



## HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 8,033 cases and 3,879 deaths have been reported in the current outbreak of EVD in the affected countries, according to WHO - first cases of EVD confirmed in the Guinean district of Lola which borders Côte d'Ivoire
- Marcel Rudasingwa appointed as Ebola Crisis Manager for Guinea, Peter Jan Graaff as Ebola Crisis Manager for Liberia, and Amadu Kamara as Ebola Crisis Manager for Sierra Leone
- UNMIL international staff member tests positive for EVD

## Key Political and Economic Developments

1. The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon announced yesterday the appointments of Marcel Rudasingwa as Ebola Crisis Manager for Guinea, Peter Jan Graaff as Ebola Crisis Manager for Liberia, and Amadu Kamara as Ebola Crisis Manager for Sierra Leone. The appointments are part of the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response. The Crisis Managers will work with their host Government along with key stakeholders in ensuring a rapid and effective international response to the Ebola crisis within their respective country.
2. The UN Secretary General led an Ebola Senior Management meeting on 8 October. Participation included DSG, CDC, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, DPA, DPKO, DFS, DSS, OCHA, the Special Envoy on Ebola, SRSG UNMEER, SRSG UNMIL, RC Sierra Leone and RC Guinea. The key outcome was continued emphasis on unity of effort and the requirement for increased UN and international community actions to deliver the required response.
3. SRSG Banbury, UNDP's Director for Policy and Programme Support Martínez-Solimán and UN Resident Coordinator Wakana met Guinea's President Condé who stated that fighting poverty must be a primary, long-term objective of the response, pointing out that the Ebola virus broke out in chronically deprived areas with huge gaps in health and education. The President also said the response should be used to build Guinea's resilience to future crises by strengthening local human capacity, improving hospitals and promoting better health awareness in local communities. Highlighting the multi-dimensional nature of the crisis, President Condé called for a closely integrated regional response and added that eliminating the disease would go hand in hand with efforts to strengthen the country's infrastructure and capabilities.
4. The AU Commissioner for Social Affairs Dr Mustapha S Kaloko led a delegation to Guinea on 6-7 October 2014. He met separately with SRSG Banbury and the Guinean Minister for Foreign Affairs and outlined his efforts to follow-up on the decisions of the AU Executive Council to reopen flights to Ebola affected states, address stigmatization of citizens from the Ebola affected states, and support coordination of the Ebola response effort and post-Ebola recovery. SRSG Banbury noted during their discussion that he was keen to travel to Addis Ababa to further engage with the AU and that the AU and UN Ebola mission shared the same objectives in ending the outbreak. SRSG Banbury again noted that the UN Secretary General wanted UNMEER to work as fast as possible to defeat the outbreak. The AU delegation arrived in Freetown on 8 October and will be in Sierra Leone for 2 days.
5. The General Assembly will hold a meeting on Friday that will be addressed by the DSG, Special Envoy, SRSG and potentially the Presidents of Guinea and Liberia. The emphasis will be on encouraging Member States to increase their contributions.
6. Liberian health care workers, including those employed at the Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs) across the country have threatened collective strike from 10 October. The workers are demanding higher pay, better insurance schemes and risk incentives. According to media reports, the initial request from medical personnel was a package of US \$1,500 for medical doctors working at ETUs and \$1,200 for other health care workers, which the Government is currently unable to meet. Medical doctors will be paid \$825, with those working at ETU also receiving a \$450 hazard pay.
7. A new economic impact assessment from the World Bank Group released yesterday, suggests that if the Ebola epidemic was to significantly infect populations in neighbouring countries, the regional

financial impact could reach USD 32.6 billion by the end of 2015. According to the new analysis, the economic impacts of Ebola are already very serious in the core three countries – particularly Liberia and Sierra Leone – and could become catastrophic under a slow-containment scenario. However, in broader regional terms, the economic impact could be limited if immediate action is taken to stop the epidemic and alleviate the “aversion behaviour” that is causing neighbouring countries to close their borders, and airlines and other regional and international companies to suspend their commercial activities in the three worst-affected countries. The World Bank Group suggests that the successful containment of Ebola in Nigeria and Senegal so far is evidence that this is possible, but requires existing health system capacity and a resolute policy response.

## Human Rights

8. In its latest monthly report, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has raised a number of concerns with regard to the security situation in Liberia. DRC highlighted the gradually deteriorating security levels in Monrovia, where the number of armed attacks and opportunistic crimes has increased. The incidents are largely reported in the poorest parts of the city. Incidents relating to the enforcement of the curfew were also mentioned, where the Liberian National Police would seize belonging from people breaking the curfew as a punishment. The report further highlights the volatile situation in Nimba County, where attacks are said to be “numerous and violent”. The report corroborates information from other sources of continuing denial of EVD in many smaller and remote communities. Finally, the report raises concerns of extortion at AFL-manned checkpoints at the border between Grand Gedeh and Nimba Counties.

## Medical

9. According to the latest WHO Ebola Response Roadmap Situation Report, a total of 8,033 cases and 3,879 deaths have been reported in the current outbreak of EVD in the affected countries of Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and the U.S., as of 5 October. Infections among HCWs also continue to steadily rise, with 401 cases and 232 deaths up to the end of 5 October.

Country	Current number of beds	Estimated number of beds required	Current capacity/estimated demand (%)
Guinea	160	210	76%
Liberia	620	2930	21%
Sierra Leone	304	1148	26%

*Bed capacity in each district is planned on the basis of a needs assessment carried out by the relevant Ministry of Health.*

10. In a statement yesterday, UNMIL SRSG Karin Landgren advised that an UNMIL international staff member tested positive for EVD, after presenting to UNMIL Medical on 5 October with symptoms. The staff member is receiving treatment. This is the second case of Ebola within the mission. UNMIL has taken all necessary measures to prevent any possible further transmission within or outside the mission. In line with WHO protocols, the UNMIL Medical team has conducted immediate and robust contact tracing to ensure all people that came into contact with both staff members while they were symptomatic are assessed and quarantined. All UNMIL staff considered at-risk have been isolated, and ambulances and other locations decontaminated.
11. In Guinea, transmission in Conakry remains high, as well as an increase in the number of new cases reported in the district of Nzérékoré. To the east of country, on the border with Côte d'Ivoire, three cases have been confirmed in the district of Lola, marking its first cases of EVD.
12. In Liberia, WHO has reiterated issues affecting data acquisition which are likely to result in an upwards revision of figures in due course. These challenges include evidence to suggest widespread under-reporting of new cases, and delays in matching laboratory results with clinical data surveillance. The situation continues to deteriorate in Monrovia, with approximately 200 new probable and suspected cases (but few confirmed cases) in the past three weeks, and high numbers of new confirmed and probable cases in Margibi district. Furthermore, the district of Grand Cape Mount has reported new cases for the first time in three weeks. There does, however, appear to be a genuine reduction in the number of new cases reported in Lofa, which borders Gueckedou in Guinea, with 12 confirmed and probable cases reported this week compared with 39 the previous week. Meanwhile, a new EVD isolation centre was established in Maryland district but the number of beds available in the country is still 79 per cent short of the estimated demand.
13. In Sierra Leone, the overall situation continues to deteriorate, with Freetown and the neighbouring districts of Bombali, Port Loko, and Moyamba all reporting a surge in cases over the past seven to eight weeks. The districts of Bo and Tonkolili have also reported an increase in the number of new

confirmed and probable cases over the same period. In contrast, for the past four weeks a low number of new cases have been reported from Kailahun and Kenema, previously areas of high levels of transmission. Reports from responders suggest this fall is a genuine decline in incidence, although further investigation will be required before this can be confirmed. Overall the shortfall in required beds is estimated to be 74 per cent.

14. Also in Sierra Leone, media reported yesterday that burial teams responsible for collecting the corpses of Ebola victims returned to work Wednesday, one day after going on strike because of a delay in receiving hazard pay. Meanwhile, in the Aberdeen district of Freetown, local youths reportedly blocked a main street yesterday in protest of an EVD-corpse left on the road for 48 hours. Protesters barricaded other parts of the district and said that an emergency Ebola hotline was not being answered.
15. According to WHO, 11 laboratories (two in Guinea, five in Liberia, and four in Sierra Leone) are now operating at full capacity. However, laboratory data are yet to be fully integrated with clinical surveillance systems.
16. The media reported yesterday that the first person to be diagnosed with EVD in the U.S. died at the Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas Tuesday morning. WHO advises that 48 contacts are currently being followed up on in the U.S. Meanwhile, media reported yesterday that the U.S. intends to commence screening of passengers at five international airports arriving from West African countries where Ebola is concentrated.

### Logistics

17. A meeting was held with UK representatives and representatives of Germany's Federal Agency for Technical Relief on possible contribution of the German Air force of three cargo/passenger aircraft (C-160), currently based in Dakar. Five medium-size utility helicopters have also been contracted by UNMEER and are scheduled to arrive in Sierra Leone on 11 October.
18. Twenty-four light 4x4 vehicles from UNIFIL arrived on 6 October 2014 for further distribution. Eight armoured 4X4s will be delivered on 9 and 10 October to Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Accra (two in each location). The next shipment of 140 vehicles is pending release clearance from the Government of Sudan. No action is expected on that approval until 12 October due to national holidays.

UNMEER Staffing table

	<b>Onboarded</b>	<b>Incoming</b>
<b>Accra</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Liberia</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Guinea</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>17</b>

19. Notable Arrivals: Erika Joergensen (Director, Essential Services), Steve Damond-Fagot (CHRO), Bintou Keita (Director of Operations / Acting ECM Sierra Leone), Richard Ragan (Director of Operations/Acting ECM Liberia), Belkacem Benzana (Acting Director of Operations, Guinea), Dr. Iqbal Mohd (medical doctor, UNMEER).
20. UNDP have currently surged 130 personnel into the affected countries to support Ebola response. They will also be strengthening their support to Essential Services and the RC offices.
21. Procurement Division has sent a staff member to Accra for two weeks and an environmental engineer has arrived to work with Operations on the supply chain. CITS has teams operating in each of the three affected countries.

### Outreach and Education

22. UNESCO announced on Tuesday the launch of a new project in Sierra Leone and Liberia to fight Ebola through media. Working with the Ministries of Health, the project will draw on community radio stations to promote regular sensitisation programmes, and will develop information and education materials on Ebola prevention and response for distribution to community centres and schools. UNESCO will also support the recruitment and training of Ebola sensitisation leaders to help disseminate clear messages about prevention at the community level.
23. With schools closed in Sierra Leone since the Government declared a SoE in July, Education Minister Minkailu Bah announced on Tuesday a new initiative involving the broadcast of classes six days a week over television and radio stations. The Minister admitted, however, that reaching many

of the nation's schoolchildren would be difficult in a country where radio ownership is around 25 per cent and fewer than two per cent have access to a television.

24. According to WHO, outreach activities are ongoing in the three most-affected countries. In Guinea, religious leaders were mobilised, as part of the Tabaski Festival, to deliver Ebola-prevention messages in 7000 sermons across the country; this effort was supplemented by an SMS-based campaign on hygiene practices. Meanwhile in Liberia, community engagement and empowerment of civil society continues. However, denial of the existence of EVD remains a challenge. In Sierra Leone, a National Communication Strategy on Ebola was presented to the Ministry of Health for approval.

### Resource Mobilisation

25. Yesterday U.K. Defence Secretary Michael Fallon announced during a Cabinet Office Briefing Room committee meeting chaired by the Prime Minister, intentions to significantly step up the U.K.'s contribution and leadership to tackle the EVD outbreak through the commitment of 750 personnel to help with the establishment of Ebola treatment centres and an Ebola training academy in Sierra Leone. Additionally, the U.K. will deploy an aviation support ship and three helicopters to provide direct support for Sierra Leone. U.K. military personnel will deploy to Sierra Leone next week where they will join over 40 military engineers and planners who have been in country for almost a month, overseeing the construction of the medical facilities.
26. On Tuesday, Sweden allocated an additional SEK 105 million (approximately USD 14.5 million) in humanitarian support to fight the Ebola epidemic in West Africa; this brings Sweden's total contribution towards Ebola response efforts to some SEK 145 million (approximately USD 20 million). A large proportion of the funds from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) will be channelled through UNICEF, WFP and WHO, with a particular focus on Liberia.

### Essential Services

27. FAO announced yesterday the launch of the [Regional Response Programme for West Africa](#) to urgently assist 90,000 vulnerable households in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone whose food supplies and livelihoods are threatened by the disruptive effect the Ebola epidemic is having on rural economies, agricultural activities and markets. The programme will scale-up the work FAO is currently undertaking with governments, UN partners and local networks of agriculture, veterinary and forestry workers, to help stop the spread of the disease, meet immediate and long-term food and nutrition security needs and build resilience. As such, FAO is urgently calling for USD 30 million to support activities including mobilising communities to reduce their risk of infection through awareness campaigns; boosting food and cash crops, livestock and fisheries production; introducing microfinance strategies to safeguard rural incomes; and setting up early warning and response systems to reduce Ebola risks at the human-animal interface. The programme will also ensure countries are coordinated and resourced by filling gaps in expertise, increasing knowledge sharing on best-practices and building collaborative networks.

### Upcoming Events

- 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
- 9 October – UN Secretary-General to attend meeting at the World Bank in D.C. on Ebola response financing
- 9-14 October – UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa to visit Ghana and Senegal
- 10 October – First meeting of the Global Ebola Response Coalition - to be led by the Special Envoy and UN Deputy-Secretary-General
- 10 October – Meeting of the General Assembly on Member State contributions to the Ebola response
- 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

- [FAO: Regional Response Programme – Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak West Africa, October 2014-September 2015](#)
- [WHO: Ebola Response Roadmap Situation Report, as of 8 October 2014](#)