

HIGHLIGHTS

- 6,553 Ebola cases and 3,083 deaths as Ebola outbreak accelerates in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea.
- UN mission established to lead comprehensive response, headed by SRSG Anthony Banbury.
- UN launches *Overview of Ebola Needs and Requirements* calling for USD\$979 million over the next 6 months.
- NEMA estimates up to 1.5 million IDPs in Northeast Nigeria. UNHCR expects 95,000 refugees and returnees by year's end.
- 80 per cent decline in IDPs in Central African Republic.
- Some 63,000 people affected by floods in the Sahel this year. Early onset droughts occurring in northwestern Sahel.

KEY FIGURES FOR THE SAHEL

Food insecure people **20.2 Million**

Nb. of children <5 estimated SAM **1.5 Million**

Nb. of children <5 and estimated MAM **3.5 Million**

FUNDING OF THE SAHEL STRATEGY

USD\$1.9 billion requested

USD\$ 746 million received(in SRP)

USD\$293 million received(outside SRP)



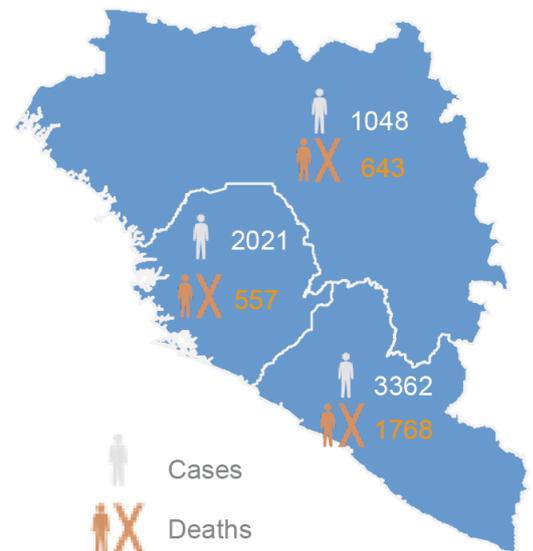
In this issue

- Ebola Outbreak: Scale-up Underway P.1
- Nigeria: Displacement Surges in the Northeast P.3
- CAR Crisis: Increased Attacks on Aid Workers P.5
- Food Update P.6
- Sahel Rains Report P.7
- Funding Status Overview P.8

Ebola Outbreak: Scale-up Underway

Cases Double in Three Weeks

The Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak continues to accelerate, with almost 50 per cent of the total caseload occurring in the past 21 days. As of 26 September, WHO reports that there are a total of 6,553 cases and 3,083 reported deaths across Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone. Case fatality rate (CFR) in the affected countries is 47 per cent, however, this CFR is considered to be an underestimation. There is a serious shortage of space available in treatment centers with patients reportedly being turned away. The UN's *Ebola Needs and Requirements Overview* indicates that urgent needs include at least 656 staff, including doctors, nurses and logisticians, and at least 15,000 sets of personal protective equipment (PPE) per month.



An estimated 22 million people are living in areas where active EVD transmission has been reported, out of which 4.3 million people are living in areas where 20 or more fatalities have been reported. An unprecedented number of healthcare workers are impacted by Ebola. According to WHO, as of 23 September at least 375 health care workers have infected with EVD and 211 have died as a result. Because of their role as caregivers, women are experiencing the brunt of the disease, comprising 75 per cent of the caseload. Some 2.5 million children under five are living in areas affected by the Ebola virus.

EBOLA RESPONSE



5 Strategic Objectives (STEPP) and 13 Mission Critical Actions (MCAs)

S.O. 1 STOP the outbreak

- MCA 1 Identify and Trace people with Ebola
- MCA 2 Safe and Dignified Burials

S.O. 2 TREAT the infected

- MCA 3 Care for Persons with Ebola and Infection Control
- MCA 4 Medical Care for Responders

S.O. 3 ENSURE essential services

- MCA 5 Provision of Food Security and Nutrition
- MCA 6 Access to Basic (including non-Ebola Health) services
- MCA 7 Cash Incentives for Workers
- MCA 8 Recovery and Economy

S.O. 4 PRESERVE stability

- MCA 9 Reliable supplies of materials and equipment
- MCA 10 Transport and Fuel
- MCA 11 Social Mobilization and Community Engagement

- MCA 12 Messaging

S.O. 5 PREVENT outbreaks in countries currently unaffected

- MCA 13 Multi-faceted approach to strengthen preparedness of all countries to rapidly detect and respond to an Ebola exposure, especially those sharing land borders with areas of active transmission and those with international transportation hubs.

UN launch Response Plan

On 16 September, the UN Ebola Response Coordinator, Dr. David Nabarro, published the *Ebola Needs and Requirements Overview* in Geneva, outlining 13 Mission Critical Actions required immediately to counter the Ebola epidemic. The Overview calls for USD\$979 million in cash and in-kind in order to realize its five STEPP objectives, namely to (1) **Stop** the outbreak, (2) **Treat** the infected, (3) **Ensure** essential services; (4) **Preserve** stability, and (5) **Prevent** outbreaks in countries currently unaffected.

United Nations Mission Established

On 20 September, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon established the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) to lead the UN's inter-agency and multi-sector response to the Ebola outbreak. Led by SRSG Anthony Banbury, UNMEER will be based in Accra, Ghana with field presences in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. Dr. David Nabarro has been appointed as the Special Envoy for Ebola. The Mission will pursue the singular objective of working with partners to stop the Ebola outbreak. Towards this end, the mission will provide field-level support the delivery of assistance to affected states and populations in coordination with various international, national and regional actors including the AU, ECOWAS and the Mano River Union.

US Government Ebola response plan

Also on 16 September, the US Government announced its Ebola response plan. Identifying the epidemic as a National Security Priority, the plan identifies four goals, namely: (1) controlling the outbreak, (2) addressing the ripple effects of local economies and communities to prevent a truly massive humanitarian disaster; (3) coordinating a broader global response; and (4) urgently building up a public health system in these countries for the future. Immediate actions will include establishing: (i) a military command center in Liberia to support civilian efforts across region, comparable to Haiti response (under AFRICOM command) to bring expertise in command and control, logistics, engineering; (ii) an air bridge to help health workers and medical supplies arrive in West Africa faster; (iii) a staging area in Senegal for medical personnel and supplies; (iv) a training site to train thousands of health workers in Ebola response; (v) new field hospitals staffed by US Public Health Service workers; (vi) community care campaigns to distribute supplies and information kits to families for protection; (vii) treatment units, including new isolation space and 1,000 beds; and (viii) continuing urgent research on treatments and vaccines.

Multi-Sector impact of the EVD outbreak

The outbreak is having wider security, economic, and livelihood impacts on the affected countries, and the West African region, moreover. Restrictions on movement out of, into and within affected countries have resulted in a shortage of goods and services. Medical goods to respond to the outbreak and goods to meet basic needs (i.e. food) are in short supply. Agricultural activities have been abandoned, and prices of basic foodstuffs have markedly increased. Aid workers face serious challenges entering the Ebola affected countries due to limited flight availability. Those that do manage to enter are not guaranteed a way of exit,

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Sierra Leone imposes nationwide lockdown from 19-21 September in attempt to contain the Ebola outbreak. Some 30,000 community health workers went door-to-door to identify EVD infected persons and distribute soap. 200 suspected EVD cases were identified, 130 of which have since been confirmed.

Chibok Update

The mid-April kidnapping of 276 schoolgirls from the town of Chibok (Borno State), has yet to be resolved. Some 219 girls remain missing while schoolgirl kidnappings continue in the Northeast the most recent being the 3 September kidnapping of 50 girls from a town in Northern Adamawa. The Chibok community has received assistance from national authorities and the international community in the form of food, healthcare, and psychosocial assistance, inter alia.

including in the event of a medical emergency, which has hampered the recruitment of much-needed personnel.

The World Bank published a [report](#) this month indicating that the economic impact on Ebola affected countries could be ‘catastrophic’ without a swift response to curtail and contain the outbreak.

Disruptions to Health Services, Schools Closed

The EVD outbreak has disrupted the availability of non-Ebola health services, including obstetric care for pregnant women. Schools in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone remain closed. The outbreak slows agricultural trade, the financial sectors, small businesses and employment, as public gatherings are increasingly discouraged or banned. Sierra Leone shut down all movement throughout the country from 19-21 September.

Deteriorating food security

The Ebola outbreak is anticipated to further deteriorate the already fragile food security situation in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The main challenges posed are: (1) disruption of market linkages due to travel restrictions, leading to sharp price hikes; (2) labour shortages on farms that will impact food and cash crop production during the peak of the crop harvesting, due in a few weeks’ time; and (3) reduced crop production forecasts reported in areas with high incidences of Ebola, which constitute some of the most productive regions of Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Access and Response

Response efforts are underway. WFP has delivered nearly 5,000 MT of food to some 390,000 people in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, and has negotiated a UNHAS air bridge with Senegalese authorities to shuttle aid workers and supplies to and from Dakar. MSF continues to treat patients, and UNICEF is leading social mobilization efforts. To date, the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, has released USD\$7.58 million to Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone to respond to the outbreak. Some USD\$ 344 million has been received for the Ebola Response according to the UN’s *Financial Tracking System*.

Nigeria: Displacement Surges in Northeast

Insurgents Seize 15 Towns in the Northeast

The security situation in the northeast of Nigeria continues to significantly deteriorate resulting in rising and urgent humanitarian needs from a population targeted by violent extremists, and causing cross-border insecurity. While the inter-agency assessment in May estimated some 650,000 IDPs in the Northeast of Nigeria, the Nigerian National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) now indicates up to 1.5 million IDPs. In the past month, NEMA reported over 36,000 new IDPs as a direct result of attacks in Borno and Adamawa states. Displaced populations increasingly outnumber the absorption capacity of host families and communities. Whereas the inter-agency assessment indicated that IDPs lived largely with host communities, this past month has seen the establishment of new IDP camps. At least four IDP camps have been identified in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state, hosting a population of some 11,000 people.

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75,000 Returnees/Refugees in Neighbouring Countries

Civilians are similarly fleeing across the border in rising numbers, with at least 75,000 refugees/returnees fleeing to Cameroon, Chad and Niger to date, and UNHCR estimating upwards of 95,000 refugees and returnees by year's end. On 8 August, UNHCR reported that some 1,125 people fled attacks in Kolikolia, Borno State and sought refuge on the uninhabited Chadian island of Choua in Lake Chad. The refugees were mainly women and children in urgent need of food, water, shelter and medical care. At the request of the government of Chad, the refugees have since been relocated to a safer and more accessible hosting area in Ngouboua, some 30 km from the border, where a number of Nigerian refugees and Chadian returnees already live with host communities. The newly arrived refugees indicated that more Nigerians are likely to follow them into Chad soon.

RHC Piper Visits Nigeria Amidst Growing Humanitarian Needs

Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel, Robert Piper, visited Nigeria from 2-5 September to follow-up on growing humanitarian challenges aggravated by the recent spread of the Ebola Virus Disease and the growing insurgency in the Northeast. In Abuja, RHC Piper met with key partners including the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), the Presidential Initiative for the North East (PINE) Secretariat and donors, UN, NGOs, and representatives from the National Human Rights Commission to explore support to a scaled-up humanitarian response.

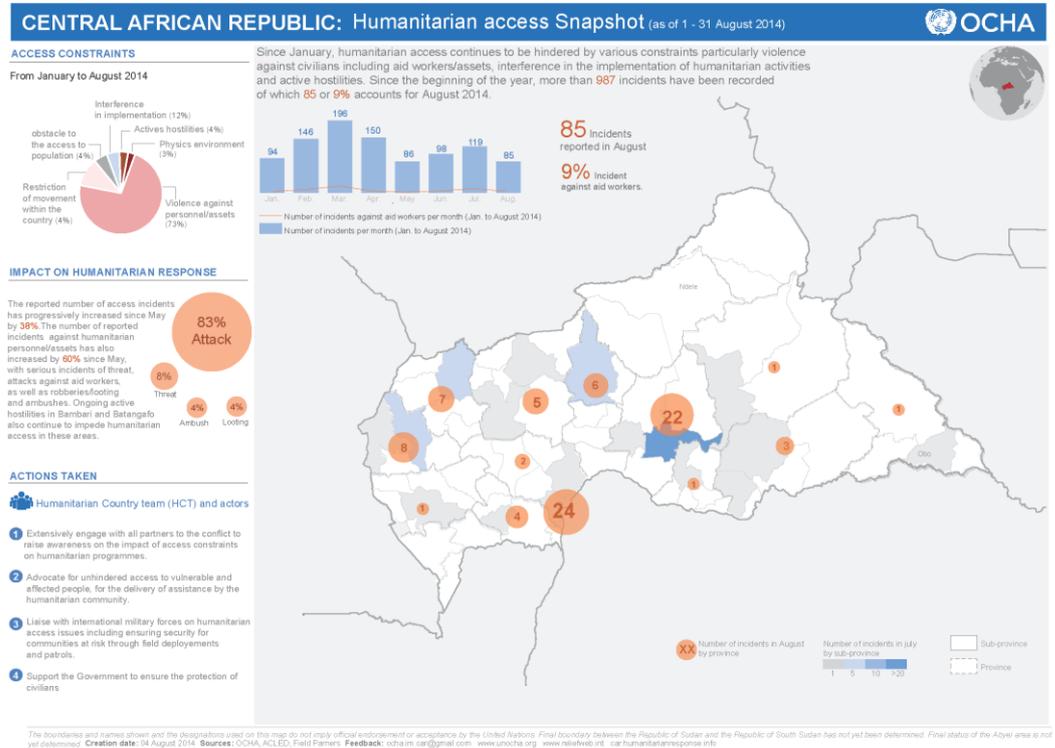
The rise in displacement and attendant humanitarian needs is owed to the increasingly aggressive tactics of the insurgency group Boko Haram. In the past month, Boko Haram has reportedly changed its tactics and objectives, from assaults on villages followed by withdrawals, to assaults followed by claiming villages as part of a caliphate. In the past month, the group has attacked and laid claim to some 15 towns in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe states. Counter-insurgency operations are underway to reclaim the taken areas. However, such operations are duly impacting displacement and incurring humanitarian needs. As of the first week of September, Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state, with a population estimated at 600,000 people, was reportedly surrounded by insurgents.

Access constraints and response

Given the frequency and reach of attack in the Northeast in the past month, accessing populations in need of humanitarian assistance is proving increasingly challenging. Whilst national and state authorities have been able to provide some relief items to populations displaced from towns attacked and claimed by insurgents, they are doing so remotely, most recently from the unaffected capital of Adamawa state, Yola. Humanitarian partners have updated and published the revised [Humanitarian Strategic Response Plan](#) which prioritizes humanitarian intervention in the Northeast, accounting for the challenges posed to access. UNDSS continues to monitor security and access issues.

CAR: Increased Attacks on Aid Workers

Insecurity Compromises Access



60 per cent increase in hostile incidences against aid workers as compared to 2013.

A marked increase in the number of attacks against aid workers is creating serious constraints for humanitarian operations, compromising access to Central Africans affected by the country's on-going insecurity, and increasing logistics costs. As of 16 September, 987 hostile incidents against aid workers and their assets were reported in 2014-- a 60 per cent increase as compared to last year. In August alone, some 85 incidents were reported, mostly in Bangui and Bambari. Hostile acts include house robberies and looting of humanitarian stocks. On 17 August, an FAO truck carrying 30 tons of seed was looted by armed groups.

Number of IDPs decreases

Despite on-going violence in Bambari and Batangafo, the displacement situation in CAR has shown some signs of improvement in the past month. IDP figures in country are down by some 80 per cent since the peak of the crisis with an estimated 37 active sites and some 62,580 IDP (24 September) residing in Bangui. Cross-border figures, however, remain high with some 180,011 refugees having reportedly fled to Chad, Cameroon, DRC, and Republic of Congo since December 2013, still reticent to return.

Many IDPs intend to return

IOM in September issued its Displacement Tracking Matrix report describing the dynamics of the displacement situation in CAR. According to the report, 91 per

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cent of a total of 570 IDPs interviewed envision leaving the displacement site within the next four weeks; 77 per cent of IDP respondents want to return and 14 per cent want to relocate. The main challenges confronting site-resident IDPs are living conditions, food insecurity and economic vulnerability. Reasons for remaining displaced include damage to the homes, lack of financial means and uncertainty about the political and economic situation. Factors enabling return or relocation are security, housing and services in the neighborhood.

MINUSCA takes over

On 15 September, the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA) officially assumed power from the African Union where the mission will be in charge of protecting civilians, supporting the political process towards democratic elections and reestablishing state authority. Some 12,000 peacekeepers are planned for MINUSCA through 30 April 2015.

Reconciliation

Populations remain largely divided along religious lines across the country, compromising returns. On 2 September, the CAR's Transitional Prime Minister Mahamat Kamoun declared that the country will hold a national reconciliation dialogue at the end of the year which will include all parties, offering an opportunity for people to meet and talk as well as resolve their differences for the reconstruction of the country. The national reconciliation dialogue will be based on the cease-fire agreement reached on July 23 in Congo (Brazzaville) between former Seleka coalition and the anti-Balaka militia.

Food Update

Prolonged Lean Season Affects Livelihoods in Sahel

The Regional Agro-pastoral mid-term assessment meeting for 2014-2014 was held in Banjul, Gambia from 8-10 September. Participants to the meeting voiced their concerns *vis-à-vis* the impact that late and erratic rains in the region were having on agricultural production, particularly in southern Mauritania, Guinea Bissau, and western parts of Senegal and the Gambia. Expected agricultural production for cereals and pulses may be average in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Chad but will likely hit a five-year low in Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal. The late start of the rainy season in some areas (i.e. Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Chad) negatively impacted livestock with poor animal body conditions and livestock losses observed in Mali, Niger and Senegal.

An FAO rapid market assessment found that food and transportation prices have increased rapidly in the Ebola affected countries.

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Ebola outbreak prompting food shortages and price hikes

This month, FAO issued a report on the impact of the outbreak in the three most affected countries. In Guinea and Liberia, the availability of goods is decreasing in the country's respective capitals, Conakry and Monrovia, causing serious price increases. Both countries also experience increased scarcity of imported goods, and in goods arriving from the ports in the capital, to rural areas. The national staple food is



A mother prepares a meal for her family, in Lofa Country, Liberia. 16/9/2014. FAO/John Monibah

increasingly scarce in rural areas of Liberia. In Sierra Leone, the outbreak has erupted at the beginning of the rice and cocoa harvest season (i.e. July/August) when traders are expected to exchange food and other items for cocoa. Movement restrictions are impeding these important marketing activities and this is negatively impacting household incomes. Market closures, internal travel restrictions and fear of infection have curtailed food trade and caused supply shortages as well. Price data for Sierra Leone are not available, however, reports indicate rising food prices.

Risk of inflation

Given rapid currency depreciations observed since June, there are inflationary concerns in Sierra Leone which remains a importer of cereal; Liberia is also experiencing inflationary pressures. National border closures are expected to negatively impact export opportunities across all affected countries, impacting incomes and further reducing the availabilities of all goods. In order to evaluate the impact of the outbreak on agriculture, food security and livelihoods, FAO and partners are carrying out joint, rapid assessments to understand food security needs in the most-affected regions. Findings from the assessment should be available by the end of September.

Sahel Rains Report

Season Marked by Droughts and Floods

Irregular and low rainfall this season will likely impact agricultural production in the Sahel and threaten food security. The 2014 rainy season has been marked by its late arrival and irregular distribution across the Sahel. Whereas Mali, Cote d'Ivoire and parts of Niger have experienced damaging floods, the Western Sahel is marked by serious rain deficits until mid-July that have resulted in below average vegetation levels. The core planting season for the Sahel is from May

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through June. Most affected are Senegal, southern Mauritania, eastern Niger, Northeast Nigeria, and central Chad.

Early Onset Droughts

WFP conducted analysis of rainfall in the Sahel region over the past 20 years and found that Senegal, northern Ghana, Burkina Faso, eastern Niger, and northern Nigeria are presently experiencing early season drought—and that this is the driest season in Senegal since 1994. Experts do not expect an extended rainfall season to compensate for the deficits witnessed thus far. Low agricultural yields are forecast and will likely threaten the already precarious food security of this region.

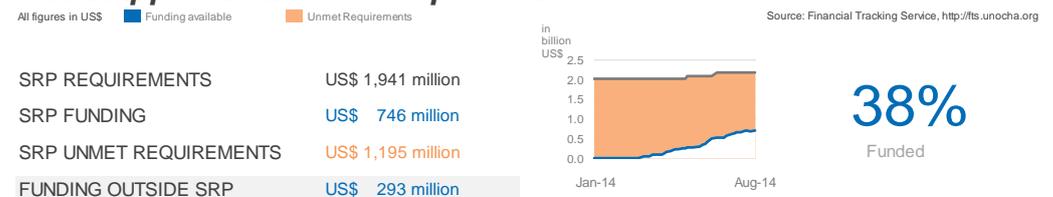
Floods in Niger, Ivory Coast and Cameroon

At least 63,000 people have been affected by floods in the Sahel this year. Niger is the most flood-affected country in the region this year. Heavy rainfall has caused flooding in several parts of the country affecting nearly 60,000 people and killing 38. Some 4,700 homes have also reportedly been destroyed. Tillabéry is the most affected region, followed by Dosso, Maradi and Tahoua. This year mirrors last year's flood season when some 61,000 people were reportedly affected. Flooding and landslides in Ivory Coast this year have killed nearly 40 people and threaten upwards of 80,000 people living in the country's most populated city, Abidjan. In Cameroon, heavy rains at the end of August caused severe flooding in Bibemi Subdivision in Cameroon's North Region. Many villages were swept away by flood waters, animals killed and nearly 700 families (about 3,500 people) affected, including more than 270 families whose homes were destroyed or rendered uninhabitable. The floods have further aggravated a cholera outbreak in the same area according to the IFRC.

*60,000 people affected by heavy floods in Niger.
80,000 people threatened by floods in Cote d'Ivoire.*

Funding Status Overview

Sahel Appeal Funded at 38 per cent



The Sahel Strategic Response Plan (SRP) is currently funded at 39 per cent, receiving USD\$746 million against its revised USD\$1.9 billion requirement. This represents a USD\$72 million increase as compared to the last reporting period. USD\$293 million was committed to humanitarian activities outside of the SRP. A mid-year review of the SRPs at country level in the Sahel is on-going. More funding is urgently required to address the pressing needs in the Sahel and to build resilience.

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