

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

28 November 2014

### KEY POINTS

- The first human trial of an experimental vaccine has produced promising results.
- Some traditional leaders in Liberia remain reluctant to participate in response efforts.
- 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. WHO needs reform to prevent a recurrence of crises such as West Africa's Ebola outbreak, former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said on 27 November. Rudd is leading a two-year study to suggest ways to improve the effectiveness of the UN system and other global bodies, which are often deadlocked by disagreements between states or hamstrung by their internal bureaucracy. Rudd said he was seeking practical recommendations to improve the system's effectiveness, adding he thought WHO suffered from a "systemic problem" in the way power was shared between its central organization and regional branches. "If you do not want this sort of thing to repeat itself then a substantive reform would lie in sufficiently empowering WHO globally to act globally on threats to global public health," Rudd said in Geneva after briefing diplomats.

### Human Rights

2. NSTR

### Response Efforts and Health

3. The first human trial of an experimental EVD vaccine has produced promising results. All 20 healthy adults who received the vaccine in a trial run by researchers from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Maryland, US, produced an immune response and developed antibodies, the NIH said Wednesday. None suffered serious side effects, although two people developed a brief fever within a day of vaccination. A larger trial will now be held to determine whether the vaccine can prevent EVD infection.
4. On Tuesday 25 November a national consultation took place in Monrovia about the payment of wages to EVD response workers. The meeting was co-chaired by UNDP and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. The main challenge that emerged from the meeting was the absence of any centralised government list of response workers. County visits will be held in the coming days, with the goal of gathering all the information needed to develop a centralized, national database of response workers. A similar consultation was held in Guinea on 26 November, and there it was also agreed that a database of response workers would be set up so all payments can be tracked.
5. According to WHO, an agreement was reached on 26 November between the Guinean and Malian authorities to allow the transportation of EVD samples from the affected border town of Kourémalé (Siguiri prefecture) for processing by a laboratory in Bamako.
6. UNICEF, along with county health teams, key partners and local communities, is setting up 15 Community Care Centers (CCCs) in EVD hotspots in Liberia. In these CCCs patients can be safely isolated and rapidly treated close to the community. First of its kind, the newly-opened Jene Wonde Rapid Response Center includes triage to separate patients based on the severity of their symptoms, medication to control the symptoms and infection prevention measures such as a strict separation of spaces, personal protective equipment, safe waste disposal and hygiene and sanitation supplies.
7. Construction of four Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs) is ongoing in Guinea: those in Nzérékoré and Coyah will be operational by the end of the month, while those in Beyla and Kérouane will be completed by 7 December. The four ETUs can host up to 190 patients.

8. The Canadian Department of National Defence will send healthcare and support staff to Sierra Leone for up to six months. The Canadian military doctors, nurses and medics will be stationed with personnel from the UK at the Kerry Town treatment unit, treating healthcare workers who have been exposed to the virus.
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. In Liberia, 48 startup kits are ready to be dispatched, to operationalize ETUs and CCCs throughout the country. So far 59 containers have been handled by the logistics cluster in Liberia in support of the EVD response.
11. The extension of the main logistics hub in Conakry is now completed and six Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) with a storage surface of 2,080 m<sup>2</sup> were erected. In Liberia, the Forward Logistics Bases (FLBs) in Gbanga, Voinjama and Zwedru are fully operational and six MSUs in each FLB were erected. In Sierra Leone, so far, WFP has built a main hub in Port Loko, an airport staging area at Lungi Airport and four FLBs in Makeni, Freetown, Kenema, and Kailahun. The six MSUs at the FLB in Makeni have been provided to UNICEF to allow them to pack equipment for the supply of CCCs.
12. In Liberia, all cargo operations relating to the Dutch vessel have been completed; 102 pallets and 7 crates were loaded and transported to the main hub, including ambulances, vehicles, PPEs, incinerators, beds and medical equipment.
13. The inter-agency flight from Cologne to Monrovia, coordinated by the Logistics Cluster, arrived on 27 November with cargo on behalf of MSF, ICRC, IRC, Direct Relief, Save the Children, Concern, Welthungerhilfe and UNICEF. An additional inter-agency flight has been approved. The Air Coordination Cell (ACC) has already contacted a number of agencies, and the next destination will be based on partner's needs.
14. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

### **Resource Mobilisation**

15. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling US\$ 1.5 billion, has been funded for \$ 860 million, which is around 57 percent of the total ask.
16. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 71.9 million in commitments. In total \$ 121 million has been pledged.
17. 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**

18. Dr Francis Kateh (Deputy Incident Manager, Liberia) and Richard Ragan (Director of Operations, UNMEER) participated in a multi-agency consultation with county health officials from both Sinoe and Grand Kru counties. Officials from Grand Kru expressed deep concerns about some traditional leaders, who are very reluctant to participate in any regularized EVD response. For example, they are advising citizens to avoid treatment centers. The situation highlights that challenges to social mobilizations are not just about messaging, but must also include active participant communication.

### **Essential Services**

19. 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](#)