



HIGHLIGHTS

- UNMEER SRSG Banbury visited Conakry to brief the President and key partners on the operational framework for the EVD response and to seek agreement on the way forward
- The UN Secretary-General thanked Australia, Colombia and Venezuela for their deposits to the UN Ebola trust fund and urged countries to provide further funding as well as in-kind support

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. UNMEER SRSG Banbury visited Conakry. He met with President Condé of Guinea to present the operational framework for the EVD response agreed in Accra last week, and ensure a shared understanding of the key challenges and priority needs for Guinea. The SRSG also briefed the UN Country Team, the donor community and members of the Ebola National Coordination Cell. The briefings were well received and all parties committed to support its implementation and further development to reflect the realities of Guinea.
2. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the growing number of financial and in-kind commitments countries are making to the global Ebola response. He thanked the Governments of Australia, Colombia and Venezuela for financial deposits and commitments to the UN Ebola Trust Fund totalling nearly \$14 million. The Secretary-General urged countries to provide not just funding, but also trained medical personnel, mobile laboratories, vehicles, helicopters, protective equipment, and medevac capacities.
3. UN Special Envoy for Ebola Dr. David Nabarro met with French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius. They agreed that the international community must further intensify its efforts to fight EVD. France will build a hospital in Guinea to treat local medical staff infected with the virus, in addition to the three treatment centers for Ebola patients that France is already building. France will also help train medical staff in Ebola treatment methods at training centers in Guinea and in France.
4. UNMEER Ebola Crisis Manager Amadu Kamara attended the induction of 14 district coordinators from the Sierra Leone National Ebola Response Centre charged with implementing the National Ebola Response. ECM Kamara also met with representatives of the UN Country Team to discuss the provision of health care for UN staff in the wake of the recent death of a UN staff member from EVD.

Human Rights

5. NSTR

Medical

6. WHO reported that tens of thousands of doses of experimental Ebola vaccines could be available for testing in West Africa as soon as January. Clinical trials that are either underway or planned in Europe, Africa and the US are expected to produce preliminary safety data on two vaccines by December. If safe, they will be used in trials in West Africa beginning in January.
7. France's Atomic Energy Commission reported that a new device similar to a simple pregnancy home-test could allow doctors to diagnose a patient with suspected EVD in under 15 minutes. Trials have validated the technique and prototype kits should be available in affected countries by the end of October for a clinical trial.
8. The US increased its safeguards against EVD, requiring travelers from the three most affected countries to fly into New York's John F. Kennedy, New Jersey's Newark, Washington Dulles, Atlanta, or Chicago's O'Hare, international airports that are conducting enhanced screening for EVD. The precautions stop short of the travel ban sought by some US lawmakers.
9. The European Commission confirmed that under its Humanitarian Aid Regulation medical evacuations of international workers can be covered up to 100 per cent of their cost, and recalled that other elements such as existing insurance coverage will need to be taken into account to determine the exact percentage on a case by case basis.

Logistics

10. WFP handed over to the Government of Sierra Leone a total of 30 vehicles (20 ambulances and 10 burial vehicles). This delivery constitutes the first set of 74 vehicles worth US\$4 million to be brought in by WFP from its logistical hub in Dubai. The remaining 44 vehicles are expected in Freetown by sea in the coming weeks.
11. 150 UK soldiers, mostly medics of the Royal Army Medical Corps, arrived in Freetown, Sierra Leone to add capacity to the Ebola response efforts.
12. Korea will send a small team of medical experts from the Ministries of Health and Welfare, Defense and Foreign Affairs to Liberia and/or Sierra Leone early next month. Korea indicated that a larger team could be sent in the near future.

Outreach and Education

13. According to the National Secretary-General of the Young Women's Christian Association in Liberia, the association had commenced a six-month Ebola Awareness Campaign Project in nine hard-hit communities, focusing on contact tracing and EVD sensitization. The association trained and deployed 40 female youth beneficiaries between July and August, who are paid USD 5 a day.

Resource Mobilisation

14. The Republic of Korea announced a pledge of \$5 million to the UN Ebola Multi-Partner Trust Fund yesterday. Commitments and pledges to the fund currently stand at \$50 million.
15. 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 emailing fts@un.org.

Essential Services

16. FAO and partners are carrying out joint, rapid assessments to understand food security needs in the most-affected regions of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. FAO country offices estimate that final data should be available by the end of October, and the first half of November for Guinea.
17. Christian Aid reported that the risk of hunger and malnutrition within Ebola-hit communities in West Africa is threatening to undermine the effectiveness of quarantine measures and, with it, the wider Ebola response.

Upcoming Events

- 21-24 October – SRSB Banbury to travel to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone
- 23 October – Third meeting of the World Health Organization's emergency committee on Ebola
- 11 December – Global Compact CEO level action pledge event at UN