



This is a high-level summary of the UNMEER Crisis Reports issued from Monday to Friday. It also includes major developments occurring over the weekend, up to the time of release.

Scale of the crisis

1. The crisis is fast moving and the situation worsens every day. A total of 9216 cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) have been reported and there have been 4555 deaths. The WHO estimates the death rate from EVD in this outbreak has reached 70 per cent and that the number of cases in the most affected countries - Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone - could reach 10,000 cases per week by December.
2. With EVD cases now confirmed in Spain and the US, a number of countries are implementing more rigorous airport screening and a small number have imposed restrictions on travellers from affected countries. This is despite statements from US President Barak Obama and World Bank Executive Director Jim Yong Kim that isolating the affected countries is “not an effective strategy”.
3. Political and economic vulnerabilities in each affected country are on the rise. In Liberia, health care workers undertook limited strikes over conditions, Senate elections were postponed and reports of press censorship continue to increase. Proposals to curtail additional rights under the state of emergency are also causing concern among some sectors of the population. In Sierra Leone, security forces clashed with residents of a densely populated neighbourhood in the capital Freetown who were protesting delays in removing the body of a suspected EVD victim.
4. Food security in each of the affected countries is also under increasing pressure (food prices have increased by 24 per cent due to the crisis) and adverse economic impacts continue as major employers are scaling back or shutting down.

United Nations System Response

5. The United Nations concluded a four-day meeting at UNMEER HQ in Ghana that produced an operational framework for a unified and coordinated approach to the international support provided to the affected countries. The Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General, Director General of the WHO, Executive Director of WFP, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Ebola and SRSG Banbury attended the meeting. SRSG Banbury will travel to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone next week to consult with national authorities and to brief on operational plans. The Leaders of these countries have the final decision on the overall approach and strategy for dealing with EVD.
6. SRSG Anthony Banbury also briefed the Security Council on the EVD outbreak during a special session on 14 October. He highlighted the central importance of ramping up the international response so that 70 per cent of cases are isolated and 70 per cent of burials occur in a safe and dignified way 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 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.
7. Major announcements of support on the ground include the WFP in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone that has delivered 9,145 metric tonnes of food for 536,000 people since April 2014. A total of 819 responders have also been transported to affected countries by UNHAS, with two planes and one helicopter in operation. In addition, over 6,227 m³ of medical cargo has been transported. UNICEF signed a USD 1 million agreement with Save the Children to provide essential life-saving health, nutrition and water, hygiene and sanitation interventions in Liberia. In Sierra Leone, school-aged children are now benefiting from an Emergency Radio Education Programme broadcast across the country on a network of over 40 radio stations.

Member State Contributions

8. A number of Member States announced large financial contributions to the Ebola response. The US has pledged USD 142 million to build and Ebola treatment centres (ETCs) as well as 5 million to help Liberia compensate health workers on the frontline of the EVD epidemic. Germany has increased its financial contribution to USD 127 million and Canada will increase its aid to USD 53 million. Norway

will increase by its total support to some USD 49.8 million. Sweden informed that it would increase its contribution to USD 33.3 million.

9. There have also been significant offers of additional in-kind assistance. The EU has reportedly reached an accord with the US to provide a reliable medical evacuation for international responders to the EVD crisis, with more detail to be provided in coming days. A total of 591 Nigerian healthcare workers have volunteered to be deployed to the affected countries and the East African Community is also sending over 600 health workers (including 41 doctors). The Canadian Government had offered to donate 1000 beds for the response in Sierra Leone. A Chinese drug maker informed that it has sent an experimental EVD drug to Africa for use by Chinese aid workers and is planning clinical trials. A German aircraft provided UN humanitarian supplies and equipment to Sierra Leone and Guinea.

Support from partner organisations

10. Major partner organisations reported on their cumulative efforts towards stopping EVD. Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF) has deployed 276 international and around 2,977 local staff in the region and operates six ETC (nearly 600 beds) since the beginning of the outbreak. MSF has admitted more than 2,700 EVD patients (around 1,000 have survived) and provided more than 807 tonnes of supplies. The International Committee of the Red Cross reports that it has so far recruited over 4,200 workers in the affected countries to manage safe burials.

Summary of Key Gaps and Needs

11. Financial assistance provided to stop Ebola is increasing, but not quickly enough. A total of USD 386 million has been received towards the overall needs and requirements of USD 988 million outlined by OCHA. This represents 39 per cent of the total ask. The Ebola Multi-Partner Trust Fund, established by the Secretary General as a key part of the crisis response, has only received deposits of USD 100,000.
12. Securing ETC beds remains a top priority if the important goal of 70 per cent of cases isolated by 1 December is to be reached. The WHO has estimated (below) the number of beds required in each of the three most affected countries. The deployment of additional military personnel to build ETCs, as well as foreign medical workers to staff them, remains critical. Related to this, high quality care facilities for international and local staff working to stop EVD are required in-country as well as guaranteed options for medical evacuation where appropriate. EVD has killed 427 healthcare workers and this week MSF reported it had lost 9 staff members so far and was reaching the limit of its capacity to fight EVD.

	Existing ETU beds	Planned ETU beds	Existing ETU beds/planned ETU beds (%)
Liberia	620	2930	21%
Guinea	160	260	50%
Sierra Leone	346	1198	29%

13. Safe and dignified burials are also of critical importance as they are responsible for a very significant number of new infections. We are aiming at 70 per cent of safe burials by 1 December. Recruiting, training and remunerating safe burial teams is vital, as well as community outreach and education. The US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has observed in Liberia that it is becoming increasingly apparent that people are not going to ETCs due to the fear of cremation.
14. WHO has now officially declared the Ebola outbreak in Senegal over, highlighting the critical importance of preparedness in countries at high risk of an outbreak of EVD. Important success factors in preventing the spread of EVD in Senegal included, strong political leadership, early detection and response, public awareness campaigns, and strong support from partner organizations. SRSG Banbury met with the President of Ghana, Mr. John Dramani Mahama, this week and the issue of preparedness was a key topic of discussion. The WHO has also announced that it will send experts to test EVD preparedness measures in the Ivory Coast and Mali.