



HIGHLIGHTS

- UNMEER SRSG Banbury and an advance team deploy to Accra
- ECOWAS communiqué recommends the urgent mobilization of the armed and security forces of its Member States to strengthen the regional response and interventions against Ebola
- Senegalese officials announce the opening of a humanitarian corridor to help expedite aid flows

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. Yesterday evening, SRSG Anthony Banbury, head of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), deployed to Accra, Ghana along with a ten-person advance team, where they are expected to arrive today. Over the coming week, SRSG Banbury is scheduled to travel to all three of the most affected countries, where advance team leaders have been on the ground for the past week to support the initial scoping and establishment of UNMEER.
2. Last Friday, the ECOWAS Coordinating Ministerial Group for the implementation of the Regional Operational Plan on the fight against Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) issued a communiqué containing a range of recommendations to strengthen the regional response and interventions against the epidemic. These recommendations included calling for the urgent mobilization of armed and security forces of Member States to strengthen the regional response and provide medical personnel and logistics, as well as mobilise the support of military engineer regiments to establish Ebola treatment centres in affected countries. The Ministerial Group also called for the immediate deployment of a delegation of the West African Health Organization to support national coordination, and for the provision of adequate financial incentives to national health personnel already on the ground in Member States. It also recommended the organization of high-level missions to nations bordering the Ebola-affected countries to ensure effective implementation of preventative measures and case management where necessary, as well as the organization of multi-sectoral missions to Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal to discuss immediate implementation of humanitarian, economic and health corridors. The communiqué called for the finalization of the Ebola Regional Operational Plan and its submission to the President of the ECOWAS Commission. Recommending that harmonized sensitization and informational messages be developed and disseminated as part of targeted community prevention efforts, the Ministerial Group reiterated that Ebola will be “defeated through a coordinated regional response to avoid countries engaging in panic behaviour.”

Medical

3. Yesterday, following the death of her office assistant to Ebola, Liberia's chief medical officer, a deputy health minister, placed herself under quarantine for 21 days to ensure that she was not infected. While asymptomatic, she also instructed her office staff to remain at home for three weeks.
4. On 25 September, a China-aided mobile bio-safety level III laboratory arrived at Sierra Leone's Lungi International Airport. Sierra Leone's Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation expressed her deep appreciation to the Chinese Government, while noting the timeliness of the laboratory's arrival due to a large number of people awaiting testing following the three-day national lockdown that was held from 19 to 21 September. This is the second China-aided mobile laboratory in Sierra Leone; the first arrived on 17 September with the 59-member Chinese medical team.

Logistics

5. Côte d'Ivoire's President Alassane Ouattara indicated on Friday that his country would lift the maritime and flight suspension “next week” to countries stricken by the Ebola virus to show solidarity with those affected by the outbreak. He further said that Cote d'Ivoire has opened a humanitarian corridor that will be used to check people who enter the country.
6. On Saturday, Senegalese officials announced that the country had opened a humanitarian corridor to help expedite aid to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone “in the context of international solidarity.” A plane carrying WFP personnel from Conakry has already reportedly arrived at the designated

humanitarian air corridor on a military air base near Dakar. Senegal first offered on 8 September to allow access to air carriers delivering relief to the Ebola-stricken countries in the region.

Security

7. On Saturday, UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova deplored the deaths of journalist Facély Camara and media workers Molou Chérif and Sidiki Sidibé, who were among the eight-member team killed while raising awareness about EVD in south-eastern Guinea.

Regional

8. Ebola preparedness and prevention activities are ongoing in Burkina Faso, with the Government adopting a preparation and response plan of USD 27 million. Meanwhile, UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of National Basic Education to carry out a nationwide information, sensitisation and communication campaign on Ebola. Burkina Faso has yet to report any confirmed cases of EVD; five recent samples sent to France for testing returned negative for EVD.
9. With the last new case of EVD in Nigeria reported on 8 September and all patients under surveillance having been released, UNICEF, in its final Ebola humanitarian situation report for Nigeria, noted some of the key lessons and best practices in the containment and prevention of the spread of EVD. These included: decentralising the National Ebola Emergency Operations Centre, while simultaneously building the State's capacity to manage the outbreak; bringing together various sectors under one command structure to enable effective inter-sectoral coordination; centralising media messaging within a single official source to minimise rumours; and payment of incentives for health workers to encourage them to remain in EVD-affected areas.
10. Further to media interest last week on the implications of the Ebola epidemic on the upcoming annual hajj, last week, the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Health conducted a "successful" drill to identify and quarantine pilgrims suffering from infectious diseases. The Ministry also has reportedly deployed teams of officials at 14 ports of entry in Makkah Province to check for infected visitors among the two million pilgrims who are expected to arrive in October.

Upcoming Events

- 29 September – Arrival of SRSG Banbury and advance team in Accra, Ghana
- 1 October – SRSG Banbury to travel to Liberia
- 3 October – SRSG Banbury to travel to Sierra Leone
- 5 October – SRSG Banbury to travel to Guinea

Attachments and Resources

- [UNICEF: Nigeria Ebola Humanitarian Situation report, as of 24 September](#)