



HIGHLIGHTS

- According to the latest WHO Ebola Response Roadmap Update, a total of 8,399 cases and 4,033 deaths have been reported in the current outbreak and infections among health care workers also continue on an upwards trajectory, with 416 cases and 233 deaths
- On 10 October, UNMEER SRSG Anthony Banbury briefed the General Assembly on the Ebola epidemic in West Africa via video-link from UNMEER Headquarters in Ghana
- On 10 October 2014, the Deputy Secretary-General launched the inaugural meeting of the Global Ebola Response Coalition

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. On 10 October, UNMEER SRSG Anthony Banbury briefed the General Assembly on the Ebola epidemic in West Africa via video-link from UNMEER Headquarters in Ghana. SRSG Banbury assured that the UN is “moving resources to where it is needed most”, while reiterating that the Mission “shall play the role of crisis manager not just response coordinator”. He also added that traditional social and cultural practices in the affected countries are among the factors contributing to the spread of the virus and thus there is need to find methods to combat the disease that are acceptable at community levels. Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson, who joined the briefing, said that the Ebola outbreak was putting “hard-won development progress in jeopardy, neighbours are at risk and none of us are insulated from the threat posed by Ebola”, in addition to appealing to Member States to act generously and swiftly, suggesting that a “contribution within days is much more important than a larger contribution within weeks”. Meanwhile, U.S. Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power told the General Assembly that according to the UN's financial tracking service, only 24 countries have pledged USD 1 million or more to the efforts. Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Ebola Dr. David Nabarro and President of the General Assembly Sam Kutesa also addressed Member States.
2. On 10 October 2014, the Deputy Secretary-General launched the inaugural meeting of the Global Ebola Response Coalition (GERC), bringing together high-level participants from across key Member States and donors, UN entities and operational partners, and the governments of affected countries to reach a common assessment and agreement of the way forward in the response effort. Special Envoy Dr. Nabarro noted that the GERC would focus on how to work better together for a common response, including through leveraging synergies, analyzing resources, assessing implementation and aligning communication or messaging.
3. The Liberian Parliament decided not to grant President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf emergency powers to suspend several provisions of the Constitution including on the right to free movement, free speech and prohibitions on forced labour. Further to last week's mention of new rules for journalists in Liberia, on 10 October a Government spokesperson reportedly announced: “journalists are no longer allowed to enter ETUs ... [as] they violate people's privacy”. Media reports suggested that sources from Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Liberia intend to seek exemption from the ban.
4. On 8 October, the media reported that the Liberian Ministry of Finance and Development Planning announced that modalities had been completed for the payment of hazard allowance and death benefits to health workers working in Ebola Treatment Units (ETU). While preliminary information suggests that as of 10 October, health workers had started receiving their allowances, the amount being received was reportedly less than initially promised. According to the Health Workers Association of Liberia (HWAL), a national strike would take place on 13 October if their stand-off with the Government was not resolved in the next few days.
5. The impact of EVD outbreak on the Liberian economy, livelihoods and food security is becoming more entrenched. Around 60 per cent of markets outside Monrovia have closed or scaled down. Nine out of 12 large mining concessions have stopped or significantly reduced their activities.
6. IMF chief Christine Lagarde on Saturday reminded the international community that all of Africa has not been hit with the deadly Ebola epidemic, which remains relatively isolated in three countries.

With those three West African nations - Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia - already seeing their economies crumble because of the disease, Lagarde emphasized: "We should very be very careful not to terrify the planet in respect of the whole of Africa. These three countries are severely hit. We are going to try to give them as much support as we can; the big urgency is to stop it, contain it".

7. Continuing with a visit to Sierra Leone, the AU Commissioner for Social Affairs Mr MS Kaloko had an audience with members of the Sierra-Leone House of Parliament on 10 October where it was discussed that the AU medical team to Sierra-Leone is expected to arrive on 15 October due to travel issues.

Human Rights

8. According to UNICEF's latest update, some of the major child protection concerns that are being raised in Sierra Leone are the significant increase in orphans and unaccompanied and separated children; the poor condition of children in quarantined households and the quality of care, including psychosocial support for children in ETUs, Ebola holding centres and interim care centres. Stigmatisation and discrimination also remain high in communities. In terms of nutritional requirements for children, UNICEF cautions of a need for supplementary food for infants and under-fives in quarantined household and Ebola healthcare facilities.
9. With support from UN Women, the Liberian Ministry of Gender and Development is scaling-up its prevention, awareness-raising and contact-tracing efforts through its women's networks, including female traditional leaders, rural women groups, women in cross-border trade, women farmers and businesswomen at the various markets under the Liberia Marketing Association in Monrovia and across the country. UN Women in Liberia is also extending its support to civil society organisations, men's advocacy groups and implementing partners on various efforts to combat Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

Medical

10. According to the latest WHO Ebola Response Roadmap Update, a total of 8,399 cases and 4,033 deaths have been reported in the current outbreak of EVD across Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain and the U.S., as of 8 October. Infections among healthcare workers (HCWs) also continues on an upwards trajectory, with 416 cases and 233 deaths, as of 8 October.
11. There are 41 staff members of UNMIL, including 20 military personnel, under close medical observation following the evacuation of one of its international UN volunteers infected with EVD on 8 October.
12. Following the death last week of the first person to be diagnosed with EVD in the U.S., the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced yesterday that a HCW at Texas Presbyterian Hospital, who provided care for the Ebola patient, has tested positive for EVD according to preliminary tests. The HCW remains in isolation as confirmation testing at the CDC's laboratory was carried out yesterday.
13. The Spanish healthcare worker who became the first case of human-to-human transmission of EVD outside of Africa is reportedly showing slight improvement, according to media reports from the weekend.
14. On Saturday, Mali's Health Minister announced to the press that the country had started trials of an Ebola vaccine on volunteer scientific researchers in Bamako. The vaccine is being developed by the British drug company GlaxoSmithKline and the U.S. National Institutes of Health.
15. There is reported to be an urgent need for personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies for non-ETU health facilities – hospitals, health centres and clinics – in Liberia. Basic health services continue to decline as health care workers fear contracting EVD without adequate protection.
16. Although the total daily testing capacity in Liberia is 480 specimens, only 150 specimens are analyzed on average. The lack of vehicles to transport the specimens from ETUs and isolation units has been highlighted as the main reason for this underutilization by many health partners.
17. Many questions about the roll-out of the Community Care Centres (CCCs) remain to be answered. The lack of reliable data is hampering evidence-based planning for CCCs; in some places, communities do not accept the construction of CCCs close to health facilities. UNICEF is including key messages on CCCs in its social mobilization programmes.

Logistics

18. According to WFP's most recent update, it has delivered 7,100 metric tonnes of food for 458,000 people in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone since April. Meanwhile, UN Humanitarian Response Depots in Dubai, Accra and Las Palmas have dispatched 275 metric tonnes of protective gear, emergency health kits, relief items and equipment to the region thus far. In addition, the WFP-managed UN Humanitarian Air Service has transported 655 passengers and approximately 9.2 metric tonnes of light cargo for 30 organizations to date.
19. The creation of a new Special Operation (SO) on 2 October by the WFP will create the necessary logistics platform to scale-up operational capabilities. The main priorities of the new SO in the three affected countries include: the procurement of equipment to set up ETUs and Ebola Care Units; the establishment of 12 Forward Logistics Bases (FLB); the augmentation of transport capacity; and the mobilisation of an additional 100 staff across the region. The Logistics Cluster has already commenced assessing land allocation for an FLB in Kissidougou, Guinea. It is also assessing options to extend storage and to establish a Common Logistics Hub in Conakry.
20. As planned, a cargo plane carrying almost 100 tonnes of essential medical supplies left Amsterdam on 10 October en route to Sierra Leone, as part of UNICEF's continuing response to the Ebola outbreak ravaging parts of West Africa. Similar flights are planned for Liberia and Guinea, part of a EUR 1 million (approximately USD 1.3 million) donation from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO).
21. UNICEF recently handed over 22 tents to WHO in Sierra Leone, of which 17 will be used for the Ebola care units at the chiefdom level in Port Loko. The distribution of antimalarial medications for primary health units was completed for eight districts: Bo, Bombali, Bonthe, Kailahun, Kambia, Kenema, Koinadugu and Kono. UNICEF continues to deliver PPE, critical health, nutrition and WASH supplies to the districts on the planned two-week distribution schedule, based on availability of supplies at the central medical store in Freetown.
22. According to the media, a total of 591 Nigerian healthcare workers have volunteered to be deployed by the Federal Government to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea to join global efforts at containing the spread of EVD. Nigerian Minister of Health Onyebuchi Chukwu informed the press that the volunteers are currently awaiting screening, special training and final approval from President Goodluck Jonathan before they are released.

UNMEER Staffing

	Onboarded	Incoming
Accra	60	9
Liberia	4	1
Sierra Leone	12	4
Guinea	8	4
Total	84	18

23. In addition, approximately 50 additional offers and/or requests for release have been issued and are pending.
24. The Delegation of Authority for Property Management, including exceptions to the policy, was received by the mission from the ASG/OCSS/DM.

Outreach and Education

25. UNICEF has been working to strengthen large-scale social mobilisation and communication campaigns throughout Sierra Leone, with the recent release of the Knowledge, Attitude and Practice findings, the rollout of the National Communication Strategy Response to Ebola and the updated mapping of partners' interventions by district.

Resource Mobilisation

26. The head of the African Development Bank expressed concern on Saturday that some donors responding to the Ebola crisis were repackaging aid money, funneling it away from other areas in need in the three countries at the center for the epidemic. In an interview, Donald Kaberuka said moving funds from already allocated development projects in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone was unhelpful in the long term and make their rebuilding harder. "We need to put new money on the table" he said, adding that he feared that once the crisis eased countries would be left without funding for development projects earmarked before Ebola arrived.

27. [Business.un.org](http://business.un.org) is an online 'matchmaking' platform for the UN to advertise in-kind needs and requests for private sector support. The platform also allows businesses to submit offers of pro-bono goods or services and propose partnerships to UN entities. As in 2013 following Typhoon Haiyan, the platform has now been placed in disaster mode, and is being tailored to leverage private sector support for Ebola response. The list of preliminary in-kind needs has already been used to populate the asks. This will be updated as new needs are identified. Agencies will also be invited in the coming days to publicize in-kind needs through this channel, which will be managed by the UN Global Compact in cooperation with UNMEER.
28. 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

29. WFP reports that while the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster has not yet been officially activated, common telecommunications services will enable shared 24/7 security telecommunication services in 13 locations across Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Shared ICT infrastructure will also provide radio communications and internet connectivity in 60 ETCs across the three countries.
30. Following WFP's recently reported findings from its mobile Vulnerability Mapping Assessment in Sierra Leone, WFP is also progressing with the conduct of a similar survey on the impact of the Ebola outbreak on the food security situation in Guinea. Questionnaires have been recorded in the three local languages and data collection is ongoing. Meanwhile, in Sierra Leone, WFP is establishing a rapid response team to work closely with the Ministry of Health, WHO, NGOs and medical teams to streamline information gathering and food distribution to ETUs, and quarantined and isolated areas.
31. In the lead up to the seventh Global Handwashing Day on 15 October, UNICEF issued a release stating that the fight against Ebola further underscores the importance of handwashing as part of a raft of measures that are needed to halt the spread of Ebola. Head of UNICEF's global water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programmes Sanjay Wijesekera explained that "[handwashing] is not a magic bullet, but it is a means of additional defence which is cheap and readily available".
32. UNICEF in Liberia continues to address issues related to the EVD epidemic through a range of measures. This includes the supervision of the construction and installation of WASH facilities, and the provision of supplies, at the Liberian Ministry of Defence and Samuel K. Doe Stadium Stadium ETUs. The ETUs have now been connected to Monrovia's water supply system, while borehole drilling is in its final stage and excavation works for septic tanks is now underway. Despite UNICEF's considerable efforts to date in Liberia, a number of programmatic shortfalls remain.

	UNICEF TARGET	UNICEF RESULT	% TARGET COVERED
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)			
Estimated # of people reached with hygiene kits	250,000	66,470	27%
Estimated # of people reached by hygiene promotion messages and awareness	275,000	187,502	68%
CHILD PROTECTION			
# of children participating in psycho-social activities	300	60	20%
# of orphaned and abandoned children (survivors or contacts) reintegrated into their families or placed into appropriate alternative care	300	52	17%
EDUCATION			
# of education workers effectively trained as Ebola awareness social mobilizers	11,165	403	3.6%
COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (C4D)			
# of master trainers trained on social mobilization and community awareness	120	40	33%
# of general Community Health Volunteers trained in social mobilization	2,371	400	17%

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
- 13 October - visit to Conakry of H. E. Walter J. Lindner, Special Envoy of the German Government

- 14 October - Security Council meeting on the Ebola crisis
- 16 October - visit to Conakry of Dr. Rajiv Shaw, Administrator of USAID
- 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

- [WHO: Ebola Response Roadmap Update, as of 10 October 2014](#)