

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

25 November 2014

KEY POINTS

- UNMEER SRSG Anthony Banbury has stated the mission is already exceeding its 1 December targets in some areas, but added that the targets will not be reached by that date in other areas.
- WFP will support the Rapid Isolation and Treatment of Ebola (RITE) response by providing aviation support; plans are to have two or three UNMEER helicopters on standby in Monrovia.
- 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. UNMEER SRSG Anthony Banbury has stated in an interview with Newsweek that the mission is already exceeding its 1 December targets in some areas. He added, though, that it is almost certain the targets will not be reached in all areas. The target was to have 70 percent of patients under treatment and 70 percent of victims buried safely. That target has been achieved in some areas, Banbury said, citing progress in Liberia. But he added that the mission will almost certainly fall short in other areas. In both those cases, the mission will adjust to what the circumstances are on the ground. Of greatest concern are rural parts of Sierra Leone, as well as Makeni in the centre and Port Loko in the northwest. Additional efforts by the international community remain needed.
2. Mali has confirmed a new case of EVD, bringing the number of confirmed cases in the country to eight. The patient has been placed in a treatment center. Six of Mali's eight patients have died. The other confirmed case has also been isolated and is receiving treatment. Officials are monitoring 271 people in a bid to contain the disease.
3. 150 health workers from ECOWAS countries will be trained in Accra this week to help tackle EVD in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. ECOWAS announced the health workers from Benin, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger and Nigeria will start work with personnel of the health ministries of the three most affected nations. The deployment is part of ECOWAS' regional response plan aimed at providing substantial support in human resources to strengthen the countries' health systems.
4. Sierra Leone announced a death from EVD on 21 November in the eastern city of Kenema, which had been the epicenter of the outbreak but had gone more than three weeks without new infections. It had been hoped that, even as EVD continues to spread fast in the western area encompassing the capital Freetown, the eastern region where the crisis first emerged had beaten the virus.

Human Rights

5. According to WHO, in Kourémalé (Siguiri prefecture, Guinea), a village on the Guinea-Mali border, members of the local community have threatened teams of contact tracers who arrived to follow up on recent EVD cases traced to the unsafe burial of the local imam who died of EVD in late October. Whereas the Mali side of the border today has a functioning isolation/treatment centre, active surveillance in place and no community resistance, there is no such center on the Guinean side. The latter also has only limited surveillance and is experiencing serious community resistance.
6. According to OHCHR, people in Koropara sub-prefecture (Nzérékoré prefecture) threatened to chase away the sub-prefect and health workers after three patients were transferred to Guéckédou ETC and died thereafter. Families of the victims accuse the local authorities of selling their relatives to the Red Cross. Lack of feedback related to the fate of patients at the ETC is one the causes. Red Cross teams in Nzérékoré said they would not operate in Koropara until a sustainable solution is found for security reasons.

Response Efforts and Health

7. The government of Liberia has completed acquisition of a plot of land to be used as a national cemetery. This is a critical step towards a safe burials system that doesn't require the highly

unpopular practice of cremation. A survey showed that throughout October, most of the bodies handled by burial teams came from ETUs (85%). 14.7% came from communities and 0.3% were found abandoned. The survey also indicated that secret burials are on the decline.

8. In Guinea, EVD is spreading in the north up to the border with Mali, an area with no functioning EVD treatment centres or transit centres. The prefecture of Siguiri has seen a resurgence of cases, many of which are related to the unsafe burial at the end of October of a local imam infected with EVD. There is also active transmission in the areas of Kankan and Kouroussa. Meanwhile, the newly opened 40-bed Ebola Treatment Centre (ETC) in Macenta, Guinea, had already surpassed its capacity, with 22 confirmed cases and 19 suspected cases. The ETC in Guéckédou has also had to turn away patients in recent days due to capacity constraints.
9. UNMEER Guinea reports that community reticence in many areas remains the main obstacle to contact tracing. Reticence is often due to communities being disappointed with the EVD response, for instance because of lacking ambulance services or support to the families (often due to logistic and funding shortcomings). In addition, national contact tracing staff is often not paid or paid very little which creates a lack of incentive.
10. In Liberia, WFP will support the Rapid Isolation and Treatment of Ebola (RITE) response by providing aviation support; plans are to have two or three UNMEER helicopters positioned in Monrovia by next week to ensure immediate dispatch of teams and supplies to any outbreak.
11. UNICEF has provided to the government of Guinea 66 Land Cruiser vehicles, 10 pickup trucks and 200 motorcycles, for a total amount of US\$ 2.3 million. The donation is co-funded by the World Bank (\$1.9 million) and UNICEF (\$401,487). The vehicles are intended to be used for social mobilization.
12. In Liberia, UNDP facilitated the first of four monthly payments to 1,026 active case finding volunteers in Montserrado county, where the capital Monrovia is located. The volunteers operate in their own neighbourhoods, and have managed to visit 66,389 households in a total of 173 communities.
13. 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

14. The first inter-agency airlift, supported by the Logistics Emergency Team and facilitated by the Logistics Cluster, from Germany's Cologne Bonn airport to Monrovia is set to depart tomorrow. The flight will transport over 560m³ of cargo (including two vehicles) on behalf of eight organisations.
15. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

16. The African Development Bank has committed a grant of US\$ 3 million to the WHO country office in Mali, to support containment of EVD in the country. The funding will be used to support case management, contract tracing, logistics and social mobilization activities.
17. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling US\$ 1.5 billion, has been funded for \$ 779 million, which is around 52 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

20. NSTR

Essential Services

21. NSTR

Upcoming Events

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

Attachments and resources

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