



HIGHLIGHTS

- SRSG Banbury continues his visit to the affected countries in Freetown, Sierra Leone
- WHO Ebola Response Roadmap Update reports a total of 7,740 cases and 3,431 deaths from EVD since the recent outbreak
- UNMEER issues press release to confirm that Ebola is not an airborne disease
- The Liberian House of Representatives unanimously passes a private bill criminalizing the deliberate concealment of information of persons with contagious diseases such as EVD

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. On the second leg of his introductory visit to the most affected countries, SRSG Anthony Banbury arrived in Freetown, Sierra Leone, yesterday, where he held a series of meetings, including with President Ernest Bai Koroma and a delegation of Ministers, nongovernmental organisations and women's groups, and the UN country team, in addition to convening a press conference. The visit in Sierra Leone will continue today with a visit to an isolation unit managed by the NGO Emergency.
2. During a press briefing yesterday from Monrovia, WFP Regional Director for West Africa, Denise Brown, stated that the concerted efforts to bring the virus under control had not succeeded. Ms. Brown advised that WFP was deploying a small army of logisticians to locations all over the country, but needed to increase its numbers and its geographical coverage to ensure assistance reaches the most remote locations. Ms. Brown spoke of several other constraints hampering the response, including poor conditions of road infrastructure and the need for storage in close proximity to the affected populations for WFP to be able to access its materials.
3. The AU Commissioner for Social Affairs, Dr. Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko, arrived in Monrovia yesterday evening from Accra. He was received by the African Union Support to Ebola Outbreak in West Africa (ASEOWA) Head of Mission and the AU Representative to Liberia. Headquartered in Monrovia, ASEOWA is planning to deploy about 35 medical personnel to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. The AU Commissioner will visit Guinea on 6 October and Sierra Leone on 8 October.
4. On Thursday, the Liberian House of Representatives unanimously passed a private bill criminalising the deliberate concealment of information of persons with contagious and infectious diseases. The bill, which prescribes penalties for deliberate concealment, including of EVD and HIV/AIDS, requires Senate concurrence. A similar law was recently passed in Sierra Leone.

Human Rights

5. According to media yesterday, journalists will need official permission to cover many aspects of the Ebola outbreak in Liberia, under new rules that the Liberian Government said are aimed at protecting patient privacy. The same day, the media reported that an American freelance cameraman working for NBC News in Liberia had tested positive for EVD, making him the fifth U.S. citizen known to have contracted the virus. The journalist is reportedly to be flown back to the U.S. for treatment.
6. UNMIL advised that the third regional session on "EVD Awareness, Use of Personal Protection Equipment and Human Rights in the context of the State of Emergency" was held on Thursday at the Regional Training Centre in Harper, Maryland County. The activity is part of a training programme jointly developed by UNMIL and the National Police Training Academy, targeting 5,000 officers of the Liberian National Police (LNP), Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, Drug Enforcement Agency and the Transnational Crimes Unit. The sessions are being delivered by UNPOL trainers alongside facilitators from the LNP and together with the UNMIL Human Rights and Medical Sections.

Medical

7. According to the latest WHO Ebola Response Roadmap Update, a total of 7,740 cases and 3,431 deaths have been reported in the current outbreak of EVD in West Africa, as of 1 October by the Ministries of Health of Guinea and Sierra Leone, and up to the end of 30 September by the Ministry of Health of Liberia. Exposure of healthcare workers continues to be an alarming feature of this outbreak, with latest figures revealing 382 cases, of which 216 have resulted in death.

8. Following recent misquoted media reports, UNMEER issued a press release yesterday to clarify that Ebola is not an airborne virus. At this point in time, the press release said there was no evidence to suggest, and it was not anticipated, that EVD was mutating to become airborne, but was still spread only through contact with bodily fluids.
9. As previously indicated, one of the many challenges in the Ebola response has been a serious shortfall in qualified healthcare professionals. In Liberia, job seekers are reportedly plentiful, but skilled professionals are scarce. Furthermore, media reported yesterday that training courses are full and there are few skilled healthcare trainers to facilitate them.
10. On a positive note, WHO shared observations of a Ugandan doctor it had deployed to Liberia, who said “as we see fewer people dying, the health workers are ... feeling more empowered and motivated to continue,” as well as becoming more “comfortable working with protective equipment.”
11. Further to yesterday’s mention of the Liberian Government reportedly intending to prosecute the EVD patient currently hospitalised in the U.S., President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has publicly added that “the fact that he knew [he was exposed to the virus] and he left the country is unpardonable.”

Logistics

12. On Thursday, the WFP Executive Director approved the Special Operation (SO 200773; Common Logistics Services for the Humanitarian Community’s Response to the Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak in West Africa); required funding for these common services over the next five months is now estimated at approximately USD 87 million.
13. The humanitarian community has been given three months’ government approval for a humanitarian corridor between Dakar, Senegal and the three affected countries; the first UNHAS flight took place on 25 September and regular flights will commence on 7 October.
14. There have been no reports so far of any international container lines suspending their services; some liners have altered schedules, but are continuing to call at all three affected country ports. WFP has contracted a time-charter vessel for shunting to the three affected country ports from Las Palmas, Spain. The Logistics Cluster may use this vessel for inter-agency supplies, and use Las Palmas as a cargo consolidation hub for non-food item shipments.
15. In its most recent update, the Logistics Cluster noted that partners are continuing to report serious constraints in accessing the airport and seaport in Liberia due to the entry procedures. The Logistics Cluster is also working with the Liberian MoHSW and airport authorities to assess the possibility of erecting additional storage facilities, renting additional machinery and improving access at Monrovia’s Roberts Field Airport. The Logistics Cluster is also working with the Liberian Government to create a dispatch plan, including all ETUs and health facilities nationally, in order to design and streamline the supply chain accordingly.
16. Meanwhile, the German Government told the press that its first tranche of medical support – five tonnes of relief supplies – arrived in Monrovia yesterday after being transported from Dakar by a German military aircraft.
17. In Sierra Leone, the Logistics Cluster noted the congestion of cargo (emergency relief items) at the Lungi airport due to trucks not arriving on time to load cargo, insufficient warehouse space, overstretched capacity of cargo handlers, and delayed import and clearance procedures. The Logistics Cluster, through WFP, is assessing strategies for easing congestion, while separately noting that transport to Port Loko from the airport is possible only from 0900-1700 hours because quarantine check-points are closed outside of these hours.
18. Meanwhile, in Guinea, the Government has requested WFP as lead agency of the Logistics Cluster to construct up to 13 Ebola Treatment Centres across the country. Through WFP, the Logistics Cluster is providing support for an MSF transit centre in Macenta which is due to be upgraded to an ETU, by the French Government.
19. The U.S. military announced yesterday that an additional 1,800 soldiers, including engineers, medical and aviation specialists, will be deployed to West Africa in the coming weeks to help fight the Ebola outbreak; this is in addition to 1,400 soldiers announced by the Pentagon on Tuesday.

Resource Mobilisation

20. Yesterday, the Government of Japan decided to extend emergency grant aid of USD 22 million through WHO, WFP, UNICEF and other international organisations in order to respond to the Ebola virus disease outbreak in West African countries.
21. Ireland also confirmed its new pledge of over EUR 1 million (approximately USD 1.25 million) in extra funding to strengthen efforts to respond to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, which brings

Ireland's total contribution to the Ebola response to over EUR 2.5 million (equivalent to over USD 3 million). This funding will provide urgently needed extra beds in treatment facilities in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Upcoming Events

- 4-5 October – SRSG Banbury to travel to Sierra Leone
- 7-9 October – SRSG Banbury to travel to Guinea
- 21 October – “Survivors’ Conference” in Kenema, Sierra Leone, hosted by the Government of Sierra Leone and UNICEF

Attachments and Resources

- [WHO: Ebola Response Roadmap Update, 3 October 2014](#)
- [OCHA: Central Emergency Response Fund response to Ebola outbreak, 3 October 2014](#)