



## HIGHLIGHTS

- The UNMEER Ebola Crisis Managers (ECM) for Guinea and Sierra Leone have met with the Leaders of these two countries to discuss the EVD crisis response
- The UN has lost its third staff member to EVD, a driver for the UN Women Office in Sierra Leone

## Key Political and Economic Developments

1. UNMEER ECM for Guinea, Mr. Marcel Rudasingwa, met with President Alpha Condé to discuss UN support to the Government's response. President Condé indicated that he wants the outbreak response to prioritize reaching 100 per cent contact tracing and reported that he has brokered agreements with communities and local administrations for the sites of new Ebola treatment centres (ETCs). President Condé is concerned over a lack of communication on EVD outside the capital Conakry (UNICEF is taking action to cover this gap).
2. UNMEER ECM for Sierra Leone, Mr. Amadu Kamara, met with President Ernest Bai Koroma, the Minister of Defence and newly appointed National Director of the National Ebola Response Centre (NERC), Mr. Paolo Conteh, and the Head of the UK Response, Mr. Donal Brown. In order to enhance operational efficiency and coordination, the NERC will be located together with UNMEER at the premises of the former Special Court in Freetown.
3. The Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Ebola, Dr. David Nabarro, attended the Alba Summit in Havana, Cuba. At this meeting, twelve Latin American and Caribbean countries agreed to draft an action plan to deal with the EVD epidemic. The countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Grenada, Haiti, Nicaragua, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Venezuela) also agreed to implement travel restrictions to stop EVD from spreading to the region.
4. EU Foreign Ministers agreed that the European Commission should "guarantee appropriate care for international health responders" including the option of medical evacuation for frontline staff. The Ministers said there was also a need to set up a pool of volunteer health experts from EU states "for quick and targeted deployment in health crises". The meeting produced a further commitment to close cooperation with UNMEER and a call for the international community to urgently fund OCHA's appeal for USD 988 million for the EVD response. EU Leaders are also reportedly working to find 1 billion euros to help fight EVD.
5. The Liberian Senate will meet today to decide whether to pass a vote of no confidence against the Minister for Health and Social Welfare, Dr. Walter T. Gwenigale, which could lead to his dismissal. The action by the Senate was in response to the Minister's refusal to reinstate two dismissed health workers.

## Human Rights

6. A UNICEF survey of 1,400 households across Sierra Leone found that EVD survivors face high levels of stigma, shame, and discrimination from communities, undermining their ability to rebuild their lives. About 96 per cent of households in the study reported some discriminatory attitudes toward people with suspected or confirmed EVD, and 76 per cent said they would not welcome someone who was infected with EVD back into their community, even if that person has recovered. Children are particularly vulnerable, especially when they or their parents have to be isolated for treatment.

## Medical

7. The WHO officially declared Nigeria free of EVD transmission. The country's strong leadership and effective coordination of the response was stated as being responsible for this success. The Nigerian response was greatly aided by the rapid utilization of the National Centre for Disease Control and the prompt establishment of an emergency operations center. Another key asset was the country's first-rate virology laboratory and high-quality contact tracing by experienced epidemiologists. Mass communication and outreach was also vital.

8. The UN has lost its third staff member to EVD - a driver for the UN Women Office in Sierra Leone. The staff member was quarantined with a suspected case of EVD on 14 October as a precautionary measure after his wife exhibited symptoms associated with the virus. His wife remains under the care of an ETC.
9. 48 contacts of the first EVD case in Texas completed a 21-day surveillance period. People in Ohio who came into contact with the second infected nurse continue 21-day surveillance.
10. The Spanish assistant nurse, who tested positive for EVD, has fully recovered and tested negative. She has received two main treatments, the antibodies of an Ebola survivor and an experimental anti-viral drug, Favipiravir.
11. Screening for EVD at West African airports is a better way of curbing the spread of the virus than checking travellers when they arrive at their destinations according to researchers writing in the Lancet. Extra protection by screening on arrival would be minimal because flights out of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone are relatively short compared with the incubation period of the Ebola virus.
12. The Director General of the World Health Organization, Dr. Margaret Chan, says the agency will be transparent about its handling of the Ebola outbreak, following an internal report that details failures in containing the virus.

### **Logistics**

13. President Condé of Guinea informed the UNMEER ECM that his government is facilitating expeditious clearance of supplies and equipment through customs. A protocol has already been put in place to clear materials in crisis situations, signed by the Government of Guinea and UNCT. A follow-up meeting will be held by UNMEER with the Customs Director to ensure that customs for EVD response equipment are cleared with minimum delay.
14. Concern Worldwide today announced a 36 million euro programme to address the spread of EVD in Liberia and Sierra Leone. The agency is recruiting logisticians, health care professionals and engineers to travel immediately to West Africa and will assume responsibility for managing 14 burial teams and two cemeteries in Freetown, Sierra Leone. This includes the fleet management of 22 vehicles used to transfer victims of EVD to burial sites. In Liberia, Concern will construct and support isolation units at 19 community health centres.
15. Canada will ship 800 units of an experimental EVD vaccine to the WHO in Geneva.

### **Outreach and Education**

16. The FAO has opened an online discussion, until 10 November 2014, on EVD and food security and nutrition in West Africa. Comments can be sent via email to [FSN-moderator@fao.org](mailto:FSN-moderator@fao.org) or uploaded directly, upon registration to the FSN Forum in West Africa ([register here](#)).

### **Resource Mobilisation**

17. All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: [fts@un.org](mailto:fts@un.org).

### **Essential Services**

18. A rapid assessment survey in Sierra Leone conducted by the FAO found that 47 per cent of farmers have had their work "considerably disrupted" by the EVD outbreak.
19. Médecins Sans Frontières has decided to temporarily suspend its pediatric and maternal medical activities at its Gondama hospital (located near Bo, Sierra Leone), because of the strain of responding to EVD in the country.
20. During the Ebola crisis, securing continuity of access to anti-retroviral drugs and essential HIV prevention interventions is critical to reduce morbidity and mortality of people living with HIV and to prevent new infections. The UNAIDS Inter Agency Task Team is advocating for a minimum HIV service package as part of efforts to restore public health services during this EVD outbreak.

### **Upcoming Events**

- 21-24 October - SRSG Banbury to travel to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone
- 11 December - Global Compact CEO-level Action Pledge Event at the UN

### **Attachments and Resources**

- [WHO report on Nigerian experience stopping Ebola](#)

- [WHO Ebola response maps](#)
- [Logistics cluster access constraints maps](#)