

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

10 December 2014

### KEY POINTS

- In a technical meeting in Liberia organized by President Johnson Sirleaf, participants agreed on a Strategic Framework on Cross-Border Collaboration.
- ECOWAS Chiefs of Defence Staff have pledged to deploy 192 medical personnel to the most affected countries in the coming six months.
- 17,800 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) have been reported in the three most affected countries, where there have been 6,331 reported deaths.

### Key Political and Economic Developments

1. The government of Liberia, with the support of UNMEER and regional participation from Sierra Leone, Guinea, Mali and Nigeria, organized a technical meeting on cross-border coordination on the prevention and control of EVD. In her opening statement, President Johnson Sirleaf emphasized the need to pool shared regional resources to counter EVD across the whole region. She also mentioned the cross-country coordination of specialized national institutions and the need for ease of access to resources available in border areas, as well as managing the porous borders. UNMEER SRSG Banbury stated the clear commitment of the UN to support the regional counter-EVD initiatives. A Strategic Framework for Cross-Border Collaboration on EVD Prevention and Control was elaborated at the meeting.
2. More foreign health workers are needed to help tackle the epidemic, which is spreading quickly in western Sierra Leone and deep in the forested interior of Guinea, Special Envoy Nabarro said in Geneva on Tuesday, adding that the outbreak is still flaming strongly in western Sierra Leone and some parts of the interior of Guinea. "We don't yet have the full number of functioning treatment centers and places where people who are ill can be kept away from others," he said. Dr. Nabarro expressed confidence that there will be an improvement in Freetown in the next few weeks. The rise in the spread of EVD in western Sierra Leone reflects the fact that tribal-led communities have yet to fully accept the outbreak and take action to avoid infection, he said.
3. EVD is still "running ahead" of efforts to contain it, WHO Director General Margaret Chan said, warning against complacency. The risk to the world "is always there" while the outbreak continues, Dr. Chan said. "It's not as bad as it was in September. But going forward we are now hunting the virus, chasing after the virus. Hopefully we can bring the number of cases down to zero." She said a key part of bringing the outbreak under control was ensuring communities understood EVD, as teams going into some areas were still facing resistance. Community participation is a critical success factor for EVD control, Dr. Chan said. "In all the outbreaks that WHO were able to manage successfully, that was a success element and this is not happening in this current situation."

### Human Rights

4. NSTR

### Response Efforts and Health

5. ECOWAS member states have pledged to deploy 192 military medical personnel over the next six months to strengthen the fight against the EVD epidemic in the region's most affected countries. In an extraordinary meeting of the Committee of Chiefs of Defence Staff in Accra on Monday, Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo pledged to contribute 8 military personnel each per two-month period: two medical doctors and six other health

officers. The pledges translate to 24 medical personnel per country over the full six months, which is 192 in total.

6. Several doctors in Sierra Leone were on strike for a second day on Tuesday to demand better care for medical workers who catch EVD, after a spate of recent deaths. The doctors want assurances that they will have access to life saving equipment, like dialysis machines, if they become infected.
7. In the last week, UNICEF procured supplies worth US\$ 725,240, including 10 RITE (Rapid Isolation and Treatment of Ebola) kits that are ready to be dispatched to hot spots to respond to flare-ups.
8. UNDP and the Liberian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare have finished verifying payrolls for EVD response workers in 10 of Liberia's counties, with the remaining 5 counties to be completed at the end of the week. Last week, 1,009 health workers were paid in full for the past three months in Montserrado, where the capital Monrovia is located. Payments for the remaining counties will start shortly and are expected to be complete before the end of the year.
9. 17,800 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries, where there have been 6,331 reported deaths.

### **Logistics**

10. WFP has been requested by UNMEER to support the upcoming Western Area surge in Sierra Leone with the augmentation of health facilities. WFP is dispatching two Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) in response, in support of the Ministry of Health in Sierra Leone. These MSUs will be transported today (10 December) to Hastings and will be set up next to a fully operational ETC as Convalescence Centres, where patients cured from EVD go to recover.
11. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

### **Resource Mobilisation**

12. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling US\$ 1.5 billion, has been funded for \$ 1 billion, which is around 67 percent of the total ask.
13. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 106.8 million in commitments. In total \$ 131 million has been pledged.
14. 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](mailto:fts@un.org).

### **Outreach and Education**

15. Yesterday, on Anti-Corruption Day, UNDP in collaboration with Liberia's Anti-Corruption Commission and the Carter Center set up public conversations on community radio stations in Bong, Lofa, Rural Montserrado and Nimba counties regarding how EVD response funds are used locally. County task forces collected and shared data for the wider public on who the donors are, how much they are funding, what activities and equipment they are contributing to, and which groups are being targeted. Community members made suggestions on existing gaps and possible priorities. To encourage people to listen to the shows in remote areas, 1,200 solar radios manufactured by South Africa based NGO Lifeline Energy were distributed across the four counties. UNDP plans to scale up the initiative and distribute another 3,000 radios targeting patients in ETUs, survivors and others.
16. In line with a request by President Condé for his ministers to go into the country and address the concerns of the population, the Guinean prime minister conducted a visit to Forécariah (one of the zones of community reticence) to reduce resistance by sensitizing the local population.

### **Essential Services**

17. NSTR

### **Upcoming Events**

- 10-11 December - High-level meeting on building resilient health systems in EVD-affected countries
- 11 December - Global Compact CEO-level Action Pledge Event at the UN.

### **Attachments and resources**

Reliefweb: [Maps on the EVD response](#)