

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

24 November 2014

### KEY POINTS

- WHO Director-General Margaret Chan is in Mali to help organize the response to the outbreak.
- Germany has funded 400 motorbikes that have been sent to the most affected countries.
- A total of 15,351 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) have been reported in 8 countries. There have been 5,459 reported deaths.

### Key Political and Economic Developments

1. The Director-General of WHO, Margaret Chan, was received on Saturday by Malian Prime Minister Moussa Mara. As the head of a large delegation, Chan came to Bamako at the invitation of Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita to help organize the response against EVD. The delegation and the Malian government will carry out a joint analysis of the situation, the needs and how the international community's response can be strengthened. The delegation members visited response facilities in Bamako and focused on raising awareness via the involvement of civil society, religious leaders and government workers.
2. While reiterating grave concern about the unprecedented extent of the EVD outbreak in Africa, the Security Council noted the international community's "considerable" efforts to scale up its coordinated response, which had led to important progress on the ground. In a statement after its meeting on Friday, the council underscored the continued need for robust contact tracing, as well as social mobilization and community level engagement, especially outside of major urban areas in the most affected countries. Further, it was critical, the council stated, to put in place medical evacuation capacity, as well as treatment and transport provisions to facilitate the immediate and unhindered deployment of health and humanitarian workers. The dynamic needs on the ground required a flexible international response, the council stated, strongly urging states, airlines and shipping companies to maintain trade and transport links with the most affected countries.
3. A new 92 bed capacity ETU has opened near Kakata, in Liberia. The facility was constructed by the NGO Save the Children with USAID funding and it will be operated by International Medical Corps, which is also serving the Gbarnga ETU in Bong county.
4. On the occasion of the opening of the Kakata ETU, local counterparts emphasized to UNMEER that the EVD response has entered into the second phase, which they described as "hunting the virus". The officials also mentioned the need to expedite the payment for EVD health workers, as key government personnel are taking jobs with NGOs. Case denial at the family level for fear of quarantine and stigma reportedly also remains present in several communities.

### Human Rights

5. NSTR

### Response Efforts and Health

6. As part of UNICEF's overall EVD response, a total of 27,759 household protection kits have been released in Liberia as of last week. The latest batch of kits, which contain protective gear and sanitation supplies, will be used in 61 CCCs across all 15 counties. A smaller batch will be used by vaccinators as part of the revitalisation of essential immunization effort in health facilities and outreach locations.
7. On 24 November, UNDP launched a project to boost sanitation and health in and around the border town of Kourémalé, Guinea, where thousands of people travel from Guinea into Mali every day. Local teams of engineers and community workers are renovating 1 health post, 2 bus stations and 1 market, equipping them with improved latrines and tap basins, as well as soap, chlorine and buckets. The teams are also reaching out to people crossing the border on how to prevent the spread of Ebola. 5 WHO field epidemiologists have also gone to Kourémalé to assist.

8. A UN health worker was discharged from a French hospital on Sunday after recovering from EVD. The UN worker had been flown to France from Sierra Leone and was in isolation at the Begin military hospital in the eastern Paris suburb of Saint-Mandé.
9. A total of 15,351 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in 8 countries. There have been 5,459 reported deaths.

### **Logistics**

10. Germany has funded 400 motorbikes that have been sent to the countries most affected by the EVD epidemic, to speed up testing for the virus. The specially adapted fleet of bikes will be used to transport test samples to laboratories from remote areas, where patients often have to wait days for results. WFP said the motorbikes should cut transport delays to a day.
11. In Guinea, WFP is in the process of constructing four ETUs; three are planned to hold 50 beds each and one is planned to hold 40 beds.
12. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

### **Resource Mobilisation**

13. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling US\$ 1.5 billion, has been funded for \$ 761 million, which is around 51 per cent of the total ask.
14. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 71.9 million in commitments. In total \$ 121 million has been pledged.
15. 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](mailto:fts@un.org).

### **Outreach and Education**

16. Following the death in Bamako of an imam from Guinea, UNDP and UNICEF have helped organize a gathering of 35 muslim leaders and local officials in Kankan, Eastern Guinea, where they were trained on how to protect themselves and vowed to encourage people to join the fight against EVD.
17. The NGO International SOS has released a mobile app designed to help share its medical and travel information on EVD. The free app is available on iOS and Android devices. It provides online, instant access to key sections from International SOS' dedicated EVD website, including maps of the affected areas and the latest updates on the outbreak.

### **Essential Services**

18. EVD has crippled the provision of treatment and care to people living with HIV/AIDS in Liberia, according to health workers and patients. There are an estimated 30,000 people living with HIV in Liberia, according to UNAIDS. Before the EVD outbreak, more than 70 per cent of them had access treatment via 144 HIV/AIDS care centers across the country. But now, due to a shortage of health workers and fear about EVD transmission, more than 60 per cent of these facilities have closed. The National AIDS Control Program (NACP) is now going door to door in Montserrado county to deliver antiretroviral drugs each week or else refer people to mobile treatment centers to fill prescriptions.

### **Upcoming Events**

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

### **Attachments and resources**

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