

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

7 November 2014

### KEY POINTS

- UN Special Envoy on Ebola Dr. David Nabarro is hopeful the outbreak could end in 2015.
- Luxembourg has committed 2 airplanes for European medical evacuation operations of international humanitarian workers diagnosed with EVD.
- A total of 13,110 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported. There have been 4,828 reported deaths.

### Key Political and Economic Developments

1. UN Special Envoy on Ebola Dr. David Nabarro said the extraordinary global response over the past month has made him hopeful the outbreak could end in 2015, though he cautioned that the fight to contain the disease is not even a quarter done. In the past four weeks, the rate of EVD infections seems to be slowing in some parts of West Africa, he said. In other hotspots it appears to be expanding the way it was a month ago. Nabarro said there are five times more beds for treatment in the three most affected countries than there were two months ago, which is helping to reduce the number of cases, along with improving efforts to find infected people and trace their contacts. Nabarro pointed to two other positive signs: the extraordinary global response in the last month and the mobilization of local communities in the three countries as a result of massive media campaigns and house-to-house "sensitization efforts" involving traditional leaders.
2. At the end of a three-day visit to Sierra Leone, UN World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director Ertharin Cousin Thursday called upon partners all over the world to work together to address the needs of those affected by the crisis. During her visit to Sierra Leone she met with President Ernest Bai Koroma, UNMEER ECM Amadu Kamara as well as representatives of donor countries, UN agencies and NGOs. She also met traditional leaders and survivors of EVD. WFP provides food assistance to patients in Ebola treatment units, survivors of EVD and communities with widespread and intense transmission. Besides food, WFP also provides crucial transport and logistics support, building Ebola treatment units and storage hubs for the entire humanitarian community.

### Human Rights

3. NSTR

### Response Efforts and Health

4. A total of 13,110 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported, the majority of which was in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. There have been 4,828 reported deaths.
5. The EVD outbreak has likely killed far more people than the 4,828 deaths reported by the World Health Organization, WHO's strategy chief Christopher Dye said Thursday, warning that thousands of fatalities were likely not accounted for. The likely explanation is that many people are burying the dead in secret, possibly to avoid having authorities interfere with burial customs like washing and touching the deceased, which is widely blamed for much of the transmission. The fact that WHO-reported numbers of cases and deaths are lower now than they were last week is due a different, more consistent manner of counting, Mr. Dye said. It does not imply a slowing down of the disease.
6. Luxembourg has become the first EU Member State to commit airplanes for European medical evacuation operations of international humanitarian workers diagnosed with EVD. The two planes are retrofitted for the purpose with co-funding from the European Commission, which will also finance the bulk of the transport costs for evacuations under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. The EU is also transporting material assistance to the affected countries. A Dutch ship sailed yesterday

from the Netherlands, loaded with ambulances, mobile hospitals, laboratories and other equipment. The cargo has been provided by nine EU Member States and UNICEF.

7. China plans to send over 1,000 medical workers and experts to West Africa in the coming months to assist in the fight against EVD. 12 public health trainers will leave for Sierra Leone on Sunday. In addition, a team of virus testing experts from China's national disease control center and a group of high-level government officials to coordinate the country's assistance will set off later this month.
8. As part of the Rapid Response Team, UNICEF recently conducted rapid assessments of "hot spots" in Liberia – namely Grand Kru, Grand Bassa, Sinoe and Grand Cape Mount counties – focused on how to rapidly isolate and treat patients with symptoms of Ebola following clear infection control standards. The process involves working with County Health Teams, communities and partners to design local solutions including the setup of Community Care Centers, providing technical assistance on water, sanitation and hygiene management, and advising on how to engage communities. Additional assessments in Gbarpolu and Bomi are underway.
9. UNFPA has trained and equipped almost 3,000 contact tracing volunteers, the majority of them in Sierra Leone. They will be responsible for mapping and following up all contacts of an EVD-infected person, to reduce and eventually curb the spread of the disease.

### **Logistics**

10. NSTR

### **Resource Mobilisation**

11. Social media company Facebook is adding a button to its site that is designed to make it easier for users to donate to charities fighting EVD. Over the coming week, users will see an option to donate to the International Medical Corps, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and Save the Children. Facebook says it chose charities that work directly on the ground and are able to accept money globally. The company is also donating and deploying 100 satellite communication terminals to boost Internet and phone services to affected areas in West Africa.
12. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements of USD 988 million has received USD 587 million, which is almost 60 per cent of the total ask.
13. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 60.6 million in commitments. In total USD 119 million has been pledged, surpassing the target of USD 100 million by end of October.
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](mailto:fts@un.org).

### **Outreach and Education**

15. NSTR

### **Essential Services**

16. Sierra Leone's Deputy Health Minister Madina Radman said the country's failure to clearly separate its EVD treatment units from regular health facilities had destroyed confidence in hospitals and clinics. "We are struggling to regain confidence in our health facilities because of this mistake", she said. "About 50 per cent of the deaths in the country are not Ebola but, because people fear to come to some of our healthcare facilities, they die needlessly due to other treatable diseases."
17. According to analysis by the ngo Action Contre la Faim and the University of Naples Federico II, in 2015 the EVD crisis will lead to an increase of people suffering from undernourishment in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. 5,3 to 5,7 million people are expected be undernourished in 2015 in the 3 most affected countries, compared to 5 million before the start of the epidemic.

### **Upcoming Events**

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

### **Attachments and resources**

- OCHA EVD fact sheets and 3Ws for Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone: <http://reliefweb.int/maps>
- [WHO : Ebola cases Map \(as of 05 Nov. 2014\)](#)