

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

7 January 2015

KEY POINTS

- The Chair of the African Union, President Ould Abdel Aziz of Mauritania undertakes a visit in the three most affected countries, starting with Guinea.
- SRSG Ould Cheikh Ahmed met with President Johnson-Sirleaf during his familiarisation visit.
- The last two free-of-charge flights are scheduled for 21 and 25 January from European Staging Area at Cologne Bonn Airport to the three most affected countries.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. As part of a visit to the three most affected countries, President Ould Abdel Aziz of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and current Chair of the African Union (AU), arrived in Guinea yesterday and met with President Condé. The President pledged USD 400,000 to help Guinea in its fight against EVD, and also announced that Air Mauritania would operate flights to Guinea. The Chair of the AU travelled to Liberia today.
2. Today, President Mahamadou Issoufou of Niger and President Boni Yayi of Benin are jointly visiting Guinea to demonstrate their support in the fight against EVD.
3. SRSG Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed visited Liberia on 5 and 6 January as part of his familiarization visit to the three most affected countries. He was accompanied by the Special Envoy on Ebola, Dr. David Nabarro, the Assistant Director General of the WHO, Mr. Bruce Aylward, and the Liberia Ebola Crisis Manager (ECM), Mr. Peter Graaff. The SRSG met with President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, SRSG Karin Landgren, response implementation partners, the Incident Management System (IMS), cluster leads and representatives of the diplomatic community. The SRSG emphasized that it is still a critical time for the response in Liberia, notwithstanding progress made in recent weeks. President Sirleaf noted that the situation in Liberia could easily worsen if sufficient attention is not given to cross-border coordination and further shared that she looks forward to a Heads of State meeting to follow-up on last month's cross-border technical meeting.

Response Efforts and Health

4. A Community Transit Centre (CTCom) was burnt down yesterday in Bossou, Lola prefecture, Guinea. The centre, which was still under construction, would have been one of the first functional CTCom in Guinea. This act of arson is likely to be due to the continuing resistance of the local community to EVD response efforts.
5. The Ministry of Education (MoE), UNICEF and education partners have been working together in preparation of the reopening of schools in Guinea. In this regard, UNICEF plans to reach 7,055 schools (56% of schools at all levels) and 1.4 million children (53% of all school children) with 16,000 school hygiene kits (containing buckets and soap). In addition, the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) confirmed its commitment to support the provision of Thermoflashes for schools in Guinea. An IDB consultant is scheduled to arrive in Conakry on 9 January to help implement this project.
6. UNICEF is also intensifying Identification, Documentation, Tracing, Reuniting (IDTR) activities in Guinea, with 267 new orphans identified in 7 prefectures. UNICEF provided support to 2,598 children having lost one or both parents and 174 contact or survivor children through the provision of family kits (food or clothes and/or hygiene material).
7. The first of six required vehicles for transportation of bodies in Guinea was handed over to the Red Cross today. The distribution of the remaining vehicles is yet to be approved. While the number of teams available for safe burials may have reached their target level, issues such as vehicle access and active resistance from the population impede the work of these teams.
8. In Liberia, UNMEER along with WHO, Medical Team International (MTI), County Health Team (CHT), Liberia Agency for Community Development (LACD), Swedish Civil Contingency agency

(MSB), EHealth and UNICEF visited Polytown, Sinoe County, on 3 January 2015 following an EVD outbreak in December in Polytown. The objectives of the visit were to inform the community that they have completed 21 days under observation and are now free to move, and to discuss any emerging issues related to contact tracers/gCHVs working in the communities. The community expressed their appreciation for the measures instituted to prevent EVD. The community leaders noted that rumors about contact tracers being paid for referring people to the county hospital were fabricated, and stressed that contact tracers worked hard and kept the community duly informed. They expressed a need for a health clinic in Polytown.

9. Cross-border (Liberia-Sierra Leone) coordination meetings were reactivated on 7 January in Sinje, Grand Cape Mount county. UNMEER will support and participate in the assessment of cross-border issues with focus on community empowerment. ToRs are being jointly developed with counterparts from Sierra Leone to finalise the framework for effective cross-border coordination.
10. While timely payment of staff salaries remains a challenge in Liberia, the Ministries of Health and Finance, with UNDP support, have started salary payments in Sinoe county as of 7 January. A total of 83 staff at the Ganta ETU, Nimba county need to be paid more than three months of salary arrears.
11. In total, 20,712 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 8,220 deaths.

Logistics

12. The final two Logistics Cluster free-of-charge flights – part of the additional four organised by the Air Coordination Cell (ACC) on behalf of the humanitarian community – are scheduled to depart from the European Staging Area at Cologne Bonn Airport on 21 January (to Freetown/Monrovia) and 25 January (Conakry/Freetown). The ACC has encouraged partners to send their bookings as soon as possible to - Ebola.acc@logcluster.org – as space on these flights will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis.
13. The WFP-led Emergency Telecommunications (ET) Cluster, is providing internet connectivity in 23 locations across the three affected countries, ensuring reliable internet access for 470 humanitarian personnel. Most recently in Sierra Leone, the ET Cluster provided two Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs) with Internet connectivity, serving 395 health workers.
14. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

15. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling USD 1.5 billion, has been funded for USD 1.14 billion, which is around 76% of the total ask.
16. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 134.9 million in commitments. In total USD 140 million has been pledged.
17. 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

18. UNICEF signed a partnership agreement with Search for Common Ground to support the Liberian Ministry of Education's (MoE) Emergency Radio Education program in light of closed schools across the country. In collaboration with MoE's radio content development team, Search for Common Ground will expand broadcast coverage across all 15 counties in Liberia, integrating targeted programs on peacebuilding and education to build resilience amongst listeners during times of crisis.

Essential Services

19. NSTR

Upcoming Events

20. NSTR

Attachments and resources

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