

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

4 December 2014

KEY POINTS

- WFP has started distributing food rations in Bamako, Mali, to households under observation.
- A training center for response workers was opened in Conakry, Guinea.
- A total of 17,145 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) have been reported in 8 countries. There have been 6,070 reported deaths.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. Europe must send more medical staff to West Africa to help rebuild local health systems and tackle the outbreak of EVD, EU Ebola coordinator Christos Stylianides has said, adding that he was in touch with European capitals on additional assistance to counter the disease in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Mali. At European level the mobilisation is "satisfactory but we must not relax our efforts" he indicated. Sweden has already announced that it will send 42 healthcare workers, while Greece is readying its first team. The EU's medical evacuation system is "fully operational" with four planes on standby in Luxembourg and the US, and nine countries ready to treat repatriated staff. Mr. Stylianides is due to present an EVD action plan in December. Brussels is counting on more help;
2. MSF expressed concern on Tuesday about what it called a slow and uneven international response that portends further setbacks. MSF president Dr. Joanne Liu acknowledged an outpouring of financial and construction help from abroad in the past few months, but added that most of the work on tracking, isolating and treating patients, burying the dead and raising awareness to minimize contagion had fallen to the three countries at the heart of the outbreak: Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. "It is extremely disappointing that states with biological disaster response capacities have chosen not to utilize them," Dr. Liu said. "How is it that the international community has left the response to Ebola — now a transnational threat — to doctors, nurses and charity workers?"

Human Rights

3. UNMEER Guinea participated in an information and sensitization panel organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the role of women's organizations in the fight against EVD. The panel was co-chaired by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Human Rights of Guinea and the OHCHR Representative in Guinea. UNMEER emphasized the importance of the role of women in social mobilization and community engagement. Participants commented on the need for additional sensitization on EVD, the distribution of food assistance and other supplies to affected families and EVD survivors and the need for a post-EVD vision for the health sector in Guinea.

Response Efforts and Health

4. In Liberia, MSF has deployed a rapid response team to Quewein in Grand Bassa county (district 2) to set up a small ETU, following an outbreak of EVD in the village. The affected area is very remote and has no road access, making the ETU all the more important. With the support of UNHAS, MSF ran four helicopter rotations on 2 December and an additional three on 3 December, in order to deliver the required equipment and deploy staff.
5. On 28 November, WFP started distributing food rations in Bamako, Mali, to households under observation for EVD symptoms with partner Malian Red Cross. WFP trained volunteers on safe distribution and provided personal protection equipment, including gloves, glasses and masks.
6. In Guinea, the Minister of Health and the National Coordinator for Ebola response have inaugurated a training center located at the military academy in Manéah (Conakry) for EVD response workers. The establishment of the center was funded by the French government.
7. On 2 December, UNDP trained 329 volunteer case finders and counsellors from across Liberia. Participants at the training included representatives from women's, youth and religious groups,

traditional leaders, and the Liberia Boy Scouts Association. The training covered standard operating procedures on how to work with populations to find cases.

8. The WFP-led Emergency Telecommunications Cluster is equipping rapid response teams in Sierra Leone with tools such as satellite phones and portable internet to ensure efficient and effective communication even in the remotest of areas. These teams of 15-20 people include a burial team, medical professionals and contact tracers amongst others, and are managed by the government of Sierra Leone.
9. A total of 17,145 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in 8 countries. There have been 6,070 reported deaths.

Logistics

10. WFP, through the Logistics Cluster, is providing Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) to humanitarian partners to facilitate the set-up of satellite warehouses in support of Ebola Treatment Centres (ETCs) and Community Care Centres (CCCs) in Sierra Leone. WFP has emphasised to partners its capacity to scale up and implement the construction of satellite hubs if necessary.
11. The Logistics Cluster, through WFP, is facilitating the provision of nine empty containers to the humanitarian community, donated by Maersk as part of the Logistics Emergency Team (LET) partnership. The containers are currently stationed at Freetown Port, Sierra Leone, awaiting onward transport; once cleared, these containers will be loaned to Welthungerhilfe (three) and IMC (six) in order to bolster their response operations.
12. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

13. Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone will each receive US\$ 500,000 to help curb the impact of EVD on food security and on the livelihoods of people in rural areas. The \$ 1.5 million grant from the Africa Solidarity Trust Fund will be used in support of FAO's recently launched Regional Response Programme to tackle agriculture and food security issues related to the EVD outbreak in West Africa.
14. 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.
15. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 79.8 million in commitments. In total \$ 121 million has been pledged.
16. 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

17. British actor Idris Elba and a host of international football stars launched a public awareness campaign on Wednesday to help halt the EVD epidemic and praise the health workers fighting the disease. The Africa United campaign (www.weareafricaunited.org) broadcasts information on the disease and how to stop it from spreading. Messages will be sent out to the three most affected countries and their neighbors via television, radio, billboards and phone text messages.
18. UNDP in Sierra Leone, working with local NGO One Family People, has completed the first stage of a sensitization campaign for people living with disability, having reached out to 10,000 women, men and children. Thanks to the campaign, people who are deaf, blind or physically impaired received messages in braille, sign language and pictures on how to protect themselves and others.
19. Last week, UNICEF trained 24 social mobilisers from the Liberian health ministry, County Health Team and implementing partners in Bong county on the community engagement process for CCCs and RITEs. The training was aimed at gaining community support and ownership of CCCs. In addition, participants worked on a framework for micro-planning of interventions at county level, and made progress on the multi-sectorial review of current messages to break EVD transmission.

Essential Services

20. NSTR

Upcoming Events

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

Attachments and resources

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