



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

19 November 2014

KEY POINTS

- The election campaign for the Liberian senate will begin on 29 November, despite the continuing spread of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).
- 264 UN vehicles have been transported to the three most affected countries, for use by UNMEER and implementing partners.
- A total of 14,413 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in 8 countries. There have been 5,177 reported deaths.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. The chairman of the Liberian National Elections Commission (NEC) has announced that official campaign activities for the Special Senatorial Elections will begin on Thursday November 20, despite the EVD outbreak. The NEC urged candidates and their supporters to observe all public health regulations instituted by the government to prevent the spread of EVD during the campaign.
2. India has quarantined a man who was cured of EVD in Liberia but continued to show traces of the virus in samples of his semen after arriving in the country. The Indian man carried with him documents from Liberia that stated he had been cured. He will be kept in quarantine until the virus is no longer present in his body, the Indian health ministry said.
3. Sierra Leone's president has suspended his uncle from a prestigious position as a tribal chief for flouting laws designed to contain EVD. The uncle, head of the northern village of Yeli Sanda, is accused of covering up secret burials of victims who should have been reported to the authorities.

Human Rights

4. Guinea's Ministry of Justice said its investigation into the September killings of EVD health workers and a journalist in a southeastern village is moving swiftly, with a trial expected by year's end. The team of health workers and a journalist were attacked in Wome as they traveled through the southeast to raise awareness about the virus. Justice Minister Cheick Sakho said that authorities are working swiftly on the legal case against those responsible for the murders. Sakho said 81 people have been indicted so far, and 39 are in custody. Police have 40 more arrest warrants to execute.

Response Efforts and Health

5. WHO is seeking faster and cheaper tests to detect EVD to help stamp out the last few cases of the deadly fever once the main epidemic has been tackled. EVD tests currently take 2-6 hours to deliver a result and are "cumbersome, slow and complex", requiring a full tube of blood, sophisticated equipment, trained staff and a high level of bio-safety, WHO's Pierre Formenty said Tuesday. WHO hopes to find a test that can yield results in 30 minutes and can be easily stored, with no need for a power supply or maintenance and no bio-safety requirements beyond the usual personal protective gear worn when treating EVD patients.
6. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced that it will be supporting efforts to scale up the production and evaluation of convalescent plasma and other convalescent blood products as potential therapies for people infected with EVD. Various drugs will also be evaluated, including the experimental antiviral drug brincidofovir. The foundation has committed US\$ 5.7 million to the effort, and specific trials will be confirmed in coordination with national health authorities and WHO.
7. WHO is assisting the government of Mali to identify and monitor contacts, and prevent the EVD outbreak there from spreading. To date, almost 600 contacts have been identified and nearly all have been placed under surveillance. WHO's focus will be to work closely with the government to identify all potential chains of transmission and monitor the contacts so that everybody could be monitored for 21 days, after which, the transmission would hopefully stop. The Malian health ministry, supported by WHO, has augmented the number of staff engaged in contact tracing by

drawing on polio surveillance teams and using local medical students with training in epidemiology. The country is also ramping up its capacity to perform exit screening at Bamako airport.

8. The Danish government has decided to provide an additional US\$ 19.5 million to strengthen the EVD response, including deployment of Danish health care personnel and a base camp to accommodate international health care personnel in Sierra Leone. Denmark will deploy health care personnel and establish training facilities in the most affected countries. It will also make a contribution of US\$ 5.1 million to the UN Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund.
9. A total of 14,413 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in 8 countries. There have been 5,177 reported deaths.

Logistics

10. Two planes from Russia, carrying medicine and hospital equipment destined for Guinea, have departed from Sochi, the Russian defence ministry has announced. The planes are carrying over 150 metric tons of special medical equipment for the field hospital, which can host 200 patients that can be treated simultaneously.
11. As of 14 November, 140 vehicles from UNAMID have been distributed to their in-country destinations. On 20 November, 50 vehicles from UNDOF will be airlifted to the affected countries. In total, 264 UN vehicles have been transported to the three countries, 74 of which are for UNMEER; the remaining vehicles are meant for use by implementing partners.
12. Between 9 and 16 November, 370 metric tons were flown on 14 strategic and regional flights (including 5 flights from Accra) to the affected countries, carrying several vehicles, humanitarian supplies, and PPE. Passenger services by UNHAS and UNMEER as of 12 November totalled 540 flights carrying 2,309 passengers, for a total of 59 user organizations.
13. AIRLINK has space available for Logistics Cluster members FREE OF CHARGE from Liege to Freetown. The expected departure date is 26 November. Contact AirBridge@airlinkflight.org before close of business today.
14. The Logistics Cluster through WFP has organised a free flight from Cologne to Monrovia with departure in week 48. Contact the Air Coordination Cell as soon as possible to book space: ebola.acc@logcluster.org.
15. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

16. The World Bank announced a US\$ 285 million grant to finance EVD containment efforts underway in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, as well as to help communities in the three countries cope with the socioeconomic impact of the crisis and rebuild and strengthen essential health services. The grant is part of the nearly US\$ 1 billion previously announced by the World Bank for the countries hardest hit by EVD. The grant provides additional financing to the bank's Ebola Emergency Response Project, including US\$ 72 million for Guinea, US\$ 115 million for Liberia and US\$ 98 million for Sierra Leone, the three countries most affected by EVD.
17. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling US\$ 1.5 billion, has been funded for \$ 699 million, which is around 47 per cent of the total ask.
18. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 71.9 million in commitments. In total \$ 121 million has been pledged.
19. 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

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Essential Services

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Upcoming Events

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

Attachments and resources

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