

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

5 November 2014

KEY POINTS

- World Bank President Jim Yong Kim has urged Asian countries to send trained health workers to the West African countries hit by Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).
- UNMEER SRSG Banbury concluded his visit to the three affected countries in Liberia, where he had a meeting with the President and Vice President, among others.
- Australia is contracting a private company to staff and operate an EVD Treatment Unit (ETU) in Sierra Leone, which is currently being built by the UK.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. World Bank President Jim Yong Kim on Tuesday urged Asian countries to send trained health workers to the West African countries hit by Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), warning the focus on stricter border control was not the solution. He welcomed efforts by South Korea, China and Japan to send medical personnel or equipment to combat the outbreak. Asia must send more medical teams to the three affected countries, he said, adding that just 30 medical teams from around the world have gone to assist in the countries so far.
2. SRSG Banbury and the UNMEER Liberia ECM met with Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and the Vice President on Tuesday. They exchanged views on the ongoing operations in Liberia and the neighboring EVD-affected countries, with particular emphasis on the border areas. The upcoming ECOWAS meeting in Accra was also discussed. The President was optimistic about the progress made in fighting EVD, while recognizing there is no room for complacency. In Liberia, SRSG Banbury further visited the ETU at Samuel Kanyon Doe Stadium and the newly constructed ETU at the former site of the Ministry of Defense.
3. A 112-member peacekeeping contingent returning to the Philippines from UNMIL in Liberia will be quarantined on a secluded island. The soldiers will have to stay on the island for 21 days.
4. Residents in Wonkifong, Guinea, approximately 90 km from Conakry demonstrated yesterday against the establishment of a new EVD treatment unit in their locality; security forces intervened to restore calm. Negotiations are underway to resolve the situation.
5. The UNMEER ECM in Guinea met with Hans Docter, Dutch Ambassador to Ghana and Dutch Special Envoy on Ebola. ECM Marcel Rudasingwa provided an update on EVD response efforts in Guinea and UNMEER's contribution.

Human Rights

6. NSTR

Medical

7. Australia is contracting a private company to staff and operate an EVD treatment unit in Sierra Leone, Prime Minister Tony Abbot has said. He said Australia would commit 17m USD to a 100-bed treatment unit being built by the UK. But he ruled out sending government health workers - most workers would be hired locally with international staff likely to include some Australians.
8. The building of Community Care Centers (CCCs) is progressing through different implementation structures in each of the affected countries. WHO officially opened the first CCC in Kagbantama, Sierra Leone on 3 November and expects to open 3 more in Port Loko in the next two weeks. UNICEF intends to open a further 15 in Sierra Leone in November. In Guinea, UNICEF aims to have 15 CCCs up and running by 30 November.
9. Over the next six weeks, WHO will lead joint missions to Guinea Bissau, Mali, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Benin, Togo, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, the Gambia, Nigeria, Cameroon, Central

African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Angola, in order to assess their preparedness to deal with EVD and identify current gaps and required international support. Immediately following the missions, preparedness experts will stay on to assist countries in filling the identified gaps.

10. As of last week, 110 UNICEF-supported social and mental health workers had provided psychosocial, family tracing, reunification and reintegration support to 817 children affected by EVD in Liberia's ten most affected counties. In addition, UNICEF is working with the Liberian government to train EVD survivors to care for these children and be engaged in community mobilization activities.
11. A total of 13,567 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in countries with widespread and intense transmission (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone), countries with an initial case or localized transmission (Mali, Spain and the US) and previously affected countries (Nigeria, Senegal) up to the end of 29 October. There have been 4,951 reported deaths.

Logistics

12. WFP is facilitating the purchase and transport of 74 World Bank vehicles (including ambulances and mortuary pick-up trucks) for Sierra Leone. 44 have already arrived in Sierra Leone from Dubai and Antwerp; the first 30 have been handed over to the Government and the remaining 14 will be handed over imminently. Another 30 vehicles are en-route from Antwerp, expected 1 December.

Resource Mobilisation

13. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements of USD 988 million has received USD 572 million, which is just under 58 per cent of the total ask.
14. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 60.6 million in commitments. In total USD 119 million has been pledged, surpassing the target of USD 100 million by end of October 2014.
15. All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org.

Outreach and Education

16. UNICEF has worked with youth in Liberia to create U-report, an SMS-based tool it launched yesterday to connect young people around the country to vital information and services. The end result is a two-way communication channel enabling citizens to report on the status of the EVD situation (and any other concerns) in their local communities directly to the Liberian government.
17. In the last two weeks UNICEF has supported social mobilization training of 211 traditional healers, 279 transport drivers and taxi-motorbike drivers and 100 health workers from health facilities in the prefecture of Nzérékoré, Guinea. OHCHR is undertaking an EVD sensitization campaign for 2500 moto-taxi riders in Guinea.

Essential Services

18. FAO, WFP, governments and other partners are currently carrying out a Crops and Food security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) based on rapid joint assessments in the field in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The mission will provide an analysis of the agricultural production, prices, markets, trades and stocks situation. The first outcomes should be available before 18 November 2014.

Upcoming Events

- 11 December - Global Compact CEO-level Action Pledge Event at the UN.

Attachments and resources

- OCHA EVD fact sheets and 3Ws for Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (recently updated): <http://reliefweb.int/maps>