

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

21 November 2014

KEY POINTS

- UNMEER SRSG Anthony Banbury visited Mali in the past two days, where he met with the president, government officials and other partners to discuss response efforts.
- In Sierra Leone, WFP and UNICEF have agreed to systematically integrate social mobilization activities into food distribution.
- A total of 15,145 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in 8 countries. There have been 5,420 reported deaths.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. UNMEER SRSG Anthony Banbury, accompanied by WHO Assistant Director-General Bruce Aylward, visited Mali in the past two days. The country is working hard to contain the spread of EVD after an imam infected with the virus travelled from Guinea to its capital Bamako. In Mali, the SRSG met the president, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, the health minister, and the national EVD response coordinator, offering UNMEER's support in containing the virus while it is still in its early stages. The president and the SRSG agreed that Mali could benefit from the lessons learned in the three most affected countries, and that there was a chance to contain the virus if all involved acted fast. In Mali the SRSG also met with representatives of UN organizations and implementing partners.
2. Liberia will see its economy shrink by 0.4 percent this year, and 2015 could be even worse, its finance minister said on Thursday. The finance ministry had earlier projected growth of 5.9 percent this year. But that was before EVD struck the country, crippling agriculture and Liberia's fast-growing mining sector in particular.

Human Rights

3. NSTR

Response Efforts and Health

4. The spread of EVD remains intense in most of Sierra Leone even as things have improved somewhat in the two other countries hardest hit. Some 168 new confirmed cases emerged in a single week in Sierra Leone's capital of Freetown recently, according to a WHO report. The report released late Wednesday indicated that Sierra Leone had the lowest percentage of EVD patients who had been isolated, only 13 percent. By comparison, that figure was 72 percent in Guinea. Health officials are aiming to isolate at least 70 percent of the sick, a target UNMEER ECM Amadu Kamara acknowledged was still far out of reach: "Progress is slow and we are falling short, and we need to accelerate our efforts".
5. France announced that it would deploy troops to Guinea to assist in the EVD response effort. France would also support the establishment of 3 additional Ebola treatment centers (ETCs) in Guinea in collaboration with partners Médecins sans frontières, Médecins du monde and the French Red Cross. Furthermore, it was announced that France would open a training centre in Conakry to train national volunteer EVD responders, and a centre in Paris to train international volunteers intent on coming to Guinea as EVD responders.
6. The UN and its partners are accelerating the deployment of preparedness strengthening teams to help countries build upon their existing work and planning for a possible EVD outbreak. This week, WHO has deployed teams to Benin, Burkina Faso, Gambia and Senegal.
7. A total of 15,145 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in 8 countries. There have been 5,420 reported deaths.

Logistics

8. In Guinea, the Forward Logistics Base (FLB) in Kissidougou is now finalized and fully operational. Four Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) have been erected, for a total storage capacity of 2,400 m².
9. In Liberia, last week, WFP dispatched 390 metric tons (mt) of food to various locations in Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Montserrado, Nimba and Grand Cape Mount counties and prepositioned 9,200 mt of food across the country. WFP has also secured space on a regular ferry service in order to transport humanitarian cargo between the ports of Monrovia and Harper. This will speed up connections between the main logistics hub and the FLBs.
10. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

11. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling US\$ 1.5 billion, has been funded for \$ 740 million, which is around 49 per cent of the total ask.
12. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 71.9 million in commitments. In total \$ 121 million has been pledged.
13. 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

14. In Sierra Leone, WFP and UNICEF have agreed to systematically integrate social mobilization activities into food distribution. Social mobilization teams, which include staff from both WFP, UNICEF and cooperating partners, will deliver EVD awareness messages at food distribution points in Community Care Centers (CCCs) and holding centers.
15. According to WHO, on 18 November, EVD sensitization and/or case tracing efforts met with resistance by local inhabitants in at least 18 different localities in Guinea. UNMEER is working with the Guinean Ebola National Response Cell and through its Field Crisis Managers on the ground to better track and monitor those areas and develop solutions.
16. An additional 300 young people have registered for U-report, a new tool UNICEF is using for community engagement in Liberia, bringing the total number of U-reporters to over 550. A large portion of these new users were engaged in Lofa county, where a UNICEF team traveled last week for mobilization of youth associations as youth mobilizers. In the first national poll focusing on EVD awareness, 69% of youth said that 'no school' was the thing that bothered them most about EVD. When asked about the EVD level in their community, 78% of respondents said that they thought the level had gone down. Poll results are available live at: <https://liberia.ureport.in/>
17. In response to the outbreak (27 confirmed cases) in Liberia's Taylor-Town in Bomi county, UNICEF and partners organized social mobilizers to support active case finding, who went door to door to all 137 households, providing prevention messaging and asking residents if anyone was sick in the home. The social mobilizers also provided messaging on hygiene promotion and rapidly reporting and isolating sick family members while waiting for an ambulance to arrive in the vicinity of the town. Many villages in the area are difficult to reach, and inhabitants reported that the teams were the first to visit their village to provide information on EVD.

Essential Services

18. In Liberia, self-quarantined Gleyansiasu Town in Gbarpolu county has reported ongoing food shortage and lack of some basic medical supplies. The County Task Force noted that the shortage was due to the bad condition of the access roads and the inaccessibility to the area.

Upcoming Events

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

Attachments and resources

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