



## HIGHLIGHTS

- SRSG Banbury meets with key UN, national, bilateral and operational partners in Liberia
- Liberia extends request for all non-essential government employees to remain at home
- Latest WHO figures report a total of 7,178 cases and 3,338 deaths in the current EVD outbreak
- Guinea's Beyla district, which borders Côte d'Ivoire, reports its first confirmed case of EVD
- U.K. Government announces a new GBP 20 million disease treatment and prevention package for Sierra Leone to tackle Ebola

## Key Political and Economic Developments

1. During a briefing to the media in Monrovia yesterday, UNMIL SRSG Karin Landgren clarified UNMIL's mandate in light of the vastly changed operational environment since the outbreak of Ebola. SRSG Landgren explained that, due to the Mission's mandate being "rolled over" until the end of 2014, it did not include a provision for the UN to provide electoral support. Should the need arise, however, the UN Secretary-General could request the Security Council to authorise UNMIL to undertake such tasks as electoral support. SRSG Landgren added that there is "a strong need" for the public to have clarity on next steps in the electoral process before 14 October, since the National Elections Commission advised that the mid-term senatorial elections cannot take place on this date.
2. In the same briefing, SRSG Landgren shared her observations from a recent visit to several counties. While "counties were often frustrated by their lack of resources," SRSG Landgren highlighted the "remarkable mobilisation at county level ... [which] appears to be one of the lessons we can draw from the Ebola crisis." SRSG Landgren concluded her remarks by underlining that UNMIL would continue "to do its principal work, in line with its mandate, and also to lend its resources to the fight against Ebola."
3. Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf told the press yesterday that the country was "beginning to see stabilisation, even in Monrovia which has been hit the hardest." While noting that the "international response was late in coming" and acknowledging that Liberia's own capacity to respond was "limited," President Sirleaf was optimistic that the WHO warning of possibly tens of thousands more cases in the coming months was "absolutely not" going to happen.
4. Yesterday, while in Liberia on the first leg of an introductory visit to the affected countries, SRSG Anthony Banbury held meetings with the Senior Ebola Team, comprised of UN, nongovernmental, and bilateral stakeholders, as well as with UN country team, nongovernmental operational partners, and with the National Emergency Ebola Coordinator at the National Emergency Operations Centre. With all stakeholders, SRSG Banbury explained the context underpinning the inception of UNMEER, how it would operate vis-à-vis other actors in the coordination of the operational response, and how it would scale up the existing interventions of actors on the ground through its logistical capability.
5. Speaking from Washington D.C. yesterday, World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim called for economic growth that also reduces global inequality – a need which has been highlighted by the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) epidemic. According to President Kim, Ebola is "also a fight against inequality" since the knowledge and infrastructure to treat the sick and contain the virus exists in high and middle-income countries, but has not been made accessible to low-income populations in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.
6. The Liberian Government extended decongestion measures at all public institutions by requesting that all non-essential government employees continue to remain at home with full pay and benefits. This measure was first announced on 6 August with the declaration of a State of Emergency.
7. Further to yesterday's mention of four EVD cases in the Monrovia barracks of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL), media subsequently reported that seven officers have been taken to the John F. Kennedy Ebola holding centre for medical treatment. Meanwhile, the media also reported that, on 29 September, the AFL barracks in Monrovia was quarantined after two AFL soldiers and a nurse tested positive with EVD last week. One soldier was reportedly being treated at ELWA Hospital, whilst the other and the nurse were still in the barracks.

## Human Rights

- Further to recent reports on measures to contain the Ebola epidemic from reaching Mecca during the annual hajj, media disclosed yesterday that Saudi Arabia has denied the visas of more than 7,000 Muslims from Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, who had registered for the pilgrimage.

## Medical

- According to the latest WHO Ebola Response Roadmap Situation Report, a total of 7,178 cases and 3,338 deaths have been reported in the current outbreak of EVD in West Africa, as of 28 September 2014. WHO notes that the concerning trend of infected HCWs persists, with latest figures revealing 377 cases, of which 216 have resulted in death. Of the total cases of EVD-infected HCWs, almost 50 per cent have occurred in Liberia.
- Also in Liberia, WHO reports that there were five new confirmed cases reported in the capital this week, compared to no new confirmed cases reported in Monrovia last week. Despite this, there were a large number of suspected new cases across Liberia and WHO cautions of compelling evidence from responders and laboratory staff to suggest widespread under-reporting. As such, WHO assesses that the situation in Liberia, particularly in Monrovia, is continuing to deteriorate.
- In Guinea, there has been a slight fall in the number of new cases reported, which is largely attributable to a drop in new cases reported from Macenta district. Of particular concern, Beyla district, which borders Côte d'Ivoire, has now reported its first confirmed case.
- Similarly, the situation in Sierra Leone is also deteriorating, with a rise in the number of new cases reported in locations such as Tonkolili. In contrast, a very low number of new cases have been reported in the quarantined districts of Kailahun and Kenema over the past two weeks; WHO is investigating whether these figures are genuine or the result of under-reporting.
- Following yesterday's confirmation of the first case of Ebola to be diagnosed in the U.S., media has informed that Texas health authorities are investigating a potential second case of a person who was in close contact with the patient who was diagnosed. The hospitalised patient is reportedly in a serious condition.
- Yesterday, the WHO said it has at least 1,500 experimental Ebola vaccine doses, a chimpanzee adenovirus developed by the British company GlaxoSmithKline and a U.S. government laboratory as well as a VSV developed by Canada's health agency, nearing a state of readiness to be given to medical staff fighting the outbreak in West Africa. Following trials of both and with results on safety, effect and dosage expected by November or December, larger studies in the affected countries in the region are scheduled to commence in the beginning of 2015. The WHO clarified that these are not to be used in the trials among the population in affected countries, but rather for health workers and other key personnel involved in combatting the outbreak, for whom it was considering immunizing healthcare responders as an emergency measure. However, the WHO warned that several challenges, including deep distrust of Western medicine in the region and the need to store vaccines at the required temperature of minus 80 degrees, lie ahead.

Country	Case definition	Cases	Cases in past 21 days	Cases in past 21 days/total cases	Deaths
Guinea	Confirmed	950	230	24%	535
	Probable	170	14	8%	170
	Suspected	37	23	62%	5
	<b>All</b>	<b>1157</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>710</b>
Liberia	Confirmed	927	280	30%	890
	Probable	1656	687	42%	664
	Suspected	1113	672	60%	444
	<b>All</b>	<b>3696</b>	<b>1639</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>1998</b>
Sierra Leone	Confirmed	2076	788	38%	574
	Probable	37	0	0%	37
	Suspected	191	106	56%	11
	<b>All</b>	<b>2304</b>	<b>894</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>622</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>7157</b>	<b>2800</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>3330</b>

*Data are based on official information reported by Ministries of Health. These numbers are subject to change due to ongoing reclassification, retrospective investigation and availability of laboratory results.*

## Logistics

- According to WFP's most recent update, it has delivered 5,971 metric tonnes of food for 430,369 people in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone since April 2014. Meanwhile, UN Humanitarian Response Depots (UNHRD) in Dubai and Accra dispatched 224 metric tonnes of protective gear, emergency health kits, relief items and equipment to the region thus far.
- As of 28 September, UNHAS has transported 497 passengers and approximately 8.5 metric tonnes of light cargo for 27 organisations.
- Yesterday, U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel authorized the deployment of 700 soldiers from the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division headquarters element to Liberia in late October, as part of U.S. efforts to

counter the Ebola epidemic. The U.S. will also deploy an additional 700 soldiers from engineering units to supervise the construction of ETUs, conduct site surveys and provide engineering expertise.

18. Meanwhile, ETU construction also continues in Sierra Leone, with semi-permanent structures for the 50-bed Lunsar ETU in Port Loko district expected to be completed on 24 October, according to the International Medical Corps.

### **Resource Mobilisation**

19. Ahead of today's pledging conference for Sierra Leone in London, yesterday the U.K. International Development Secretary Justine Greening announced a new GBP 20 million (approximately USD 32.4 million) disease treatment and prevention package for Sierra Leone to tackle Ebola. The package will help public health staff to continue their work, scale up aid agencies' response and provide vital supplies such as chlorine and protective clothing for thousands of health workers. It will also enable the deployment of British and international disease control experts to assist the Government of Sierra Leone and WHO. This contribution is in addition to the UK's existing GBP 100 million action plan.

### **Essential Services**

20. The Liberian Ministry of Agriculture, the FAO and WFP, together with sector partners, are embarking on a joint two-week rapid field-assessment mission to Liberia's 15 counties. The mission will analyse the impact that EVD has had to date on agriculture, livelihoods and food security in affected communities to ensure that support is being mobilised for the population's most critical needs.
21. In light of last week's quarantine of Port Loko, Bombali and Moyamba districts in Sierra Leone, WFP has advised that it is currently conducting rapid needs assessments in these areas to determine the number of persons who require food assistance. WFP continues to prioritise the provision of food to these three districts, as well as to Kenema and Kailahun districts, Ebola treatment and holding centres, quarantined hotspots in Freetown and other parts of the country.
22. Also in Sierra Leone, preliminary analysis from WFP's recent mobile Vulnerability Assessment Mapping survey on the impact of the Ebola crisis on food security in the country is showing that food markets (rather than self-production) currently constitute the main source of food supply for people in the cordoned off district of the east. Analysis of other food security indicators is ongoing.
23. In view of a possible reopening of schools in Guinea in October, although a date has yet to be determined, UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education to develop school plans and protocols for referral, teacher training, and a health and wash supply package, thus creating the conditions for a return to school in safe and protective learning environments.

### **Regional**

24. Yesterday, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) raised its death toll from the deadly Ebola virus to 42, which includes eight health workers. Approximately 70 cases have been confirmed thus far, with the most recent case confirmed on 24 September. Last month, Congolese authorities declared that the outbreak was "on its way to being controlled."

### **Upcoming Events**

- 2 October – "Defeating Ebola in Sierra Leone" pledging conference hosted by the UK in London
- 3 October – SRSG Banbury to travel to Sierra Leone
- 7-8 October – SRSG Banbury to travel to Guinea
- 21 October – "Survivors' Conference" in Kenema, Sierra Leone, hosted by the Government of Sierra Leone and UNICEF

### **Attachments and Resources**

- WHO: Ebola Response Roadmap Situation Report, as of 1 October
- [UN: Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak: Business Engagement Guide](http://www.un.org/ebolaresponse)