

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

22 December 2014

KEY POINTS

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon concluded his visit of the region.
- UNDP has supported the payment of hazard entitlements to 16,000 workers in Sierra Leone through mobile cash transfers.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon made a three-day tour of the region on Friday and Saturday, visiting Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Mali and Ghana. He met with the leaders of those countries as well as with survivors of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), healthcare workers and UN staff. In Liberia, the SG participated in an Incident Management System (IMS) meeting with EVD response partners, where he discussed current trends and the next steps in the response. He warned against complacency at what remains a critical time. The Secretary-General also visited several treatment facilities. On his visits he was accompanied by the Director General of WHO, Dr. Margaret Chan, the UN Special Envoy on Ebola, Dr. David Nabarro, and the Head of UNMEER, Anthony Banbury.
2. In Guinea, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned about rising EVD infection rates in the south-east of the country. While infection rates in Liberia, one of the nations hardest hit by the outbreak, have been slowing, other areas have registered an uptick in the rate of the disease's progress. Infection rates in south-eastern Guinea, the region where the deadliest outbreak in history began a year ago, have also failed to decline substantially. Solid cross border collaboration is necessary to prevent a resurgence of the epidemic, Ban said in Conakry. The Secretary-General also warned of the serious socio-economic consequences the outbreak is likely to have in the affected countries. "While our immediate priority is to stop the spread of the disease, it is not too early to start thinking about recovery," Ban said. "We must scale up our efforts to restore basic social services, strengthen health services, support economic activity and build up the countries' resilience."
3. In Sierra Leone, Ban Ki-moon met Rebecca Johnson, a Sierra Leonean nurse who caught the virus but survived. She recounted how she fell gravely ill, recovered and is now back treating EVD patients. Ban said he was moved by Johnson's story, especially that she still faced a stigma as a survivor. "There should be no discrimination for those who have been working or helping with Ebola. Those people are giving all of themselves," Ban said. He also made it clear that UNMEER is intended to be a short term mission: "My intention is not to keep UNMEER longer than one year. If that isn't the case, people will regard it as a failure".
4. Votes are being counted in Liberia's senate election held on Saturday. Turnout in the poll - which had originally been planned for October - was low as many people decided to stay away. Those who came to polling stations had their temperature taken, were told to stand a meter apart and wash their hands before and after voting. Among the 139 candidates vying for 15 seats were former football star George Weah and Robert Sirleaf, the son of Liberia's president.

Human Rights

5. NSTR

Response Efforts and Health

6. Last week, in support of quarantined households in the Western Area of Sierra Leone, UNICEF has distributed 2,580 jerry cans, together with a 21-day supply of aqua tabs. To date, UNICEF has provided around 6,648 quarantined households with 23,720 jerry cans and 254,643 aqua tabs, benefiting 40,164 people in quarantined households and communities. Supplies have been distributed through WFP packages. UNICEF also delivered a total of 184,000 litres of safe water to two 100-bed EVD treatment centers, while setup work is ongoing in two new 24-bed Community

Care Centers (CCCs) in the Western area. UNICEF, with its partners, has also ensured that 12 newly constructed CCCs were fully stocked with Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) packages.

7. In Sierra Leone, UNDP has supported the payment of hazard pay entitlements for 16,000 EVD workers in five days, through a mobile cash transfer system. With concurrent support to the government of Sierra Leone by UNDP, the World Bank and the African Development Bank, policy and guidelines are being drafted to streamline the system.
8. In total, 19,031 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries, where there have been 7,373 reported deaths.

Logistics

9. WFP has offered to provide a free-of-charge flight, through the Air Coordination Cell (ACC), to replenish the inter-agency stock destroyed in the recent fire at the main logistics hub in Conakry. WFP is assessing the losses and needs of affected partners; arrangements regarding aircraft capacity and tentative departure dates will be made accordingly. Despite the damage, WFP has assured partners that the main hub remains operational at 50% of its capacity.
10. The Logistics Cluster, through WFP and on behalf of UNMEER, has coordinated the delivery of a total of 76 motorcycles (donated by the government of Germany), 240 hospital beds and three ambulances to Freetown from Accra, to support the Western Area surge in Sierra Leone. In response to requests, WFP is ordering an additional eight ablution units from UNHRD, and has, most recently, provided engineering support in Waterloo for the preparation of land for burials and the disposal of contaminated household items.
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 \$ 1.09 billion, which is around 72 percent of the total ask.
13. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 129.8 million in commitments. In total \$ 140 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. Last week, 8,220 households in Liberia were reached through door-to-door campaigns with EVD prevention messages as well as through 167 meetings and group discussions, reaching 13,787 women, 11,142 men and 8,912 children across all counties. 675 community leaders and elders were engaged.
16. In the first week of December, 1,414 social mobilizers were trained by UNICEF in Sierra Leone. 48% were women and 44% were less than 25 years old. Participants were trained on topics including infection prevention and control, home protection, safe burial practices, and quarantined households. 370 religious leaders and 65 paramount chiefs were sensitized to support social mobilization activities in 8 districts. Social mobilizers engaged by partners reached 5,867 households to disseminate key messages and sensitize the community.

Essential Services

17. NSTR

Upcoming Events

- NSTR

Attachments and resources

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