



## HIGHLIGHTS

- UN establishment of the Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund
- Latest WHO Roadmap Update reports a total of 5,843 cases and 2,803 deaths in the current outbreak of Ebola in West Africa
- International Health Regulations Emergency Committee declares “that there should be no general ban on international travel or trade”

## Key Political and Economic Developments

1. UN Spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric announced yesterday that the UN has established the Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund to ensure a coherent UN system contribution to the overall response. The Fund seeks contributions from Member States, regional legislative bodies, inter-governmental or nongovernmental organisations, businesses and individuals. Donors can also choose to channel their contributions directly to UN agencies.
2. In response to flight cancellations and travel restrictions continuing to isolate affected countries and hinder relief and response efforts, the second meeting of the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee “strongly reiterated” in a statement issued yesterday “that there should be no general ban on international travel or trade.” The Committee also highlighted that, while quarantine may be necessary in States with intense and widespread EVD transmission, “States should ensure that such measures are “proportionate and evidence-based.”
3. Following Monday’s reports on the conclusion of the three-day nationwide shutdown in Sierra Leone, yesterday, media indicated that the campaign resulted in the identification of approximately 150 new cases. Despite previously reported concerns about the conduct of the campaign, Health Minister Abubakarr Fofanah informed reporters that he deemed it to be a success, with volunteers managing to reach around 80 per cent of homes. He also suggested that “there is a possibility we would have a similar [campaign] ... some other time.” Overall statistics from the campaign are still being compiled, as authorities await data from other parts of the country.

## Medical

4. According to the latest WHO Ebola Response Roadmap Update, both the number of cases and number of deaths caused by EVD are continuing to rise. A total of 5,843 (probable, confirmed and suspected) cases and 2,803 deaths have been reported in the current outbreak of EVD as of 20 September by the Ministry of Health of Guinea, as of 17 September by the Ministry of Health of Liberia, and as of 19 September by the Ministry of Health of Sierra Leone.
5. Exposure of healthcare workers to EVD is a persistent concern. Since the previous WHO Roadmap Update on 18 September, an additional 35 healthcare workers have died from EVD and an additional 35 have been recorded to have developed EVD, bringing the total number of healthcare worker deaths to 186 and total cases to 348.
6. One positive development to note was that there have been no additional deaths or cases reported in Nigeria or Senegal since the last WHO Roadmap Update; however, contract tracing and follow-up is ongoing in Nigeria.
7. In Liberia where patients are being turned away from Ebola treatment centres due to a lack of capacity, there are now additional concerns about resulting implications of the outbreak for the country’s already fragile healthcare system. According to media, Liberians are dying of preventable or treatable conditions such as malaria, diarrhoea, pneumonia and the effects of high blood pressure and diabetes, such as stroke, at higher rates than from Ebola. Where services do exist, Ebola has reportedly complicated efforts to treat them due to fear among healthcare workers, who may turn away patients if they cannot determine whether they are infected. Additionally, it has been reported that some people will not seek care out of fear that they will become infected with Ebola while at the healthcare facility.
8. Yesterday, Canadian company Tekmira Pharmaceuticals Corp announced that U.S. and Canadian regulators have authorised the use of its Ebola treatment in patients who have confirmed or suspected infections from the deadly virus. The Vancouver-based company said its treatment, TKM-

Ebola, has been administered to patients on an emergency basis and the repeat infusions have been tolerated well.

### **Logistics**

9. On Saturday afternoon, 100 tonnes of emergency medical assistance bound for Sierra Leone and Liberia departed from New York. Chartered by humanitarian organisation Direct Relief, a Boeing 747 transported almost USD 6 million of cargo, including medicine, oral rehydration salts, gowns, gloves and masks. This was the eleventh shipment by the organisation and was the largest airlift to depart the U.S. since the onset of the EVD outbreak in West Africa.
10. Earlier on Saturday, the first team deployed by the African Union Commission arrived in Monrovia. Re-deployments of the team, which comprises both medical and non-medical-support personnel, to different counties in Liberia are expected to commence soon.

### **Outreach and Education**

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### **Security**

11. In response to recent insecurity related to the Ebola outbreak, including last week's attack and murder of an Ebola social mobilization delegation in south-eastern Guinea, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) affirmed over the weekend that "attacks such as these – born of frustration and fear over the disease – are not acceptable." The IFRC also called upon "governments and communities to respect and protect humanitarian and health personnel" involved in the response efforts.

### **Resource Mobilisation**

12. In the wake of Germany's announcement last week of its agreement with France to provide a joint airlift of medical equipment and other supplies, yesterday, media reported a request from Germany's Federal Minister of Defence for soldiers and civilian employees to "voluntarily make yourselves available for this unusual mission." The Minister assured potential volunteers that they would be properly trained and compensated, and "in case of emergency, you can rely on being brought back to Germany."
13. Yesterday, Ireland announced EUD 600,000 (approximately USD 770,000) in funding for UNICEF to support communities battling the EVD outbreak in Sierra Leone. Ireland will also provide 42 tonnes of emergency supplies, including blankets, tents, mosquito nets and water tanks, which will be airlifted from the UN Humanitarian Response Depot in Ghana.
14. In addition to letters appealing for support from other members of the international community, media revealed yesterday that Liberian President Sirleaf also wrote to Japanese Prime Minister Abe requesting the deployment of Japanese disaster response medical teams to work in Ebola treatment units given their experience in working in Indonesia and Haiti in the aftermath of major earthquakes. The Japanese Government is reportedly set to offer about JPY 540 million (approximately USD 5 million) in emergency aid to affected countries, while continuing to consider other kinds of contributions it can make to fight the disease.

### **Essential Services**

15. Despite a directive from the Federal Government of Nigeria for all schools to re-open yesterday, not all states complied. In addition to the postponement of the re-opening of schools in Lagos as reported yesterday, media also reported that, in Kebbi, the Nigerian Union of Teachers said schools in the state would not re-open until teachers received proper training on how to prevent EVD. Private schools in Kwara state also agreed to shelve their planned resumption yesterday, while Osun and Rivers states have asked their students to return on 6 October.

### **Regional**

16. Around the region, countries at potential risk of an EVD outbreak are continuing to develop and implement preparedness and prevention strategies. Measures include establishing preparedness funds, conducting mass public education campaigns, training healthcare workers, prepositioning supplies, establishing specialised prevention and response teams, identifying isolation and treatment centres and restricting public gatherings.