

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

30 October 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

- There have been 13,703 cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD), with 4,920 deaths, up to the end of 27 October.
- WHO indicated a downward turn in the number of infections, while cautioning it was premature to draw conclusions from that development.
- US Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power concluded her visit to west Africa in Ghana, where she met with SRSG Banbury in UNMEER headquarters in Accra.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. US Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power visited the headquarters of the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response in Ghana on Wednesday. She met with Special Representative Anthony Banbury and the mission's senior leadership. SRSG Banbury briefed the Ambassador on UNMEER's operational framework and the main lines of action of the effort to contain Ebola, and both agreed on the importance of rapidly upscaling the response. In a press conference afterwards, Ms. Power said the US government is committed to reversing the rising curve of infections and deaths caused by EVD, and that "UNMEER is a critical weapon in the battle to stop Ebola at its source so that it is contained and defeated." SRSG Banbury added that while he is seeing some progress in the effort to contain EVD, the mission is short of money and the trained workers necessary to make a significant dent in West Africa. He stressed the need for trained medical personnel, as well as material and funding.
2. On a visit to some hard-hit areas, President Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone said several treatment centers are currently being built around the country, but that the battle will only be won when people start following experts' advice: avoid touching the sick or the dead, don't wash the bodies of the dead and quickly report to health centers if you fall ill.
3. Filipino peacekeepers who will return from the UN mission in Liberia in November because of the threat of EVD will be quarantined at a military camp for 21 days. There is no report of any of the peacekeepers being infected with EVD.

Human Rights

4. NSTR

Medical

5. A total of 13,703 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in six affected countries (Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone, Spain, and the United States of America) and two previously affected countries (Nigeria and Senegal) up to the end of 27 October. There have been 4,922 deaths.
6. The World Health Organization said Wednesday that the spread of EVD may be slowing in Liberia. WHO Assistant Executive Director Dr. Bruce Aylward said that there had been a drop in the number of burials in Liberia and no increases in laboratory-confirmed cases. He cautioned that it was premature to draw conclusions, but appeared to be optimistic that the global effort to combat the outbreak was making headway.
7. The EVD outbreak in Sierra Leone is now present in all 14 of the country's districts. In the past few weeks, a surge in transmission has been taking place in the Western area, including the capital Freetown. It is now the district with the highest prevalence of cases (1,001).

Logistics

8. UNICEF in Guinea received 14 ambulances that will be handed over to the government on 30 October.
9. WFP plans to provide voice services and internet connectivity to approximately 20 ETUs per country. In addition, Common Security Telecommunications services will be provided for the humanitarian community in 15 locations across Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. ET Cluster also plans to deliver 500 mobile phones to support patients isolated from their families in ETUs.

Resource Mobilisation

10. Britain's Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) launched an appeal to raise funds for the Ebola outbreak in west Africa on Wednesday. DEC, made up of 13 of the country's biggest aid charities including Oxfam and the British Red Cross, said some areas in west Africa faced catastrophe within 60 days if urgent action was not taken to stop Ebola's spread. The first £5 million of public donations will be matched by the British government.
11. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements of USD 988 million has received USD 503 million, which is just over 50 per cent of the total ask.
12. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 59.7 million in commitments. In total USD 116 million has been pledged, surpassing the target of USD 100 million by end of October 2014.
13. All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org.

Outreach and Education

14. UNICEF is field-testing a facilitator's guide on community engagement for use by trained community volunteers and mobilisers in Liberia. The guide elaborates on protocols and tips on facilitating dialogue to achieve community ownership, approval and actions around six core themes - including safe burials.

Essential Services

15. New (partial) data on severe acute malnutrition admissions in Liberia for the month of September revealed that a total of 325 severely malnourished children under the age of five from seven counties were admitted to UNICEF-supported integrated management of acute malnutrition treatment sites.
16. WFP distributed 2,000 metric tonnes of food to about 73,300 beneficiaries in Liberia. Most of the people who received WFP food are in areas of widespread and intense transmission. After off-loading 4,300 mt of rice for WFP Operations in Sierra Leone, a WFP time-chartered ship will leave for Monrovia to deliver 2,600 mt of rice.

Upcoming Events

- 30 October - World Bank President Jim Yong Kim visits Ghana to discuss the ongoing efforts to contain Ebola.
- 31 October – WFP/FAO joint donor briefing in Dakar on food and nutritional security in the affected countries
- 11 December - Global Compact CEO-level Action Pledge Event at the UN.

Attachments and resources

- OCHA EVD fact sheets and 3Ws for Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone (recently updated): <http://reliefweb.int/maps>