



HIGHLIGHTS

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon addressed the High Level Meeting on Ebola, hosted by the World Bank, where he reiterated the need for “at least a 20-fold surge in assistance” and for previous pledges to be delivered upon
- Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf suspended by proclamation the Senate elections, constitutionally set for 14 October
- Following this week’s announcement of an UNMIL international staff member testing positive for EVD, media reported yesterday that the UN staff member arrived in Germany where he is being treated in an isolation ward of a clinic in Leipzig.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. Yesterday, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon addressed the High Level Meeting on Ebola at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington D.C., during which he reiterated the need for “at least a 20-fold surge in assistance” and for previous pledges to be delivered upon, while commending the response efforts of medical and support personnel on the ground. The Secretary-General also cautioned that “things will get worse before they get better [but] how much worse depends on ... the international community”. Leaders of the worst-affected countries – Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia – also participated, with Sierra Leone’s President Ernest Koroma expressing that “the international response has been slower than the transmission”. President of the African Development Bank Donald Kaberuka echoed these sentiments, urging donors not to impose excessive bureaucratic structures and calling the response so far “too slow, too little, too late”.
2. Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf suspended by proclamation the Senate elections, constitutionally set for 14 October. According to reporting by the state news agency, Liberia News Agency, the President invoked the Constitution and the State of Emergency as authority for suspending all voting rights in connection with the elections, and directed the National Elections Commission (NEC) to commence consultations with key stakeholders. The Proclamation cited as its rationale the NEC’s explanation that it was unable to undertake necessary processes for the conduct of elections due to conditions created by Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and measures taken under the SoE. These processes include voter education, recruitment and deployment of polling staff, and campaigning by candidates.
3. SRSG Banbury concluded his visit to Conakry. During his final day in country SRSG Banbury visited an Ebola Treatment Center at the Donka Hospital and had meetings with the Head of Mission for Doctors without Borders; the Head of the National Ebola Coordination Cell; and civil society, youth and women’s associations. SRSG Banbury also held a press conference with the Guinean press at which he expressed confidence that with the right measures and response the epidemic would be brought under control in Guinea, whilst calling for urgent action.
4. The AU Strategic Task Force on the Ebola Emergency Response met three times this week to discuss new developments related to the AU mission to fight the Ebola epidemic, the “African Union Support to Ebola Outbreak in West Africa” (ASEOWA). During these meetings the urgency for the ASEOWA teams to be fully deployed to the affected countries prior to the AU Chairperson’s planned visit to those countries was stressed.
5. UNDP’s Director for Policy and Programme Support Magdy Martínez-Solimán, and Deputy Director for Africa Ruby Sandhu-Rojon, concluded their visit to Guinea on 9 October. They stated that urgent support is needed to avert an economic meltdown in the country. UNDP noted that container traffic in the port of Conakry is down by a third, while the airport is two-thirds empty. They added that the crisis has already affected every sector of the economy and would likely be felt ten years after the crisis has ended.
6. In the midst of increasing concerns about the economic impact of Ebola, Liberian Finance Minister Amara Konneh told the press Wednesday that “technically, the economy is in recession”. According to Minister Konneh, Liberia’s service sector has declined by some 10 per cent and the agricultural sector by 12 per cent, citing mining and manufacturing as other areas under heavy pressure. Meanwhile, Government revenues have dropped 20 per cent, leaving a budget gap of around USD

106 million, Konneh said. Liberia reportedly opened talks with the IMF on Wednesday to see if it would relax lending restrictions that have capped the amount the nation can borrow at 35 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product, although the Liberian Finance Minister said further borrowing would be a “last option”.

7. In the U.S. airline cabin cleaners at New York’s LaGuardia Airport have gone on strike due to concerns about the risk of EVD and other hazards, according to media. However, plans for the walkout were reportedly set before the Ebola outbreak surfaced, because of long-standard concerns over health issues. Further to yesterday’s report, the U.S. Government will commence checking the temperatures and health histories of passengers who began their travel in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia from this weekend at New York’s John F. Kennedy airport, and will expand next week to Washington Dulles, Newark Liberty, Chicago O’Hare and Atlanta Hartsfield.

Human Rights

NSTR

Medical

8. Following this week’s announcement of an UNMIL international staff member testing positive for EVD, media reported yesterday that the UN staff member arrived in Germany where he is being treated in an isolation ward of a clinic in Leipzig.
9. Yesterday, Médecins Sans Frontières highlighted a massive increase in new cases in Conakry, despite earlier hopes that the end of the outbreak in Guinea might be near following an apparent decrease in case numbers in July. The Donka Ebola management centre, situated inside the Ministry of Health hospital complex in Conakry, has been particularly affected by this new influx and was being has pushed the isolation facility to its limit of operation.
10. Yesterday, WHO indicated that the Spanish public health authorities are conducting an investigation to elucidate the mode of transmission of the Spanish female healthcare worker who, upon diagnosis with EVD, became the first case of human-to-human transmission of the disease outside of Africa. The patient, who is being treated under isolation at La Paz-Carlos III Hospital in Madrid, participated in the medical care of a Spanish citizen who died from EVD on 25 September following medical evacuation from Sierra Leone to Madrid.
11. Meanwhile, media reports yesterday indicated that a British male suspected of contracting EVD has died in Skopje, Macedonia, raising concerns that the disease is spreading in Europe. It was unclear, however, whether the man had recently been to West Africa.

Logistics

12. UNICEF Guinea received nearly 60 metric tonnes of medical supplies and equipment in Conakry this week. This was the first of several shipments funded by a World Bank grant.
13. In addition, approximately 45 additional offers and/or requests for release have been issued.
14. In Guinea, as part of its Conakry neighborhood police programme, UNDP is training and deploying 500 police – including many women – to some of the areas most vulnerable to Ebola infection. The newly-trained police personnel aim to help build trust, secure poor areas, report suspected cases and reach out to communities on how to avoid contracting Ebola. They will also work to fight Ebola in the Southeast, where the epidemic first appeared. In addition, UNDP is financing an early warning center, where reported security incidents from across the country, including 42 border posts, show up in real-time geolocation mapping on a screen in the Ministry of Security. The effort will help secure areas where the threat of Ebola has led to violence.
15. WHO has noted that its coordination centre will shift from Conakry to Accra, and that it will commence dedicated support calls to each of the affected countries. It will also have a colleague joining UNMEER.

UNMEER Staffing

	Onboarded	Incoming
Accra	60	11
Liberia	4	1
Sierra Leone	7	3
Guinea	6	4
Total	77	19

Outreach and Education

16. This week UNICEF reached 85,415 households (575,374 people including 211,924 children) through door-to-door campaigns and distributed 211,924 bars of soap 78,000 bottles of chlorine for handwashing and household water treatment, and tens of thousands flyers. An SMS campaign designed to coincide with the Festival of Tabaski, initiated by the Commission Communication with UNICEF, WHO and the Centre for Disease Control. The messages reinforced hand washing and the acceptance of the reality of Ebola in Guinea. In over 12,000 mosques, Imams gave sermons, some as long as 30 minutes about Ebola and how to protect oneself. This also coincided with Tabaski. UNICEF has reached an agreement with the Transport Company in Guinea (SOTRAGUI) to place 65 Ebola Posters on city buses, training of 800 drivers is also planned;
17. WFP is currently implementing food security surveys remotely, by mobile phone, in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The data helps WFP identify food security hotspots and monitor trends in these three Ebola-affected countries. The approach, called mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping or 'mVAM' involves contacting people by SMS or interactive voice response. Remote mobile data collection allows WFP to have a real-time read on basic food security indicators in these countries, an advantage in the fast-moving Ebola epidemic. The tool also limits risk to enumerators in the context of a major public health emergency.
18. UNDP has supplied hygiene kits to the Sierra Leone Commercial Motorbike Riders Union to help reduce the virus' transmission. Known as Okada riders, the drivers are at higher risk of Ebola infection due to the close contact with their fares. On 9 October, UNDP provided 125 buckets, 420 bars of soap, 3,000 vests and over 50,000 information leaflets. The riders are positioned well to distribute information throughout the community at large; one Okada rider, out of the 30,000 or so, picks up as many as 100 fares a day in Freetown. In Conakry, Guinea, UNDP has mobilized its network of 2,500 young volunteers who are helping to prevent the spread of the disease by distributing soap and chlorine and teaching community members how to thoroughly wash hands and avoid contact with possible cases.

Resource mobilization

19. All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org.

Essential Services

20. According to a WFP report on food security in Sierra Leone people living in the eastern districts of Kailahun and Kenema – where most EVD cases have been reported since the start of the outbreak – are being most affected by food insecurity, with 75 per cent of respondents in the east reporting a reduction in the number of meals and limiting portion sizes. However, the analysis also indicated that as the main annual harvest starts, staple food prices in the east are not showing serious anomalies compared to other regions of the country. Price trends will continue to be monitored in subsequent months with the continuation of SMS surveys.
21. In addition to WFP's study on food security, the Family Early Warning Systems Network also released a report on Wednesday, predicting that (based upon planning figures of 200,000-250,000 cases by 20 January 2015) local markets are likely to stop functioning and food shortages are likely to occur, compounded by a significant drop in household incomes and purchasing power. Notably, households with members infected by EVD and poor, urban households may reach emergency food insecurity levels by March 2015.
22. In light of these concerns regarding food security, WFP announced yesterday that it has launched a regional emergency operation which will provide food assistance to around 1.3 million people in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone over the next three months, in hope that it can prevent a health crisis from becoming a food crisis. WFP continues to distribute food to people under medical quarantine, people receiving treatment and their relatives, in addition to assisting the wider humanitarian community with transporting aid workers and critical supplies into the affected areas.

Regional

23. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) reported that its national society in Guinea Bissau has been conducting preparedness and sensitisation activities in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. These measures are being undertaken in response to the risk of EVD emerging in Guinea Bissau, which borders EVD-infected locations in neighbouring Guinea and Senegal. The borders are not closed and circulation of persons and goods is a factor of risk aggravation, according to the IFRC.

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

- 9-14 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

- [Logistics Cluster: Ebola Response Fact Sheet, as of 7 October 2014](#)
- [OCHA: Guinea – Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak, as of 8 October 2014](#)
- [OCHA: Guinea – Ebola Epidemic – 3W, as of 8 October 2014](#)
- [OCHA: Liberia – Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak, as of 8 October 2014](#)
- [OCHA: Liberia – Ebola Epidemic – 3W, as of 8 October 2014](#)
- [OCHA: Sierra Leone – Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak, as of 8 October 2014](#)
- [OCHA: Sierra Leone – Ebola Epidemic – 3W, as of 8 October 2014](#)