

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

12 December 2014

KEY POINTS

- Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed of Mauritania will succeed Anthony Banbury as Special Representative and Head of UNMEER in early January.
- Community resistance continues to be experienced in many regions of Guinea.
- 18,118 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) have been reported in the three most affected countries, where there have been 6,533 reported deaths.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon yesterday announced the appointment of Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed of Mauritania as his new Special Representative and Head of UNMEER. Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed will succeed Anthony Banbury, who will return to New York in early January 2015. The Secretary-General expressed his gratitude to Mr. Banbury for his vision and leadership of UNMEER, and for his commitment to fighting this unprecedented EVD outbreak. Bringing more than 28 years of development and humanitarian assistance experience with the United Nations in Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe, Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed is currently Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Deputy Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), United Nations Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative. He served as Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Syria (2008-2012) and Yemen (2012-2014).
2. The Red Cross warned on Thursday of a possible rise in the rate of EVD infections in West Africa as people travel across the region during the festive holidays. Urging people to take extra care to limit the spread of the virus, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Secretary General Elhadj As Sy said increasing rates were not inevitable but were a real risk. "Now is the time to be even more vigilant," he told an audience at the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London. "We all welcome the plateauing and the signs of declines we are seeing in some places, but that should not be a reason for complacency."

Human Rights

3. NSTR

Response Efforts and Health

4. 13 incinerators have arrived in Liberia, supported by WHO and UNOPS. They are being installed in Redemption Hospital, JFK Hospital, Island Clinic, MoD and SKD ETU. 10 of these have been installed. ICRC is leading the training and technical support for the assembly of these 13 incinerators, which are to be used for bio-medical waste disposal at the ETUs. UNOPS and WHO have organized training for operators from government counterparts and NGOs who have taken operational responsibility.
5. The Liberian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW) and UNDP visited eleven out of the fifteen counties to verify, and in some cases create, lists of Ebola response workers that are still to be paid. The MOHSW committed to paying eight of the counties this week for three months back-dated pay, though payments are yet to be verified with the Ministry of Finance. Challenges to making payments continue to emerge, including that in several counties individuals refuse to open bank accounts because they have never had bank accounts before and are not comfortable opening one for the first time.

6. Nine caregivers, who are EVD survivors, were trained last week on the basic concepts of child protection at the UNICEF-supported Interim Care Center in Liberia, meant for children needing observation for a period of 21 days.
7. 18,118 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries, where there have been 6,533 reported deaths.

Logistics

8. WFP has dispatched a 30,000-litre fuel tank to the Ebola Treatment Centre (ETC) in Beyla, Guinea. The work is being done in partnership with the fuel distributor TOTAL, who have deployed five technicians to finalise the installation of the tank.
9. WFP has erected four Mobile Storage Units in Forward Logistics Base (FLB) Buchanan for use by the humanitarian community. WFP now has five fully operational FLBs in Liberia, facilitating the storage and dispatch of essential humanitarian cargo to key locations.
10. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

11. Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah has granted US\$ 35 million to fight EVD, the Islamic Development Bank said Thursday. The grant will provide schools and airports in West Africa with heat sensors and medical equipment to help prevent and treat the illness, Ahmed Mohamed Ali, president of the Jeddah-based IDB, said in a statement. The funds will also help to establish specialized treatment centers in the most affected countries -- Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia.
12. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling US\$ 1.5 billion, has been funded for \$ 1.05 billion, which is around 70 percent of the total ask.
13. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 108.2 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.

Outreach and Education

15. According to WHO, on 9 December there were a total of 21 sub-prefectures across Guinea where EVD response efforts are facing community resistance. These sub-prefectures are located in the three main areas affected by the epidemic: the Forest Region; central-northern Guinea and Conakry and adjacent prefectures. Resistance is often due to insufficient sensitization, lack of trust stemming from the non-delivery on promises by EVD responders (such as ambulance transportation or kit distribution) and the fact that many patients admitted to the ETCs are not surviving. The National Ebola Response Cell (NERC), with UNMEER support, is taking action to resolve bottlenecks in the delivery of hygiene and supply kits and the establishment of Community Watch Committees which are critical to stop transmission and lift resistance.
16. Following an outbreak in Quewin, Grand Bassa County (Liberia), UNICEF joined partners in organizing social mobilizers to engage the quarantined community and neighboring communities, providing messaging on prevention and rapid reporting and isolation of sick family members.
17. In Guinea, FAO undertook a field mission to measure the impact of social mobilization activities carried out by FAO-trained rural development agents. More than 27,500 farmers and hunters have been sensitized to preventive measures against EVD thanks to an awareness-raising campaign led by 90 agents from the ministries for Livestock, Agriculture, Water and Forestry/Environment and Trade in the prefectures of Pita, Siguiri, Kissidougou, Guéckédou, Macenta, Nzérékoré and Yomou. These agents had been previously trained in communication and EVD prevention techniques with FAO support. The activities are carried out in collaboration with the National Ebola Coordination Unit and its partners, especially for the definition and use of prevention messages.

Essential Services

18. NSTR

Upcoming Events

- NSTR

Attachments and resources

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