



HIGHLIGHTS

- The Security Council held a special session yesterday to receive briefings on the Ebola crisis
- 8935 cases of Ebola virus disease and 4455 deaths have been reported
- UNMIL SRSG Landgren announced the death of the United Nations Volunteer who worked in the UNMIL Medical team and was evacuated to Germany last week to receive treatment

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. The Security Council held a special session yesterday afternoon on the Ebola crisis. UNMEER SRSG Banbury, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous and Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tayé-Brook Zerihoun all provided briefings. The Ambassadors of Ebola-affected countries - Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone - also spoke during the session. SRSG Banbury highlighted the central importance of ramping up the international response so that 70 per cent of cases are being treated and 70 per cent of burials occur safely by 1 December. SRSG Banbury reported to the Council that if these targets were not met the prospect of turning around the exponential spread of Ebola would become significantly more difficult. The members of the Security Council expressed their grave concern about the extent of the Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak and recognized the efforts of national governments, international organizations and partners, and the UN system. The members of the Security Council also welcomed the swift establishment of UNMEER and paid special tribute to the efforts of first-line responders to EVD.
2. The Liberian Senate concurred with the postponement of the 14 October midterm senatorial elections agreed earlier by the House of Representatives.
3. Sierra Leone security forces clashed with residents of a densely populated neighbourhood in the capital Freetown who were protesting delays in removing the corpse of a suspected EVD victim. Security forces fired tear gas and rounds from AK-47 assault rifles to disperse the crowd that had erected barricades. Residents said the body had been left unattended in the street for two days.
4. The acting Head of UNMEER in Guinea attended a meeting with the National Coordinator of the Ebola Cell and the Guinea Center of Disease Control. He also met with representatives from the British Embassy, the Cuban Medical Advance Team and Mr. Ranu Dhillon from Columbia University.
5. UNDP's Director for Africa Abdoulaye Mar Dieye convened the second emergency meeting of UN Regional Directors in Dakar that sought to operationalize the WHO-led initiative to support contingency planning and prevention for unaffected countries in the sub-region, including how the UN Country teams can support governments in implementing their national preparedness plans.

Human Rights

6. Reports of stigmatization of healthcare workers, members of dead body management (DBM) teams, EVD patients, and survivors, continue from across the country. OHCHR met with DBM team members who have reported ostracism as their communities fear contamination.
7. The Liberian Health Minister Walter Gwenigale, threatened to fire healthcare workers who take part in nationwide strike called by the Liberian National Health Workers Association. The Minister said on state radio "those who stay home in respect of the order given by the health workers union will be replaced and will never come back to work".

Medical

8. 8935 (probable, confirmed and suspected) cases of EVD and 4455 deaths have been reported up to the end of 11 October 2014 by the Ministries of Health in Guinea, and Liberia, up to the end of 12 October by the Ministry of Health of Sierra Leone, up to the end of 30 September by the Ministry of Health of Nigeria, and up to the end of 1 October by the Ministry of Health Senegal.

9. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that the death rate in the Ebola epidemic has now reached around 70 per cent. The number of cases is continuing to rise in the most affected countries, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone and could reach 5,000-10,000 cases per week by December.
10. UNMIL SRSG Landgren announced the death of the United Nations Volunteer who worked in UNMIL Medical team and was evacuated to Germany last week to receive treatment for EVD. This is the second death in the mission due to EVD, after an earlier probable case that resulted in the death of a national staff member on 25 September.
11. Sharon Ekambaram, head of Doctors Without Borders in South Africa, said that 16 of its staff members have been infected with EVD and nine have died. She added that medical workers have received inadequate assistance from the international community and that while many pledges had been made publicly, they have not improved the situation in the affected countries.
12. A battalion of 800 Sierra Leone soldiers awaiting deployment as peacekeepers in Somalia has been placed in quarantine after one of its members tested positive for EVD.
13. The United States is establishing a rapid-response team to help hospitals within hours of a new case of EVD presenting.
14. WHO reports that it expects to declare the end of the limited Ebola outbreaks in Senegal and Nigeria as early as Friday and Monday respectively.
15. Liberia's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Bernice Dahn, has returned to office after being quarantined for 21 days. She was placed under observation after it was feared that she might have been exposed to EVD after her Special Assistant died of the virus last month.

Logistics

16. The International Atomic Energy Agency announced it would provide specialized diagnostic equipment to help Sierra Leone in its efforts to combat the outbreak. This will later be extended to Guinea and Liberia.
17. The Centre for Disease Control (CDC) visited several potential sites in Liberia for the construction of Community Care Centers. They witnessed vectors of active transmission whereby probable EVD patients were staying at home instead of going to Ebola Treatment Centers (ETCs) and families were carrying out unofficial burials of probable EVD victims. It is becoming increasingly apparent that people are not going to ETCs due to the fear of cremation and the lack of options for communication for families whose loved ones have been infected with EVD.
18. Four International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) trucks with sanitation kits and high-energy biscuits are on their way to Monrovia from Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. ICRC received clearance from the Ivorian authorities after 15 days of negotiations.
19. The Philippine military said Tuesday that over 100 peacekeepers from the country deployed in Liberia will be repatriated next month due to the risk posed by EVD.
20. Four helicopters were offloaded in Freetown. Five vehicles were also handed to the WFP and one to the AU, pending the arrival of additional vehicles.
21. Logistics Cluster is facilitating the issuance of National Task Force on Ebola (NTFE) stickers to vehicles transporting response supplies. All convoys will be required to have the first, last and middle vehicles carrying the sticker. The Liberian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW) will provide a list of all NGOs working with them to the Liberian National Police to also be granted a quick right of passage at the checkpoints.

Outreach and Education

22. The WFP is implementing food security surveys by mobile phone (mVAM) in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The WFP's first round of mVAM conducted by SMS in Sierra Leone shows the districts most affected by the Ebola outbreak are worse off in terms of food security. At the time of the last comprehensive survey in 2010, these districts were the most food secure in the country. Many people are also switching to less preferred foods (e.g. from rice to cassava flour) or cutting back on the number of meals.

Resource Mobilisation

23. Special Envoy Dr. David Nabarro and SRSG Banbury continue to call for an urgent increase in the mobilization of resources from all key partners to check the exponential spread of EVD.

24. Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg announced Tuesday that he has donated \$25 million to the US CDC for the fight against Ebola.
25. 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

26. UNMEER Director and Senior Adviser of Essential Services conducted a three-day mission to Dakar to meet and dialogue with regionally based UN and NGO entities as well as Member States. Discussions covered vulnerability and field activity mapping and analysis, information management, harmonized resource mobilization, and essential service priorities for the UN system and the relationship with the UNMEER strategic objectives and targets. Cluster arrangements were explored as options in supporting the UNMEER objectives as they relate to essential services.
27. The WFP in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone has delivered 9,145 metric tones of food for 536,000 people since April 2014. 819 responders have also been transported by UNHAS, with two planes and one helicopter in operation and over 6,227 m3 of medical cargo has been transported.

Upcoming Events

- 13-17 October – U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Rajiv Shah will travel to Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Senegal
- 15-18 October – Crisis management operational planning meeting UNMEER HQ, Accra
- 16 October – Meeting of EU health ministers to discuss screening possible EVD victims when entering the EU block
- 16 October: VTC - UNMIL/Liberia CRC meeting
- 16-17 October – Survivors' Conference in Kenema, Sierra Leone, hosted by the Government of Sierra Leone and UNICEF
- 17 October – Next meeting of the Global Ebola Response Coalition
- 11 December – Global Compact CEO-level Action Pledge Event at the UN

Correction

- Yesterday's Ebola situation report referred to the Ebola Multi-Party Trust Fund (MPTF) as the primary source of funding for the activities of UNMEER. This is inaccurate as UNMEER's core funding is provided through assessed contributions. The MPTF will be used predominantly to fund Ebola response activities identified under OCHA's Overview of Needs and Requirements and carried out by agencies, funds and programmes, in addition to those by NGOs. For further information please see the [MPTF Factsheet](#).