

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

27 November 2014

### KEY POINTS

- Guinean president Alpha Condé said the use of force could be justified in battling the outbreak
- Abdou Dieng of Senegal has been appointed UNMEER Ebola Crisis Manager for Guinea
- A total of 15,935 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) have been reported in 8 countries. There have been 5,689 reported deaths.

### Key Political and Economic Developments

1. Guinean president Alpha Condé said on Wednesday the use of force could be justified in battling the EVD outbreak in his country. "There are still people who think Ebola is fiction," Condé told a press conference. "We have an agenda which is to finish with Ebola as soon as possible and in Guinea this is possible," he added. "If people don't want to be treated we will use force because we won't allow the illness to spread despite all our efforts." The spread of EVD in Guinea has been accompanied by fear and paranoia among some villagers who feel the government and the international community cannot be trusted.
2. The outbreak in Sierra Leone, which has been surging in recent weeks, may have reached its peak and could be on the verge of slowing down, Sierra Leone's information minister said Wednesday. Speaking on the nearing completion of two British-built treatment centers, minister Alpha Kanu said: "We believe that now that those treatment centers are ready, the transmission of new cases will start reducing. We are at the plateau of the curve and very soon we will have a downward trend, once we have somewhere to take people." The minister also pleaded for the US to assist in Sierra Leone, and announced that the country would repeat its shutdown of September, when people across the country had to remain at home while medical teams went door to door.
3. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon announced the appointment of Abdou Dieng of Senegal as the Ebola Crisis Manager for Guinea, as part of UNMEER, succeeding Marcel Rudasingwa. In this role Mr. Dieng will continue the mission's work with the government of Guinea and key stakeholders in ensuring a rapid and effective response to the EVD crisis in the country.

### Human Rights

4. In Sierra Leone, UNDP funded and advised the Office of National Security in rolling out new Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) for 2,000 security forces working at checkpoints and quarantined neighborhoods across the country. Military and police are being trained on how to respect human rights and communicate with courtesy, and have committed to engaging with community leaders in all checkpoints and quarantined areas. The SOPs were developed in close consultation with the Sierra Leone armed forces, police, Ministry of Health and Human Rights Commission. The government of Sierra Leone is using quarantines and checkpoints to halt the spread of EVD, but the methods used have led to tensions between security forces and civilians.

### Response Efforts and Health

5. WHO reported Wednesday that Guinea isolates more than 70% of all reported cases of EVD, and has more than 80% of required safe burial teams. Progress has apparently been slower in parts of Liberia and Sierra Leone, although continuing challenges in data collection and analysis preclude firm conclusions across the board. On those countries, WHO reports that the goal of isolating 70% of patients has regrettably not yet been reached in either, although data on isolation is up to 3 weeks out of date. Every EVD-affected district in the three intense-transmission countries has access to a laboratory for case confirmation within 24 hours. WHO also reported that in all three countries more than 80% of contacts associated with known EVD cases are traced, though the low mean number of contacts per case suggests that contact tracing is still a challenge in areas of intense transmission.

6. On 26 November, Guinean Ebola National Coordinator Dr. Sakoba Keita inaugurated the #115 Ebola national hotline. The hotline's call center was funded by the United States government and it is being managed by CDC. The hotline has been operational for several weeks and receives an average of 10,000 calls per day. So far, 80% of calls have been unrelated to EVD. Of the remaining calls, 80% of callers asked for information concerning prevention and 20% of calls reported EVD-related cases or deaths. The next step is for the call center to become fully operational in handling EVD-related events, through partnerships with MSF for case referrals and with the Guinean Red Cross for the collection of victims.
7. WHO informed that it had completed the training of 75 Guinean doctors who will be deployed in affected prefectures to supervise health workers conducting contact tracing. WHO had previously trained more than 50 doctors who have been deployed in affected prefectures for the same purpose. WHO's objective is to have 6 doctors in each of the 17 active prefectures.
8. South Korea announced an agreement with Britain to evacuate South Korean medical workers who may get infected with EVD while working at a British-run ETU in Sierra Leone. Seoul will send 10 medical workers next month to work at the new ETU in Goderich, outside Freetown. Under the agreement, an EU-operated plane will fly any infected South Korean medical worker to an EU hospital for treatment, as if they were an EU citizen. Australia has a similar agreement with Britain.
9. A total of 15,935 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in 8 countries. There have been 5,689 reported deaths.

### **Logistics**

10. WFP has been supporting the humanitarian community in Sierra Leone through the provision of technical assistance and Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) to partners: one MSU has been loaned to Save the Children to support their storage capacity at the Ebola Treatment Centre (ETC) in Tokei Beach, Freetown. Two more MSUs have been loaned to GOAL in Makeni, also for storage augmentation of their ETC.
11. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

### **Resource Mobilisation**

12. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling US\$ 1.5 billion, has been funded for \$ 841 million, which is around 56 percent of the total ask.
13. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 71.9 million in commitments. In total \$ 121 million has been pledged.
14. 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**

15. In Liberia, UNICEF deployed 66 social mobilizers as part of its rapid response teams to respond to recent outbreaks in Grand Cape Mount, Sinoe and Rivercess counties. These recent additions bring the total number of UNICEF-supported social mobilisers deployed in partnership with the Development Communication Initiative to 178 across nine counties. Their role is to engage communities in EVD-affected districts to adopt EVD prevention and protection measures.

### **Essential Services**

16. NSTR

### **Upcoming Events**

- 29 November - Inauguration of new Ebola Treatment Center (ETC) in Nzérékoré, Guinea
- 11 December - Global Compact CEO-level Action Pledge Event at the UN.

### **Attachments and resources**

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