

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

2 December 2014

KEY POINTS

- In a joint press conference SRSG Banbury and Special Envoy Nabarro reported on the great progress that has been made in the first 60 days of the response, while emphasizing that there was still a long way to go before the ultimate goal of zero cases could be achieved.
- The Logistics Cluster in Guinea, as part of the Logistics Emergency Team (LET) partnership, is facilitating the transport of four Maersk-donated refrigerated containers.
- WHO reported that a reported jump in deaths in Liberia was due to a data error.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. UNMEER SRSG Anthony Banbury and UN Special Envoy David Nabarro held a press conference in Sierra Leone on 1 December, to mark the 60 day milestone in the response to EVD. SRSG Banbury emphasized the great progress that has been made in such a short period. Early scenarios had projected up to 10,000 new cases per week by 1 December – there are less than one tenth of that. The SRSG stressed that this is a huge success for the international community.
2. In his press conference, the SRSG also reported on performance against the targets the UN had set for 1 December: 70 per cent of burials being done safely and 70 per cent of new cases isolated in a treatment facility. He indicated that those targets have been exceeded in most cases. In the case of safe burials, those targets are exceeded in all three countries. The other target – 70 per cent of new cases being isolated – is being exceeded in two of the three countries, in Liberia and Guinea. And it is being exceeded in many places in Sierra Leone – but some areas remain in serious crisis, and there, targets are not yet being met. Those areas are the focus of UNMEER's efforts now. Nonetheless, the 70/70 target in 60 days was set so the crisis could be turned around, and that has been achieved.
3. Despite the positive news, the SRSG also emphasized that there was still a long way to go. Special Envoy David Nabarro said the disease was slowing down in some districts and increasing in others. He cautioned that the distribution changes from week to week, and the situation can worsen unexpectedly. EVD remains a very complex, multidimensional crisis, and additional efforts remain needed. The strategy that has been designed to get it under control has proven to work, SRSG Banbury said – putting people in treatment facilities, ensuring safe burials, contact tracing and social mobilization. But it needs to be present everywhere, and it need to be supported with logistics, with payments to response workers, with the information management needed for these activities.
4. The SRSG stressed that to achieve the goal of zero cases, the response needs to be present everywhere. As numbers get lower, more and more emphasis needs to be on contact tracing, on surveillance, and on rapid response capabilities. UNMEER and its partners are looking at putting in place a district-by-district strategy for 62 districts in the three countries, with interventions in every district that are appropriate to the circumstances there. That will be the focus for the next 60 days. SRSG Banbury expressed his confidence that 60 days from now the three countries will be in a much better condition than they are now, though that will still require a lot of hard work. There remains a lot to be done to get to zero cases, but the global EVD response is on the right track.
5. In a press conference in Geneva yesterday, WHO Assistant Director-General Bruce Aylward also spoke of the second phase of the response. He said: "We're planning on a full-on six-month effort to really get this thing to zero. If you can bring rigor to this contact tracing, you can drive this thing to zero. You have to hunt the virus."

Human Rights

6. NSTR

Response Efforts and Health

7. In Liberia, the first meeting of the Montserrado county Incident Management System (IMS) will be held today, Tuesday 2 December 2014. The operationalization of the county IMS has been supported by UNMEER. The county IMS replicates the structure already in place nationally.
8. The construction, managed by WFP, of an ETC in Beyla, Guinea, is 80% completed and should be finished by 8 December. However, no Foreign Medical Team has yet been found to staff the ETC.
9. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has agreed to contribute € 500,000 to bolster UNDP's support to the Malian Ministry of Health. The funds will be used to strengthen preventive measures in health facilities; train and pay health staff, and purchase protective gear.
10. Bad road conditions continue to hamper the response efforts. For example, on 30 November, two suspected cases in Binikala (Macenta prefecture, Guinea) could not be reached by a Red Cross team due to bad road conditions and had to stay in their village. They will be transported to the ETC in Guéckédou as soon as a means of transportation becomes available.
11. WHO reported that the hundreds of deaths in Liberia that were added to the official figures over the weekend would be taken off again, as they were not related to EVD. WHO later published revised figures, showing 5,987 deaths in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, with 6 more in Mali.

Logistics

12. The Logistics Cluster, through WFP, has been facilitating the dispatch of medical equipment from the main hub in Port Loko, Sierra Leone. Most recently, essential supplies have been dispatched on behalf of UNICEF to the Forward Logistics Base (FLB) in Makeni for inclusion in CCC kits. Also through WFP, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the transport of seven 20ft containers from Freetown Port to Port Loko hub on 26 November. Six of the containers will be provided to WHO for the creation of a mobile hospital, and one will be provided to Save the Children for a mobile laboratory.
13. The Logistics Cluster in Guinea, as part of the Logistics Emergency Team (LET) partnership, is facilitating the transport of four Maersk-donated refrigerated containers. These will be delivered in Nzérékoré and Kissidougou to provide cold chain storage to the humanitarian community.
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 \$ 878 million, which is around 58 percent of the total ask.
16. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 74.7 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.

Outreach and Education

18. In Beyla prefecture, Guinea, EVD response efforts have met resistance in 5 villages. UNMEER's FCM raised this issue with the prefectural coordinator and recommended further engagement by the local authorities. In a related development, on 1 December, UNICEF funded a training of 15 local media professionals in Beyla to encourage the dissemination of information on the EVD response.

Essential Services

19. Beyla prefecture in Guinea has 45 community agents working as contact tracers in EVD affected areas. Out of these 45 personnel, only 13 staff members received their salaries in November. The 32 others have not been paid for more than a month. UNMEER's FCM has followed up with the prefectural Ebola response coordinator on this payments issue, and has requested the coordinator to bring this to the attention of the National Ebola Response Cell.
20. In Montserrado, where Monrovia is located, UNDP and the Liberian Ministry of Health have set up a task force to increase communication within communities around denial, stigma, safe burials and hiding of sick people. The group will dispel widely held fears that no one comes back from ETUs, and help locate contacts, secret burials and households hiding sick people.

Upcoming Events

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

Attachments and resources

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