

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

3 December 2014

### KEY POINTS

- Special Envoy Nabarro visited Liberia, meeting with President Sirleaf and key partners.
- UNHCR has established an Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) isolation center in a refugee camp in Kouankan, Guinea.
- UNICEF noted a reduction in resistance in some rural communities in Guinea.

### Key Political and Economic Developments

1. The UN Special Envoy on Ebola, Dr. David Nabarro, made a visit to Liberia. He met with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, as well as the US ambassador, UNMEER staff and key EVD response partners. Coordination of partners in the EVD response, a focus on rapid reaction and contact tracing, and the need not to become complacent were among the topics discussed.
2. The World Bank said Tuesday that EVD is costing the three most affected countries more than US\$ 2 billion, as the virus causes their economies to slow down or shrink. The bank sharply revised down its 2014 and 2015 economic growth estimates for Sierra Leone and Guinea, but said the outlook for Liberia was improving slightly. For 2015, it now forecasts Sierra Leone's economy will shrink 2.0%, down from a 7.7% growth forecast in October and 8.9% before the crisis. Guinea will shrink 0.2% versus October's estimate of 2% growth and a pre-outbreak forecast of 4.3%. In Liberia, where there are signs of progress and increasing economic activity, the bank increased its 2015 GDP growth estimate to 3.0%, up from 1.0% in October, but still less than half the pre-crisis estimate of 6.8%.
3. With more than half of its population already under lockdown, Sierra Leone has now quarantined a sixth district. Tonkolili, in the centre of the country, was added to the growing list of districts which no one is allowed to leave or enter without special dispensation, in an effort to combat the outbreak. The northern districts of Port Loko and Bombali were closed off indefinitely in September, along with the southern district of Moyamba - effectively sealing in more than one million people. With the eastern districts of Kenema and Kailahun also under quarantine, more than half of the population of six million, in six of the nation's 14 districts, now finds itself unable to move freely. Tonkolili is expected to end its quarantine on December 15, according to health ministry officials.

### Human Rights

4. NSTR

### Response Efforts and Health

5. Community resistance, denial and resorting to traditional healers remain prevalent in Gbarpolu and Grand Cape Mount counties, Liberia. The high mortality rates in the remote communities affected by the EVD flare ups (e.g. 17 deaths vs 2 survivors as last reported by the Glensyasu community), combined with limited outreach in hard to reach places, contribute to maintaining a worrying trend in the two counties.
6. UNMEER's Field Crisis Manager covering Macenta (Guinea) reported the need for better coordination between the three ETCs in the area (Macenta, Guéckédou and Nzérékoré) to ensure bed availability to host new patients. In the past ten days some patients have been transported to Macenta ETC, which is operating near full capacity, only to be turned away and transported to Guéckédou. WHO, prefectural health directors and heads of ETCs are working to address this issue.
7. UNHCR has established an EVD isolation center in the refugee camp in Kouankan (Nzérékoré prefecture, Guinea). The camp hosts 5,445 refugees. UNHCR has hired 1 doctor, 3 health workers and 19 community agents to staff the center. No EVD cases have yet been registered in the camp.
8. During a visit to a day care center in Voinjama, Liberia, operated by the NGO Rural Dwellers Empowerment Concept, the UNMEER FCM registered 13 vulnerable children in Voinjama and 40 in

Kolahun and other districts. Reports from contact tracers and community mobilizers indicated that these children of parents who died of EVD are in desperate condition, as some of their relatives were also vulnerable and unable to take proper care of the children.

9. In Guinea, UNFPA has handed over an ambulance to the ETC in Macenta as well as one vehicle to the regional health supervisor, 32 motorcycles to sub-prefectural supervisors and 350 bicycles to community agents in Nzérékoré prefecture.
10. UNICEF has provided EVD prevention (hygiene and sanitation) supplies and infection control training to wardens and staff of 14 prisons housing juvenile offenders across Liberia.

### **Logistics**

11. In Liberia, with the support and coordination of the WFP port captain, all cargo operations relating to the Dutch vessel have been completed; 102 pallets and seven crates were transported to the main hub, including ambulances, vehicles, PPE kits, incinerators, beds and medical equipment. The Dutch vessel will make a second rotation; the Logistics Cluster is coordinating this shipping service to all three affected countries on behalf of the humanitarian community, in direct liaison with the European Commission. The vessel will depart shortly from Vlissingen in the Netherlands and sail to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. It is scheduled to arrive in the region around 25 December.
12. The WFP-led Emergency Telecommunications Cluster is providing technical support to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to programme 400 mobile phones to be used for data collection by health workers in Bo, Sierra Leone. Internet equipment provided by standby partners Emergency and Ericsson Response will be sent to the International Humanitarian Partnership camp in Port Loko, to provide 80 organisations with internet access by the end of this week.
13. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

### **Resource Mobilisation**

14. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling US\$ 1.5 billion, has been funded for \$ 878 million, which is around 58 percent of the total ask.
15. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 79.8 million in commitments. In total \$ 121 million has been pledged.
16. 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**

17. The governorate of Nzérékoré region, Guinea, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the civil society organization Conseil Régional des Organisation de la Société Civile on the training of civil servants and local community members on the establishment of Community Watch Committees (CWCs), with UNDP funding. Under this programme, 76 sub-prefects and mayors are being trained on EVD response measures and on the modalities to establish the CWCs. The programme will support the creation of 116 CWCs in Macenta (26), Nzérékoré (70) and Lola (20).
18. UNICEF noted a reduction in resistance in the rural communities of Diarraguéréla, Gbèssoba and Senko (Beyla prefecture, Guinea) due to the coordinated action of the prefectural communication commission, with UNICEF support. Continued awareness raising and the establishment of CWCs in the rural community of Diarraguéréla in Beyla is expected to continue this trend. To date, UNICEF and partners together with communities have established 93 CWCs in Beyla.

### **Essential Services**

19. NSTR

### **Upcoming Events**

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

### **Attachments and resources**

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