

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

24 December 2014

KEY POINTS

- Experts say that while there are positive developments, it will take continued efforts and considerable time before the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) can be brought to an end.
- A German Ebola treatment unit has been opened in Paynesville, Liberia.
- WFP has assured partners that, despite the fire last week, Conakry main logistics hub is operating at full capacity.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. The director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Dr. Tom Frieden, said on Monday that even though the number of cases in West Africa has not reached worst-case scenario predictions, the world remains at risk until it drops to zero. "I'm hopeful about stopping the epidemic, but I remain realistic that this is going to be a long, hard fight", he said. On his recent visit to Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, Dr. Frieden said he had seen "real momentum and real progress" in combating the virus. "I am hopeful that we are going to see continued progress. The challenge is not to let up, not to be complacent and to really double down". Asked about the CDC's report in September that in certain scenarios, EVD cases could reach 550,000 by January, Frieden replied: "The projections we released a few months ago showed what could happen if nothing more were done - in fact an enormous amount has been done."
2. Peter Piot, a leading researcher who helped to discover EVD, has also said that the EVD crisis is likely to last until the end of 2015, warning that vaccines would take time to develop. Professor Piot was one of the scientists who discovered EVD in 1976 and is now director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He said that even though the outbreak has peaked in Liberia and was likely to peak in Sierra Leone in the next few weeks, the epidemic could have a "very long tail and a bumpy tail". Piot stated: "We need to be ready for a long effort, a sustained effort for probably the rest of 2015." But he added that he was impressed by the progress that he had seen on a recent visit to Sierra Leone: "Treatment units have now been established across the country. You don't see any longer the scenes where people are dying in the streets".

Human Rights

3. NSTR

Response Efforts and Health

4. The German-Liberia Ebola treatment unit was officially opened on Tuesday by Liberia's Assistant Minister for Health, Tolbert Nyenswah and the German ambassador to Liberia, Ralph Timmermann. The unit has an initial capacity of 50 beds. "There are three different wards - one for suspected cases, another for probable cases and yet another for confirmed cases," Christian Schuh, outgoing head of the German Red Cross said at the ceremony in the unit in Paynesville, on the outskirts of Monrovia. The treatment unit will be run by a staff of more than 100 German and Liberian nationals. The German staff include members of the German Red Cross and German armed forces. Germany had so far raised US \$150 million to help fight EVD in the three worst affected countries, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.
5. A Nigerian peacekeeper diagnosed with EVD, who had been evacuated to the Netherlands for treatment, has recovered and has returned to the UN mission in Liberia. The peacekeeper will resume duties while undergoing monitoring and psychological counseling. The man arrived in the Netherlands earlier this month. The Netherlands has followed Germany, France and Switzerland in taking on EVD patients at the request of the World Health Organization.
6. A ceremony marking the launch of construction works on the Community Care Center (Centres de transit communautaires) in Pamelap, Forécariah prefecture, Guinea, was led on 19 December by the

Minister of Communication. The center is being constructed with support from UNICEF, which is also supporting the construction of CCCs in Boffossou (Macenta prefecture), Koropara (Nzérékoré prefecture) and Bossou (Lola prefecture). These centers are temporary holding facilities, situated close to affected communities to enable the transfer of ill persons and limit further transmission.

7. In total, 19,431 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries, where there have been 7,565 reported deaths.

Logistics

8. WFP has assured partners that, despite the fire last week, Conakry main logistics hub is operating at full capacity; the cold chain capacity has already been re-established via the setup of donated refrigerated 40ft containers, two of which have been provided by Maersk through the Logistics Emergency Team (LET) partnership.
9. WFP has been working with the National Ebola Taskforce and government of Liberia customs officials to extend the customs bonded area in Monrovia so that it includes the WFP Airport Transit Hub. This has now been officially completed, and relief cargo is being offloaded and stored safely until it is dispatched to key locations throughout Liberia.
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 \$ 1.09 billion, which is around 72% of the total ask.
12. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 134.9 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. NSTR

Essential Services

15. NSTR

Upcoming Events

- UNMEER SRSG Anthony Banbury will visit Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone from 27 December to 1 January

Attachments and resources

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

*Kindly note that on 25 December no UNMEER Situation Report will be released.
The next report will come out on 26 December.*