

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

8 December 2014

KEY POINTS

- Liberia's Supreme Court has lifted a government order suspending campaigning in and around the capital for next week's senate election.
- UNICEF has opened its third Liberian field office in Harper, Maryland county.
- 17,517 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) have been reported in the three most affected countries, where there have been 6,187 reported deaths.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. Liberia's Supreme Court on Sunday lifted a government order suspending campaigning in and around the capital for next week's senate election, imposed on the grounds that campaigning risks spreading EVD. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's government imposed the executive order last week, banning the holding of political rallies in Montserrado County, which includes the capital. It was contested by her son, Robert Sirleaf, who is running as an independent candidate for the senate. He had appealed for a temporary lifting of the ban, arguing that to stop campaigning in just one part of the country is discriminatory. The court will hear a petition on Monday by some political parties, civil society groups and others to postpone national senate polls until EVD is defeated.
2. The National Coordinator of Guinea's National Ebola Response Cell (NERC) informed UNMEER that, on instructions from President Condé, a number of cabinet ministers left for the field to meet with local authorities and the population in sub-prefectures featuring community resistance. The ministers were instructed to sensitize and inform the population about the government's response strategy, reinforce the authority of the prefectural EVD response coordinators, and ensure the swifter deployment of *comités de veille* (community watch committees), which President Condé has criticized as progressing too slowly. President Condé has also instructed the NERC and its pillar heads to start undertaking field missions from 8 December to show the government's resolve to intensify response efforts.

Human Rights

3. WHO informed that EVD contact tracing efforts had to be suspended in the village of Sanassia in Sanguiana sub-prefecture (Kouroussa prefecture, Guinea) as well as in the sub-prefecture of Watanga (Macenta prefecture) due to local community resistance, including alleged death threats against EVD response workers.

Response Efforts and Health

4. Following a recent outbreak in the remote community of Qweineh, Liberia, counting 300 inhabitants, the UNMEER FCM along with WHO visited the affected area between Grand Bassa and Bong counties. The outbreak occurred as a result of the index person's burial that came from Monrovia and was buried by community members. A rapid response team led by MSF set up a temporary transit center/ETU, with a capacity of ten beds for confirmed cases and five beds for suspected cases. Presently, seven confirmed and six suspected cases, nine deaths and thirty contact cases have been recorded in the community. Identification of cases, contact tracing, case management, handling of corpses and strengthening of preventive measures remain paramount in handling the situation.
5. Around 20 United Nations peacekeepers placed under quarantine in Mali after they were potentially exposed to EVD more than three weeks ago have been released. The soldiers were being treated at a clinic in the capital Bamako for injuries sustained while serving in MINUSMA, when a nurse working at the facility died of EVD. The MINUSMA soldiers were then placed under quarantine, but have not presented symptoms of illness and have therefore been released. Mali has registered eight cases of EVD so far: 7 confirmed and 1 probable. 6 patients have died.

6. Last week in Liberia, UNICEF trained 9 additional EVD survivors as caregivers at the UNICEF-supported Interim Care Center, which is meant for children needing observation for a period of 21 days, usually after one or both parents have fallen ill from EVD.
7. An UNMIL peacekeeper who contracted EVD has arrived in the Netherlands for treatment on Saturday. The Nigerian man was admitted to the University Medical Center in Utrecht. The Netherlands follows Germany, France and Switzerland in taking on EVD patients at the request of the World Health Organization.
8. In an effort to strengthen UNICEF's presence in the field, reinforce coordination with county officials and partners, and identify new partnership opportunities, UNICEF opened its third field office in Harper, Maryland County, Liberia, to overlook interventions in three additional counties: River Gee, Grand Kru and Sinoe.
9. On December 5, a second CCC was opened in Margibi county, Liberia, constructed by the ngo Save the Children. Following a reported decrease in the number of EVD cases, Save the Children has decided to transfer their remaining funds for the construction of CCCs into other areas of the response, to be determined in coordination with the county health team.
10. 17,517 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries, where there have been 6,187 reported deaths.

Logistics

11. The Logistics Cluster is facilitating the movement of 2000 UNICEF PPE kits from Accra to Monrovia via a C-160 aircraft. The flight is scheduled to depart on 12 December.
12. The Logistics Cluster is facilitating the transport of 20 motorbikes from Accra to Freetown, via a C-160 aircraft, starting on 08 December. This initial shipment of 20 is part of a donation of 400 vehicles by the government of Germany to UNMEER, for use by the humanitarian community for the EVD response in West Africa.
13. WFP is providing storage capacity to the UK Department for International Development (DfID) for PPE kits in Sierra Leone. Trucks carrying DfID equipment continue to be received at Port Loko Main Hub. This equipment will be used in support of the setup and running of CCCs. It will be either kit-packed for individual CCCs or dispatched by item, according to DfID's needs. Additional equipment is expected in the coming week.
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 \$ 995 million, which is around 66 percent of the total ask.
16. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 96.8 million in commitments. In total \$ 131 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. NSTR

Essential Services

19. UNICEF released essential drugs and supplies to three ngo partners to cover 40% of health facilities, as part of the restoration of essential health services effort in Liberia.

Upcoming Events

- 10-11 December - High-level meeting on building resilient health systems in EVD-affected countries
- 11 December - Global Compact CEO-level Action Pledge Event at the UN.

Attachments and resources

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