

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

11 November 2014

KEY POINTS

- MSF is calling for a change of strategy in the fight against Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Liberia, focusing on funding rapid response teams rather than large isolation units.
- 140 vehicles from UNAMID have arrived by air in Accra and the three affected countries. UNMEER Accra will deliver the remaining vehicles this week to Conakry and Freetown.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. Senegal has decided to reopen its border with Guinea and resume flights to Liberia and Sierra Leone. President Macky Sall said his country's decision had come in line with the recommendations of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to reopen borders with states affected by EVD. However, he did not give a date for reopening the border with neighboring Guinea or resuming flights with Liberia or Sierra Leone.
2. The United Nations and leading international transport, trade and tourism organizations today expressed concern about the reported denial of medical care for ill seafarers on board ships that had previously called at ports in EVD-affected countries. The Travel and Transport Task Force called for international cooperation of governments and the transport sector in following the recommendations of the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee on Ebola, convened by WHO.

Human Rights

3. Liberian president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has ordered four soldiers and their commanding officer to be punished for their actions during a protest over an Ebola quarantine in August, in which one boy was shot dead and others were injured. The government also agreed to pay the boy's family compensation.
4. On Saturday citizens in Coyah, Guinea, began protesting against contact tracers. Several incidents of vandalism were reported, and sensitization activities in this area were suspended. Protests also took place in Kaloum (Conakry) after the death of a woman thought to have EVD; youths started vandalizing the vehicle of Red Cross workers that had come to remove the body of the woman. The gendarmerie intervened to restore order and protect the officials of the Red Cross.
5. In Guinea, several deputies and human rights activists have begun a hunger strike at the Palais du Peuple. They are demanding the demilitarization of the town of Womey, where a group of EVD sensitizers were killed last September by angry residents.

Response Efforts and Health

6. MSF is calling for a change of strategy in the fight against EVD in Liberia, focusing on funding rapid response teams rather than large isolation units. It said that priority should be given to a more flexible approach that allows for rapid isolation and contact tracing in the case of new outbreaks, and that gets the regular healthcare system safely up and running again.
7. The United States has opened the first of 17 EVD treatment units it is building in Liberia. Officials gathered for the ceremony on Monday in Tubmanburg, about 60 kilometers (40 miles) north of the capital, Monrovia. The World Health Organization has said that the number of people with EVD appears to be in decline in the capital, but cases are popping up in other areas of the West African country. Local official Samuel Brown called the opening of the first 100-bed unit "history-making."
8. UNICEF is working with key partners to implement a comprehensive package of water supply, sanitation facilities and hygiene-related interventions in 65 Community Care Centers (CCCs) to be set up across Liberia. Last week, UNICEF trained county health teams and key implementing

partners from five counties (Grand Bassa, Lofa, Gbarpolu, Rivercess and Grand Cape Mount) on community engagement to complement the establishment of CCCs.

9. A meeting between the Liberian government and UN representatives took place on 10 November to align planning principles, given the current state of the epidemiology, and discuss challenges in the planning assumptions. The resulting planning tool, aimed at improving the planning process and supporting the government, UN and other partners to use the available resources in the most effective and efficient way, will be rolled out on Wednesday.
10. New Zealand is planning to send a medical team to Sierra Leone, to treat Ebola patients as part of a joint mission with Australia. The relevant proposal will be considered by the New Zealand cabinet shortly. The team from New Zealand will work with Australia, which will be managing a newly built 100-bed ETU. The first batch of volunteers will depart by the end of November. The volunteers will be chosen from the public health system.
11. UNICEF is distributing hygiene kits to benefit an additional 10,500 households in Margibi County, Liberia, this week, adding to the 15,579 families in Monrovia that received kits in previous weeks as part of UNICEF's efforts to promote hand washing at the household level.
12. UNMEER's Chief of Information Management visited the three affected countries and performed a diagnostic of information needs among the IM managers in each country, focusing on data collection via mobile phones and synchronizing national dashboards with the proposed UNMEER dashboard.
13. A two day planning consultation on cash payments to EVD response workers was held in Accra on 6-7 November with UN and NGO representatives and independent financial and mobile money experts. The meeting concluded that existing systems will be used and strengthened to make sure that all workers can be paid by 1 December, mostly through cash-based payments.
14. A total of 13,268 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported, the majority of which was in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. There have been 4,960 reported deaths.

Logistics

15. The Logistics Cluster is working to facilitate the augmentation of transport capacity in Liberia: 40 DAF trucks are currently en route from the Netherlands to Monrovia. 15 light vehicles (pickup trucks) will be procured locally for use by WFP for programme and common services activities. WFP has negotiated a lease for 30 long-haul trucks with United Mining Supply Company; these trucks will soon be dispatched from Guinea. Ground works in the Forward Logistics Base (FLB) in Kissidougou, Guinea, are ongoing and Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) are already on site. The site is already operational and 500m³ of storage space is available to the humanitarian community. The FLB site at Makeni, Sierra Leone, has two MSUs erected and is expected to be fully operational by 5 November.
16. Following delays due to decontamination concerns, 140 vehicles from UNAMID have now arrived by air in Accra and the three affected countries. With the last delivery from Sudan on 9 November UNMEER Accra will deliver the remaining vehicles this week to Conakry and Freetown.
17. Two UN helicopter routes have been established in Sierra Leone, regularly providing service in both northern and southern parts of the country. Each helicopter flies Saturdays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, reaching five towns in each area.
18. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

19. WFP has received € 24 million (more than US\$ 30 million) from the government of Germany to support the increasing need for food assistance to more than one million people affected by EVD. This is the largest contribution WFP has received so far for its EVD response. The funds have been allocated immediately, initially to buy food and finance an airlift operation to bring specialized nutritious foods to patients in ETUs, recovering survivors, and communities affected by widespread transmission. €5 million of this contribution will support WFP logistics, including UN Humanitarian Air Service flights transporting aid workers to the affected communities.
20. Musician and philanthropist Bob Geldof, who in 1984 worked with rock stars to record "Do They Know It's Christmas?", will raise money to combat EVD with a new version of the song. The new line-up is expected to include boy band One Direction and singers Ed Sheeran and Sam Smith.
21. Google launched a campaign Monday on the website onetoday.google.com/fightebola, to raise money to fight EVD. Google has donated US\$ 10 million and says it will match donations to the fund two to one until a further \$7.5 million more in donations has been collected. In addition, Google chief

executive and co-founder Larry Page said his family's foundation is contributing \$15 million to the cause.

22. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements of US\$ 988 million has received \$ 623 million, which is around 63 per cent of the total ask.
23. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 60.6 million in commitments. In total \$ 121 million has been pledged.
24. 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.

Outreach and Education

25. Week 4 of the Emergency Radio Education Programme (EREP) continued in Sierra Leone, with one hour lesson broadcast daily for children across a network of 41 radio stations nationwide. Different timeslots have been allocated for primary, junior and secondary school children.

Essential Services

26. According to WFP, all areas of Liberia are affected by food insecurity. Households in the central zone that includes the counties of Nimba, Bong and Margibi are most frequently affected. This zone accounts for the bulk of EVD cases outside the capital, Monrovia. According to recent inter-agency assessments, food demand and supply has diminished due to quarantine measures. The price of imported rice in Liberia has increased since April, influenced by exchange rate depreciation. Cassava prices have remained stable.

Upcoming Events

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

Attachments and resources

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