

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

10 November 2014

### KEY POINTS

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned that despite reports of a slowdown in the rate of new cases, we are still a long way off from ending this crisis.
- Japan announced that it will make available an extra 100 million USD to fight EVD.
- A total of 13,268 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) have been reported. There have been 4,960 reported deaths.

### Key Political and Economic Developments

1. In an op-ed published by the Washington Post, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon cautions that even with reports of the rate of new cases beginning to slow down, we are still a long way off from ending this crisis. He stressed that the outbreak remains active, and that outbreak patterns often fluctuate. People are dying every day, and new infections continue. And no one can say with certainty what the coming weeks might bring. The Secretary-General went on to state that each day's delay in intensifying the response adds greatly to the toll in lives, the cost of ending the outbreak, the social and economic impact, and the risk of the disease spreading to other countries. EVD, he said, will be beaten through a resolute and coordinated effort. We have initial evidence to prove that this can happen. But we must speed up efforts to first get the crisis under control and then bring it to an end.

### Human Rights

2. NSTR

### Response Efforts and Health

3. WHO recruited and trained 30 doctors that will lead surveillance and contact tracing efforts in Guinea; they will be deployed to all prefectures in the country to strengthen surveillance.
4. WHO has released a 17-page manual detailing how to safely bury people who have died from EVD. The guidelines are part of an effort to reduce the likelihood of people contracting EVD from corpses, which is a priority as at least one in five infections occur during burials. The guidelines give step-by-step advice to health workers for both christian and muslim burials. WHO cites guidance from a muslim chaplain that the ritual washing of the body normally required is not needed when someone dies from EVD. The manual also recommends that items handled by the patient, particularly any mattress they may have used, be burned.
5. The last region of Sierra Leone to be affected by EVD, Koinadugu, in the north-east of the country, has seen 50 people die from the virus since mid-October, according to the Red Cross. Some 60 cases of Ebola have been confirmed in the region and at least 200 people have been placed in quarantine. Koinadugu is a remote, largely inaccessible, mountainous region. Previously it had prided itself on being the last unaffected area in the country.
6. A total of 13,268 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 4,960 reported deaths.

### Logistics

7. WFP has been liaising with private sector actors on services and products available to humanitarian partners, including in-kind donations. Rio Tinto has donated 20 vehicles to WFP (currently being de-labeled and re-registered) as well as a fuel farm and nine base camps. These camps will be used to accommodate 10 people (each) in deep field locations.

8. Transport service requests to WFP by the government, NGOs and UN agencies in Guinea are increasing. The equivalent of six twenty-foot containers of Ebola relief items are being loaded and dispatched to Ebola-affected areas on a daily basis.
9. In Liberia, the humanitarian response is still being hampered by a shortage of funds for fuel, as well as by poor roads that have worsened due to the current heavy rains. Lack of sufficient vehicles is also complicating the distribution of relief supplies and transportation of EVD patients. Travel restrictions due to the EVD crisis have significantly increased food prices and prices of drugs in private drugstores, thus limiting access to food, health care and essential drugs.
10. WFP indicates that a further two Forward Logistics Bases will be operational by the 2nd week of November - Harper in Liberia and Kailahun in Sierra Leone.
11. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

### **Resource Mobilisation**

12. Japan announced that it will make available an extra 100 million USD to aid the fight against EVD. This comes on top of a pledge of 40 million USD made by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in September. Japan also decided that, of that earlier 40 million USD, it will be providing 4 million USD each to the governments of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. That money is to go toward the purchase of medical and epidemic prevention equipment. In addition there will be a financial contribution to the UN Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund of 6 million USD to support the activities of UNMEER.
13. The African Union raised \$28.5 million at a meeting on Saturday from the continent's wealthiest individuals and firms for a fund to fight EVD. The AU and the African Development Bank will guide the set-up of the new fund, which will be administered by a board of trustees drawn from corporate Africa. At the meeting, African telecom firms also agreed to provide a platform for their customers to give at least a dollar each, with the potential of reaching 700 million mobile phone users.
14. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements of USD 988 million has received USD 623 million, which is around 63 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 121 million has been pledged.
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](mailto:fts@un.org).

### **Outreach and Education**

17. NSTR

### **Essential Services**

18. In the three affected countries, many children are left with no supervision after their parents have succumbed to EVD. Orphaned children in Sierra Leone face harsher conditions than during the civil war, the Guardian reports. The minister of social welfare, gender and children's affairs estimates the number of orphans at 2,600. UNICEF, however, puts the figures at 7,000 orphans.
19. There is a continuing need for food and livelihood assistance for people affected by EVD, as well as for the distribution of animal feeds. Food distribution to EVD affected communities under the health emergency response in Liberia is continuing to scale up. In addition to food distribution, partners are providing agricultural inputs and tools (such as rice, cassava sticks, pepper seeds and pesticides) and conducting trainings to increase awareness and improve hygiene and sanitation practices.

### **Upcoming Events**

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

### **Attachments and resources**

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