



HIGHLIGHTS

- Liberia's Ministerial Ebola Strategic Committee and Incident Management Team presented the revised national Ebola response plan on 4 October; finalised plan is expected in the coming week
- National medical personnel on strike in Bong County ETU; similar strikes threatened in Monrovia
- Despite improvements in capacities for laboratory testing and dead body management in Liberia, related challenges persist; separate constraints noted regarding reporting and transfer of suspected EVD cases
- As of 7 October, United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) confirms the commencement of flights linking Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone
- WHO issued a report on 6 October detailing the methods of transmission of the Ebola virus among humans confirming that the EVD is not airborne.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. In Liberia, the Ministerial Ebola Strategic Committee and the Incident Management Team presented a revised national Ebola response plan on 4 October to Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Vice-President Joseph Boakai, in the presence of heads of mission/delegations from donor countries and partners, including UN entities. While the 90-day plan still needs clarification on resource allocation and assignment of responsibilities, a complete and budgeted plan is expected to be finalised next week.
2. During his time in Monrovia, the AU Commissioner for Social Affairs Dr. Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko noted that the African Union Support to Ebola Outbreak in West Africa (ASEOWA) and the AU would work closely with UNMIL and UNMEER as well as other partners. He indicated that the purpose of his visit was to support the decisions of the AU and its Executive Council with regards to resumption of flights to the Ebola-affected countries and also to facilitate necessary humanitarian and other actions to contain the spread of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

Human Rights

3. There has been media interest in a statement signed on 2 October by the Ministers of Health, Interior and Defence of Haiti, banning any agency to organise the recruitment of Haitian volunteers to respond to the Ebola outbreak, including UNMEER. Health Minister Florence Duperval Guillaume expressed that these measures "may be much stronger than necessary but think of those [Haitian] citizens who have been so traumatised, after the earthquake, after cholera, and after chikungunya. We cannot afford to take an additional trauma".

Medical

4. On 6 October, WHO confirms in its report detailing the methods of transmission of the Ebola virus among humans that the Ebola virus disease is not an airborne infection, as this has not been observed during extensive studies of the Ebola virus over several decades.
5. There has been media interest in a [recent study](#) based on EVD spread patterns and airline traffic data that predicts a 75 per cent chance of EVD appearing in France and a 50 per cent chance of it appearing in Britain by 24 October. France was identified to be among countries most likely to be hit next because the worst affected countries – Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia – include French speakers and have busy travel routes back, while Britain's Heathrow airport is one of the world's largest travel hubs.
6. The first person to be diagnosed with Ebola in the U.S. is currently in a critical but stable condition and is receiving an investigational medication, brincidofovir, for EVD, according to the latest update from Texas Health Resources. Meanwhile, media reported yesterday that the U.S. Government would develop expanded screening of airline passengers for Ebola, both in the West African countries hit by the disease and in the U.S.

7. Spanish Health Minister Ana Mato confirmed to the press yesterday that a nurse who treated the two EVD-infected Spanish priests in Madrid has tested positive for the disease, making her the first person to be infected with EVD while outside of Africa.

Logistics

8. On Saturday, the Public Health Agency of Canada deployed a second mobile laboratory and two additional scientists to Sierra Leone to join the Agency's existing team in the field in Kailahun; a third scientist will leave today. One mobile lab team will continue to provide rapid diagnostic support to help local HCWs to quickly diagnose Ebola. The second mobile lab team will work with MSF to monitor the effectiveness of infection prevention procedures such as hand washing stations, face masks and disposal sites to prevent the further spread of Ebola.
9. On 2 October, the 165-member team of Cuban medical professional arrived at Sierra Leone's Lungi International Airport. The team was welcomed by the Deputy Minister of Health and Sanitation II, Madam Madina Rahman, who informed media that the team would be deployed for a minimum of six months to areas requiring a high level of attention to eradicate the disease, and that their expertise would also be utilised in other areas of public health concern.
10. Last week, MSF updated that more than 16,000 family protection and home disinfection kits have been distributed thus far in Monrovia, in order to offer people some protection from an infected family member until they can access the necessary medical care from an Ebola management centre. Mass distribution of the total 50,000 kits, which commenced on 25 September, is expected to take between six and eight weeks.
11. Over the weekend, UNHAS announced the official start of the [Humanitarian Corridor](#) connecting Dakar, Conakry, Freetown, Monrovia and Accra from 7 October.

Resource Mobilisation

12. On 9 October, the Secretary-General will attend a meeting at the World Bank to discuss aspects related to the financing of the Ebola response. Participants will include representatives from the World Bank, African Development Bank, the IMF, along with the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy, David Nabarro.

Essential Services

13. According to preliminary findings from the two-week joint assessment mission being conducted by the Liberian Ministry of Agriculture, FAO and WFP, some of the main challenges for people are the access to and availability of food, and the increase in transportation prices. Women have been particularly affected by the closure of markets.

Regional

14. Côte d'Ivoire continues to enhance its preparedness and prevention measures against a possible outbreak of EVD in the country, with the opening of a temporary isolation centre at the Bouaké University Hospital by local health authorities.

Upcoming Events

- 9 October – UN Secretary-General to attend meeting at the World Bank in D.C. on Ebola response financing
- 21 October – "Survivors' Conference" in Kenema, Sierra Leone, hosted by the Government of Sierra Leone and UNICEF
- 11 December – Global Compact CEO-level Action Pledge Event at the UN