



## HIGHLIGHTS

- The Fifth Committee of the General Assembly endorses the USD 49.9 million funding proposal for UNMEER and the Office of the Special Envoy on Ebola
- Healthcare workers at Bong County ETU cease industrial action and return to work
- European Union scales up response to epidemic with airlift of relief items to West Africa and coordination of system to evacuate international workers infected with EVD to hospitals in Europe

## Key Political and Economic Developments

1. The Fifth Committee of the General Assembly has adopted a resolution allocating USD 49.9 million of funding for UNMEER and the Office of the Special Envoy on Ebola. This follows the Fifth Committee's first meeting last Friday during which UN Chef de Cabinet Susana Malcorra presented the preliminary funding proposal. The President of the General Assembly Sam Kutesa said "the Fifth Committee is sending a strong message on its ability to effectively and expeditiously deliver on critical and pressing global issues".
2. The Deputy Secretary General and the Secretary General's Special Envoy for Ebola will launch the Global Ebola Response Coalition (GERC) on Friday this week. The GERC will be initiated by bringing political, business and health leaders together with the aim of focusing world attention and resources on overcoming the current Ebola outbreak.
3. SRSG Banbury arrived in Conakry on 7 October. On the first day of his visit to Guinea he met with the UN Country Team; humanitarian organizations; the National Ebola Response Coordination Cell; the AU Commissioner for Social Affairs and the Head of AU Mission for Ebola; the diplomatic community; and President Alpha Condé. Today the SRSG is due to visit an Ebola treatment centre run by MSF, to meet with local business leaders, community groups and civil society organisations. A full code cable will follow shortly.
4. UNDP's Director for Policy and Programme Support Magdy Martínez-Solimán stated in Conakry on Monday that urgent action is needed to ensure that the Ebola health crisis does not become a crippling socio-economic one as well. Martínez-Solimán noted that the crisis is impairing national economies, wiping out livelihoods and basic services, and could undo years of efforts to stabilise West Africa. Martínez-Solimán is on a 10-day visit to the three most-affected countries, together with Ruby Sandhu-Rojon, UNDP's Deputy Director for Africa. The trip will include site visits to Ebola treatment centres and UNDP project sites as well as meetings with government authorities and other agencies and institutions involved in halting the spread of the disease.
5. The latest situation report from the Liberian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare indicates that staff at Bong County Ebola Treatment Unit have ended their boycott and returned to work following yesterday's report of national medical personnel on strike.
6. South Korea's Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning yesterday reportedly requested Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia to minimise their attendance at, or send officials from nearby diplomatic missions to, the upcoming UN International Telecommunications Union event scheduled to commence on 20 October. The Ministry added that "if members from such countries participate despite such efforts, we will establish emergency contingency plans for different scenarios".

## Medical

7. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) confirmed on Monday that a Norwegian staff member in Sierra Leone's city of Bo has been diagnosed with EVD. Following MSF medical evacuation procedures, the staff member will be transferred to a specialised treatment centre in Europe. Meanwhile, MSF announced over the weekend that the French MSF staff member who was infected with EVD in Liberia in mid-September has recovered.
8. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and partners, according to its latest Emergency Appeal Operation Update on EVD, continue to support the implementation of preventive and control measures in affected countries through contact tracing and surveillance,

dead body management, burials and disinfections, beneficiary communication and social mobilisation, and psychosocial support. Notably, in Liberia, there are currently 16 burial and four disinfection teams operational (an increase of six teams since last week), and over the past week 82 per cent of dead bodies were collected for burial within 24 hours. In Sierra Leone, 4,561 new contacts were traced and followed up during the week and 448 people received psychosocial support from Red Cross volunteers. Meanwhile, in Guinea, 44,678 people were reached through community campaigns and 83,456 people reached through door-to-door campaigns during the week.

9. There are a number of health-related gaps and constraints in Liberia that need to be addressed, according to the situation report covering 22-28 September from the Office of the Resident Coordinator. These include: inadequate availability of treatment services and beds; non-functioning essential health services due to healthcare worker issues with safety and remuneration, in addition to supply challenges which have resulted in a suspension of the distribution of essential drugs in many counties; lack of capacity to address prevalent common childhood illness due to focus on Ebola; insufficient quality and accuracy of data for a comprehensive overview and analysis of the situation; the need for interim community-based triage and care; and the requirement for a more rapid turnaround of laboratory diagnosis.
10. The French Ebola Treatment Centre in Guinea (announced last week) will be managed by the French Red Cross with significant support from the Government. This includes through the provision of healthcare workers and a medical evacuation system. The facility will have 50 beds and a biomedical analysis laboratory set up by the Pasteur Institute.
11. Following confirmation on Sunday of a Spanish nurse being the first person to be infected with EVD outside of West Africa during the current outbreak, a WHO representative noted in a press briefing in Geneva yesterday that the Spanish authorities were currently carrying out a medical investigation and analysis in order to know more about this case; once Spain's needs are identified, WHO will respond accordingly. The European Commission also reportedly "sent a letter Monday to the Spanish health minister to obtain some clarification" of how this situation occurred, despite all the precautions taken. Meanwhile, WHO European Director Zsuzsanna Jakab added yesterday that it was likely that "similar events as have happened in Spain will happen also in the future".

## Logistics

12. The European Union announced yesterday that it is scaling up its response to the EVD epidemic in West Africa, with an airlift operation to the affected countries using funding from the EUR 30 million in humanitarian aid announced by the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso during last month's High Level Meeting in response to the EVD outbreak. The European Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) will facilitate the transportation of relief items to West Africa. The first plane will depart on Friday, carrying 100 metric tonnes of emergency equipment from Amsterdam to Freetown. In addition, the ERCC will coordinate the establishment of a medical evacuation system, which will enable international workers in West Africa diagnosed with EVD to be evacuated in less than 48 hours by air to facilities within Europe that are equipped to deal with the disease.
13. In Sierra Leone over the weekend, two flights containing ambulances, minibuses and equipment to assist with the construction and operation of the U.K.'s 92-bed treatment facility arrived in Freetown. A team of British military personnel – including logisticians, planners and engineers – are currently on the ground to oversee the construction of the U.K.'s facility near Freetown. The U.K. is the latest Member State to contribute vital assistance through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. Five medium-size utility helicopters have also been contracted by UNMEER and are scheduled to arrive in Sierra Leone on 11 October.
14. In Liberia, building on previous logistical support provided to government institutions to address the crisis, UNDP has provided an additional two vehicles to the Ministry of Transport, which will also be used for outreach to prevent Ebola transmission. Also in Liberia, UNDP is supporting a visit of Economic Commission for Africa officials that will be focused on Ebola, scheduled to arrive on 11 October. The United States also indicated that 15 of the 17 ETU sites have Government approval, with the construction of the first due to commence very soon. The first will be complete by the end of October.
15. Meanwhile, UNDP is also deploying some 47 experts to support programmatic activity in the three most-affected countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. In Accra, seventeen light 4x4 vehicles from UNIFIL arrived on 6 October 2014 for further distribution.

## Resource Mobilisation

16. On Monday, the Norwegian Government announced a new contribution of NOK 89 million (approximately USD 13.7 million), bringing Norway's total funding for the fight against Ebola to just over NOK 184 million (approximately USD 28.4 million). The allocation from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be used to provide personnel and equipment for the efforts in West Africa; some of the allocation will also be given in the form of funding to the UN, the Red Cross and other NGOs. In the same press release, Norway also indicated that preparations are underway to provide air transport for personnel and equipment if needed, and that it has signed an agreement on the use of civilian air ambulance capacity provided by the U.S. and other countries for evacuating Norwegian citizens in the event of suspected or confirmed EVD infection.
17. The Special Envoy will host a donor meeting on Friday 10 October in an effort to generate resources for the UN Multi-Donor Trust Fund. Currently some 37 donors are invited to attend.

## Essential Services

18. In response to increasing concerns regarding the impact of the EVD outbreak on children, the first dedicated children's Interim Care Center has opened in Monrovia for children who have lost one or both parents to Ebola. The center is being run by ChildFund International in collaboration with Liberia's MoHSW and will serve as a safe place for children during the 21-day quarantine period after the child last had contact with someone infected with Ebola. Despite this positive development, related child-protection challenges still remain. For example, the latest situation report covering 22-28 September from the Office of the Resident Coordinator in Liberia raised the need for additional homes if family tracing and foster placement is not successful, not to mention that data on Ebola-affected children remains limited. Additionally, there is still a need for more than 200 social workers and mental health clinicians in Liberia.
19. The Office of the Resident Coordinator in Liberia also identified a number of areas of concern related to food security, WASH, early recovery and social mobilisation. These included: inadequate funding to address food security challenges, WASH activities and social mobilisation activities; heavy rain disrupting food distribution; delays in data collection from the Government County teams and a requirement for gender disaggregated data; the need to scale up solid infection waste management; low capacity of local authorities as a consequence of governance centralisation; and the absence of a nationwide monitoring mechanism for verifying figures in the EVD outbreak.
20. SRSG Banbury has written to the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster and the Humanitarian Connectivity Framework requesting their support to improve telecommunications infrastructure in the three affected countries. ICT assessments in new operational areas are continuing, as well as meetings with humanitarian partners on the ground to understand requirements and prepare for roll-out of common security telecommunications, shared ICT infrastructure support, and communications for affected communities. Clear roles and responsibilities for the ICT response to the Ebola crisis have also been defined, in cooperation with UNMEER.

## Upcoming Events

- 4-8 October – AU Commissioner for Social Affairs to travel to Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone
- 6-14 October – UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support and UNDP Deputy Assistant Administrator to travel to Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia
- 7-9 October – SRSG Banbury to travel to Guinea
- 8 October – Meeting of UN Inter-agency Communications Group on the Ebola Response
- 9 October – UN Secretary-General to attend meeting at the World Bank in D.C. on Ebola response financing
- 10 October - First meeting of the Global Ebola Response Coalition - to be led by the Special Envoy and UN Deputy-Secretary-General
- 9-14 October – UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa to visit Ghana and Senegal
- 21 October – “Survivors’ Conference” in Kenema, Sierra Leone, hosted by the Government of Sierra Leone and UNICEF
- 11 December – Global Compact CEO-level Action Pledge Event at the UN

## Attachments and Resources

- [UN Humanitarian Response Depot \(UNHRD\): Operations Update – Response to the Ebola Outbreak, as of 6 October 2014](#)