

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

5 December 2014

### KEY POINTS

- UN Special Envoy Dr. David Nabarro visited Mali, meeting with President Keita and other representatives of the government and the UN.
- UNDP released a socioeconomic study detailing the impact of EVD on livelihoods.
- 17,256 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) have been reported in the three most affected countries, where there have been 6,113 reported deaths.

### Key Political and Economic Developments

1. The UN Special Envoy on Ebola, Dr. David Nabarro, was in Bamako, Mali, on Wednesday. He discussed the EVD outbreak and the response in a series of meetings with the Malian president, minister of health and public hygiene, and other government representatives, as well as with the head of the UNMEER office in Mali, Dr. Ibrahima-Socé Fall, and other senior UN representatives. Dr. Nabarro noted that there was a large engagement of the whole population on the EVD response, and that the government was working effectively. Focus would have to be maintained even if there are few cases, and until the last person was under treatment.
2. The government of Guinea-Bissau announced on 4 December that it would reopen the country's official border crossings with Guinea within 5 days. Guinea-Bissau had closed the border in August 2014 in an effort to prevent cross-border transmission of EVD. Surveillance measures will be strengthened along the border. The recent summit of Heads of State of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) held in Ghana had recommended the reopening of borders with the most affected countries to accelerate response efforts and avoid stigmatization of their populations.
3. The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) on Thursday said that a member of its military personnel had tested positive for EVD. The patient is receiving treatment at an Ebola Treatment Unit in Monrovia. In line with WHO protocols, the medical team of UNMIL has immediately conducted robust contact tracing to ensure that all those who came into contact with the individual while he was symptomatic have been assessed and quarantined. All areas where the individual is known to have been while symptomatic have been decontaminated.
4. A ceremony scheduled on 4 December for Guinea's Prime Minister to lay the first stone of a new ETC in Matoto commune in Conakry, was cancelled when groups of local youth ransacked the premises. They were reportedly protesting against the establishment of the ETC, arguing that it would lead to a spike in EVD cases in their community. Government officials, diplomats and representatives of non-governmental organizations were forced to leave the site of the planned ceremony due to the tensions.

### Human Rights

5. NSTR.

### Response Efforts and Health

6. In Liberia, Grand Cape Mount county continues to present a worrying trend, with small outbreaks reported in the community area of Welequa. 6 cases were admitted at the Tubmanburg ETU, but the local community reports more cases in the nearby villages. In response to the recent developments in Grand Cape Mount area, WHO is looking into transferring-in the mobile lab from Lofa county.
7. 17,256 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries, where there have been 6,113 reported deaths.

### Logistics

8. WFP and the UK are facilitating the transport and distribution of 218 metric tons of food to 3,200 households, in response to an urgent request from the NERC in Sierra Leone. The Logistics Cluster

has co-ordinated the use of British military assets (two landing craft, one Merlin Helicopter and the vessel RFA Argus) to perform the dispatch of 400 bags' worth of WFP food parcels from Freetown to 15 remote locations around Sherbo and Turtle Islands, in Bonthe District. WFP, in partnership with World Vision, aims to target local populations affected by the inability to trade with Moyamba and Bonthe districts due to the ban on the use of regular trade routes in light of the EVD outbreak. The loading of the vessel will take place on 5 December and air movements for onward distribution will commence on 6 December.

9. Germany donated 400 motorcycles for the EVD response in West Africa, which will be used to transport blood samples to laboratories for diagnostic testing. The motorbikes, which are equipped with cooler boxes, will carry blood samples to labs from remote health posts in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea, which often face difficulty getting timely diagnoses. Ruediger John, Germany's ambassador to Ghana, handed over the vehicles to UNMEER SRSG Anthony Banbury at the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot in Accra, Ghana.
10. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

### **Resource Mobilisation**

11. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling US\$ 1.5 billion, has been funded for \$ 993 million, which is around 66 percent of the total ask.
12. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 91.5 million in commitments. In total \$ 131 million has been pledged.
13. 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**

14. As reported by UNICEF, journalists of the rural radio in Beyla prefecture, Guinea, have been trained on EVD response and will now provide 30 minutes per day of sensitization programming on behavioral change for the local community. On 3 December, UNICEF funded the sensitization of 30 traditional healers and 20 hunters in Beyla prefecture on the need for case referrals to ETCs, identification of contacts and safe burials.

### **Essential Services**

15. The EVD crisis is destroying livelihoods, according to a newly released UNDP socioeconomic study. The study shows disproportionate numbers of economically active people are getting infected. In Sierra Leone, for instance, 65% of the sick were in the 15-49 age group. As caregivers, women are especially vulnerable. They represent up to 74% of the people who get infected in some areas of Guinea. Because women are often responsible for growing and trading food in all three countries, these sectors are also particularly impacted. 97% of respondents in a recent survey reported reduced incomes from farming, petty trading and service delivery. Employment in the informal sector and in education is especially affected in all three countries. The report calls for boosting informal and formal loan schemes and microfinance; investments in the next planting season; promotion of value chains in export-oriented primary commodities; and continuing to build skills among the workforce.
16. As schools remain closed, two million children in Sierra Leone are affected. The Emergency Radio Education Programme (EREP) continues to broadcast daily lessons through 41 radio stations nationwide. Some 47% of 2,489 surveyed households have children listening. The Ministry of Education and UNICEF are working to increase listenership through community outreach. UNICEF is in the process of procuring 50,000 solar powered radios for the most vulnerable households.

### **Upcoming Events**

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

### **Attachments and resources**

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