

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

14 November 2014

KEY POINTS

- UNMEER SRSG Anthony Banbury warned the UN General Assembly that the reappearance of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Mali illustrates the threat that the virus still poses to the region.
- A team of FAO consultants in Guinea found that while the hunting and consuming of bush meat had decreased due to sensitization on EVD transmission, the practice persists in most places.
- A total of 14,248 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported. There have been 5,180 reported deaths.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. UNMEER SRSG Anthony Banbury warned the UN General Assembly that EVD is an elusive disease that has just reappeared in Mali where it was thought to be under control, demonstrating the threat that the virus still poses to the region. He said the international community is having enough challenges trying to mobilize resources to respond to the crisis in hardest-hit Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea and any outbreaks in other countries would be "truly devastating." He added that "Ebola is a fearsome enemy and we will not win by chasing it. We must get ahead of it."
2. In a broadcast to the nation, the president of Liberia has announced that she will not renew the state of emergency. Nonetheless, many current measures will remain in place for now. The curfew will be reduced. The areas affected by EVD will continue to have tighter restrictions.
3. Mali said it was reinforcing health controls at border posts but has no plans to close its frontiers after a man with EVD arrived from Guinea and infected others, including a nurse who has died of the virus. President Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta also urged the World Health Organization (WHO) and health services in Mali and neighboring states to set up a permanent information exchange to disseminate information about public health and hygiene.

Human Rights

4. The Guinean government announced on 12 November the withdrawal of the troops that had been deployed in Womey (Nzérékoré prefecture) following the murders in September of an eight-member EVD education team by angry locals. In response, a group of human rights defenders, lawmakers and civil society activists confirmed the end of the hunger strike they had initiated to request the demilitarization of Womey and to demand the safe return of thousands of villagers they say have fled their homes because of it. The opposition may stage a new round of demonstrations in case its remaining grievances are not addressed by the government. Foremost among the opposition's demands is the signing of the conclusion of the political dialogue process launched four months ago.

Response Efforts and Health

5. MSF says its treatment centres in Guinea will host three separate clinical trials. One involves using the blood of recovered EVD patients to treat sick people, and another will test two antiviral drugs. These are all experimental drugs that have not been through the usual lengthy process of testing on animals and healthy people. Trials will start next month, with initial results expected in February.
6. UNICEF said the battle against EVD must be waged in the community. "Communities are at the forefront of the response," said Dr. Peter Salama, UNICEF's Global Ebola Emergency Coordinator. "Data from various sources suggest that the progress we are seeing in parts of Liberia can be attributed to communities adopting better practices like safe burials and early isolation and care."
7. A representative of striking healthcare workers in Sierra Leone said about a quarter of them returned to work in an EVD clinic after health officials pledged to pay their allowances later this week. A full-scale strike would resume if the payments were not made by Friday, he said.

8. A total of 14,248 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported, the vast majority of which was in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. There have been 5,180 reported deaths.

Logistics

9. Since the beginning of the outbreak, UNICEF has airlifted 967 metric tons of emergency aid to Liberia, including essential protective gear, tents, diarrheal kits, emergency health kits, and sanitation supplies such as chlorine.
10. UNHRD, managed by WFP, prepositions emergency supplies for humanitarian agencies. To date, UNHRD has dispatched US\$7.3 million worth of relief items and equipment to the region on behalf of Irish Aid, JICA, Swiss Red Cross, UNHCR, WFP and WHO. Last week, UNHRD dispatched equipment for the setup of ETUs in Guinea and for a staff clinic in Sierra Leone. Items included generators, pre-fabricated office and accommodation structures, water tanks, tents and IT equipment. UNHRD also facilitated the arrival of more than 1,100 mt of nutritious products to the affected countries through its depot in Las Palmas.
11. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

12. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements of US\$ 988 million has been funded for \$ 685 million, which is around 69 per cent of the total ask.
13. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 71.9 million in commitments. In total \$ 121 million has been pledged.
14. 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

15. UNICEF signed an agreement with the NGO PRIDE/Guinea for the distribution of hygienic kits (soap, bleach, chlorine), the conduct of a door-to-door awareness campaign and the organization of community meetings in the sub-prefectures Samoe, Gouécké, Yalenzou and Soulouta (Nzérékoré).
16. A team of FAO consultants deployed since 5 November provided a preliminary report of their evaluation of the impact of sensitization efforts in Guinea by 30 rural development agents who had been trained on EVD prevention in October. The initial goal of 100 households to be sensitized by each trainer per month was found to far exceed the trainers' capacity.
17. Another team of FAO consultants deployed in Guéckédou and Nzérékoré evaluated the practice of bush meat subsistence hunting and consumption. The team found that while hunting and consuming bush meat had decreased due to sensitization on EVD transmission, it persists in most places.

Essential Services

18. According to a UNDP study on the socio-economic impact of EVD, households' purchasing power has decreased 20 per cent in Sierra Leone and 25 per cent in Liberia. This is caused by food price increases resulting from a slowdown in agricultural activities and reduced trade because of closed borders. Many farmers have deserted their fields because of movement restrictions and are unable to sell their produce, which is directly affecting their livelihoods. In Guinea, the government has been importing food, stemming potential price fluctuations and protecting people's purchasing power.

Upcoming Events

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

Attachments and resources

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