

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

6 November 2014

KEY POINTS

- The International Finance Corporation (IFC) announced a package of at least 450 million USD in commercial financing to enable trade, investment, and employment in the affected countries.
- In Sierra Leone, partners are scaling up the response in Port Loko, with the setup of a Command and Control Centre and the opening of the country's first two Community Care Centres (CCCs).
- A total of 13,042 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported up to the end of 2 November. There have been 4,818 reported deaths.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, announced a package of at least 450 million USD in commercial financing that will enable trade, investment, and employment in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The private sector initiative will include 250 million USD in rapid response projects, and at least 200 million USD in investment projects to support post-epidemic economic recovery. It is part of the World Bank Group's effort to support the most affected countries during the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) epidemic and prepare them for economic recovery.
2. UNMEER SRSG Anthony Banbury emphasized in an interview with the BBC that his organization did not yet have the capacity to defeat EVD, but he remained hopeful of achieving the target of 70% bed space for new cases and 70% safe burials by December. It was difficult to say if the spread of the disease was slowing, as it was a "very mixed picture". In Monrovia there was a decline but there was "significant acceleration" elsewhere. Bed space was still a huge issue, but the SRSG hoped that by reducing the number of people becoming infected the UN would be able to reach its targets.
3. The Obama administration will ask the US Congress for about 6.2 billion USD in emergency funding to combat the spread of EVD in West Africa and reduce risks for U.S. citizens. According to a statement from the US Office of Management and Budget, the money would be used to strengthen domestic public health systems, contain and mitigate the outbreak in West Africa, and speed up efforts to obtain vaccines. The request seeks 2.4 billion USD for domestic public health services. Another 2.1 billion USD is for the US State Department and its Agency for International Development, 112 million USD for the Pentagon and 1.5 billion USD to be put in a contingency fund.
4. The EVD outbreak in West Africa is impairing the ability of governments to raise revenues and may make them more dependent on aid, according to a UNDP study. The governments of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone are experiencing a shortfall of 328 million USD compared to pre-crisis levels. The gaps are caused by a 30% increase in spending to tackle the Ebola crisis and fiscal constraints resulting from a slowdown of economic activities such as tourism, mining and trade.
5. The World Health Organization (WHO) elected Dr. Matshidiso Rebecca Moeti from Botswana as the head of its Africa office on Wednesday, Dr. Moeti is a former deputy director of WHO's Africa office.
6. EU Ebola coordinator Christos Stylianides and Health Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis will visit Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea from November 12 to November 16, to see how to improve and coordinate European efforts in fighting EVD. Stylianides, who is also the European Commissioner for humanitarian aid and crisis management, said that some 40,000 health workers, including many from abroad, were needed to fight the virus in West Africa.

Human Rights

7. Sierra Leone said Wednesday it was holding a journalist in a maximum security prison after a guest on his radio show criticised President Ernest Bai Koroma's handling of the Ebola outbreak. David Tam Baryoh, host of the weekly "Monologue" programme on the private radio station Citizen FM, was arrested on Tuesday and sent to Freetown's Pademba Road jail. Baryoh had interviewed an

opposition party spokesman who criticised Koroma and his government's handling of the Ebola outbreak.

Response Efforts and Health

8. An African Union team of 40 health workers will leave for Guinea on Thursday. The AU team includes doctors, laboratory experts, data analysts and communication experts from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Niger and Zimbabwe. The AU has pledged a total of 2,000 health workers, 100 of whom have already travelled to the region.
9. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the lead agency managing burials and cremations, estimates that of all EVD deaths, 87% (4,404 of 5,060 cumulative deaths) have been managed by a trained burial or cremation team. A limitation of this estimation is that a significant number of deaths and burials are not reported, and that it does not yet include burials managed by other organizations. WHO estimates there is a need for 528 trained burial teams in the three affected countries. Currently 140 trained teams are on the ground.
10. In Sierra Leone, partners are scaling up the response in Port Loko, with the setup of a Command and Control Centre (ambulance and safe burials management) and the opening of the country's first two Community Care Centres (CCCs). Insufficient care package delivery to quarantined households is pushing families to leave their homes in search of food and other essential items.
11. A total of 13,042 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported up to the end of 2 November, the majority of which was in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. There have been 4,818 reported deaths. At the country level, the weekly incidence appears to be stable in Guinea. In Sierra Leone the weekly incidence continues to rise, while in Liberia it appears to be declining. In all three countries, EVD transmission remains persistent and widespread, particularly in the capital cities. Cases and deaths continue to be under-reported.

Logistics

12. An Antonov An-124 cargo plane hired by Luxembourg delivered cargo to Conakry on 4 November and to Freetown and Monrovia on 5 November. Conakry received two containers of communications equipment for UNMEER and a communications van and three containers for WFP, containing prefabricated containers, tents, and generators. Freetown and Monrovia received similar items, with the latter also receiving two ambulances.
13. The Logistics Cluster is operating in support of UNMEER and the humanitarian community offering coordination, information and common logistics services through WFP as lead agency in the three affected countries. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

14. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements of USD 988 million has received USD 574 million, which is just over 58 per cent of the total ask.
15. 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.
16. 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

17. UNMEER Liberia conducted a fact-finding mission in the areas of Westpoint and New Kru Town, in Monrovia and Montserrado County. These two densely populated areas remain at high risk due to overcrowding, resistance and denial, and the lack of basic infrastructure and sanitation. The need for continuous awareness programs was recognized as the most effective prevention tool to counter the spread of the epidemic in over-crowded communities.

Essential Services

18. NSTR

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: <http://reliefweb.int/maps>