, on visits to Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia and Mali. "I want to see the response for myself, and show my solidarity with those affected and urge even greater global action," Ban said before leaving New York. "The Ebola response strategy is working, and we are beginning to see improvements," he added. "But now is not the time to ease up on our efforts. As long as there is one case of Ebola, the risk remains."

Human Rights

2. NSTR

Response Efforts and Health

3. EVD transmission remains intense in Sierra Leone, with 327 new confirmed cases reported in the week to 14 December. Transmission is most intense and persistent in the western and northern districts of the country. The capital, Freetown, accounted for 125 of all new confirmed cases. Response partners and the government of Sierra Leone have implemented the Western Area Surge, an operation to intensify efforts to curb the disease in the western parts of the country. The response targets Freetown and neighbouring areas to break chains of transmission, and increase the number of beds to ensure patients with clinical symptoms of EVD are isolated and receive appropriate treatment. Currently a total of 615 treatment and isolation beds are operational across Sierra Leone. There are 2 ETCs in Kerry Town and Port Loko, 4 ETCs in Freetown, and 1 ETC each in Lakka, Kailahun, Kenema, Bo Town, Waterloo, Bombali, and the Western Urban Area. There are 329 CCC beds. In support of the surge, UNFPA is training an additional 522 new contact tracers and over 100 other staff. UNFPA will also provide 10 vehicles during the surge activities.
4. UNDP has added 350 trained community volunteers to the scaled-up door-to-door EVD prevention campaign in Sierra Leone's Western Area, which includes Freetown, as part of the Western Area Surge. The volunteers will be part of a 1,250-strong team that will reinforce protection messaging and sensitization in the area.
5. In Liberia, UNDP's more than 1,300 volunteer active case finders have also intensified their door-to-door campaign in communities in Montserrado county. The work of active case finders has contributed significantly to the reduction in the number of new cases of EVD in the country.
6. Training has begun for 96 clinical staff and 96 hygienists who will be working at the 12 UNICEF-supported CCCs in Kambia, Sierra Leone. To date, 224 clinical staff and 224 hygienists have been trained in EVD case management, including IPC, to work at the 28 UNICEF-supported CCCs in Bombali and Tonkolili.
7. In the last 21 days, 1,695 new cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries, 1,261 of which in Sierra Leone. In total, 18,569 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases

of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries, where there have been 6,900 reported deaths.

Logistics

8. The Logistics Cluster, through WFP's UN Humanitarian Response Depot, has coordinated the movement of 7,200 kits of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) donated by the government of Japan from Accra to Conakry, on a German C-160 aircraft. These PPE kits will be handed over to the government of Guinea for use in healthcare facilities across the country.
9. WFP has facilitated the airlift of 76 motorcycles, which have now arrived in Freetown. The motorcycles, procured by the German federal agency for technical relief THW on behalf of UNMEER, will be used to support the Western Area Surge, augmenting social mobilisation capacity and facilitating the collection of lab samples. WFP is also providing engineering support to THW for the construction of a vehicle decontamination site in Hastings. Two tents (6m x 9m) have been loaned to Handicap International for use at the decontamination site.
10. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

11. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling US\$ 1.5 billion, has been funded for \$ 1.03 billion, which is around 69 percent of the total ask.
12. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 128.9 million in commitments. In total \$ 140 million has been pledged.
13. 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

14. This week, 11,501 households across 15 counties in Liberia were reached through door-to-door visits with EVD prevention and home protection messages. 17,966 women, 13,660 men and 11,112 children were engaged through 221 meetings and group discussions. 410 people across the country participated in 13 training workshops on community engagement. Social mobilizers also interacted with 692 community leaders and elders through community dialogues.

Essential Services

15. The number of people facing food insecurity due to the EVD epidemic in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone could top 1 million by March 2015 unless access to food is drastically improved and measures are put in place to safeguard crop and livestock production, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) warned Wednesday. Already, the EVD epidemic has seriously affected food supply chains in West Africa, leaving 500,000 people without enough to eat. Food security has deteriorated due to crop losses and the disruption of production and supply chains. In addition, the outbreak has hurt the overall economies in the three countries, leaving them with less money to pay for necessary food imports. FAO and WFP urged donors to jump-start agriculture in the region by funding necessary products including seeds, fertilizers and farming technology. They also recommended that people should be given cash or vouchers to stimulate markets.
16. In the week to 14 December, 234 EVD patients admitted to 12 Ebola Treatment Units (ETU) in Liberia received comprehensive nutritional care and support including catered food, therapeutic nutrition foods and fortified blended products thanks to the combined efforts of the health ministry, IMS Catering Service, implementing NGO partners, WFP and UNICEF.
17. The first US\$ 2 million tranche from the Ebola Multi Partner Trust Fund has been received by UNICEF for a project aimed at supporting the wellbeing and protection of EVD affected children in Liberia. The \$ 4 million project, implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, is meant to support appropriate alternative care, social protection, social mobilization and social safety nets for EVD-affected children in Liberia.

Upcoming Events

- 18-20 December – UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will visit Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Mali and Ghana, to raise awareness about the ongoing EVD outbreak.

Attachments and resources

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