

UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) External Situation Report

6 January 2015

KEY POINTS

- The Governments of the three most affected countries have announced their intention to reopen schools.
- A National Stakeholder's Forum on Safe and Dignified Burials was held in Liberia.
- The Logistics Cluster is organising four additional free-of-charge flights from the European Staging-Area at Cologne Bonn Airport to the three most affected countries.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. Following an impasse in the negotiations between the Government of Guinea and six national trade unions, including the public health workers union, on salary increases and other demands, the unions called for a general strike throughout the country as of today. Limited demonstrations and road closures have been observed in Conakry.
2. Following the announcement by the President of Sierra Leone on New Year's day of his intention to reopen schools soon, the Governments of Liberia and Guinea similarly announced that schools would reopen. While Guinea did not provide a specific date, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf provided 2 February as the target date.
3. SRSR Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, together with Special Envoy for Ebola David Nabarro, is undertaking his first familiarization visit since assuming functions as Head of UNMEER to Liberia followed by Sierra Leone.
4. After assuming his functions on 3 January, UNMEER Guinea Ebola Crisis Manager (ECM), Mr. Abdou Dieng, met today with the Head of the National Response Coordination Cell, Dr Sakoba Keita.

Response Efforts and Health

5. UNMEER inspected the planned Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) at Barclayville city, Grand Kru county, Liberia on 5 January to monitor progress in the construction. ASPEN Medical is in the process of hiring health workers to work at the ETU, which is scheduled to be operational on 17 January. Meanwhile, Women Health Alliance International (WAHA) reported the completion of the rehabilitation of Voinjama ETU in Lofa county, which will likely be operational as of 10 January.
6. WHO donated assorted Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) supplies (Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), thermometers, stationeries & deep freezer) to the EVD Holding Center in Gbarnga, Bong county, Liberia. WHO together with the Ministry of Health and the organisation Global Communities also trained two Environmental Health Technicians on specimen collection from dead bodies. In addition, UNICEF trained 114 general Community Health Volunteers (gCHVs) and county district coordinators to strengthen their capacity in active EVD case search across Lofa county, and in particular in the border areas.
7. A National Stakeholder's Forum on Safe and Dignified Burials was held on 3 January in Montserrado county, Liberia. The Health Minister, the Cultural Ambassador, the Head of Support Services for the Incident Management System (IMS) and other IMS representatives participated in the Forum as well as heads of traditional and religious organizations and funeral directors. Representatives from the Carter Center, the CDC, Global Communities and Partners for Good were also in attendance. Key recommendations from the forum include: to institute Disco Hill as national cemetery with a section for safe and dignified burials for those who died from EVD; to create a budget for the maintenance of the cemetery; and to assign religious leaders from different faiths to the cemetery so that proper burial norms are followed.
8. WFP supplied start-up kits (comprising beds, PPE and toiletries) to Ganta ETU, Nimba County, Liberia.

9. In support of the Minister of Education's school reopening plan in Liberia, UNICEF initiated procurement of infrared thermometers for every Liberian school (15,000 thermometers) to ensure effective health screening of all individuals upon entry to school campuses.
10. In Sierra Leone, UNICEF, in partnership with the National Ebola Response Centre (NERC), the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, and the Centre for Disease Control (CDC), continues the national scale up of trainings at all 1,188 Public Health Units (PHUs) in the country on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and the screening of suspected Ebola patients. As of 27 December, a total of 4,368 health personnel and 2,698 support staff including cleaners and security personnel have benefitted from IPC trainings.
11. Following the registration of 13,608 households in 9 chiefdoms within 29 Ebola affected communities in Kono District, Sierra Leone, which were identified as major EVD hotspots, WFP has begun the delivery of over 1,000 metric tons of assorted food commodities to quarantined communities. Food distributions will be undertaken by World Vision. In Waterloo, Western Area Rural, Sierra Leone, WFP and its cooperating partner CIDO are also continuing general food distributions to meet the needs of over 47,000 households where high EVD rates have been identified. Since mid-December over 25,000 households have received one month rations.
12. In total, 20,656 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 8,153 deaths.

Logistics

13. The Logistics Cluster, via the Air Coordination Cell (ACC), is organising four additional free-of-charge flights, on behalf of the humanitarian community, from the European Staging-Area at Cologne Bonn Airport. The first of the four flights landed in Monrovia on 4 January, transporting 69 metric tons of cargo on behalf of 12 organisations (WHO, Italian MoFA, American Refugee Committee, ICRC, NOSLINA, THW, MSF-B, MSF-H, MSF-S, CAP ANAMUR, Medical Teams International and Direct Relief International). The next flight is scheduled to depart Cologne on 9 January for Conakry and Monrovia; and the two final flights are scheduled during the third and fourth weeks of January to serve Freetown, Monrovia, and Conakry.
14. Since 1 January, the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) has added a LET 410 fixed-wing aircraft to its fleet in Liberia, which will serve Foya, Greenville, Harper, Voinjama and Zwedru.
15. One WFP Logistics Officer is currently based in Kambia, Sierra Leone, to support WHO's rehabilitation of a hospital to be used as a holding centre. WFP will be providing necessary equipment and staff to support the construction of additional wings at the hospital, where required.
16. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

17. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling USD 1.5 billion, has been funded for USD 1.14 billion, which is around 76% of the total ask.
18. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 134.9 million in commitments. In total USD 140 million has been pledged.
19. All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (<http://fts.unocha.org>) of contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org.

Outreach and Education

20. NSTR

Essential Services

21. NSTR

Upcoming Events

22. NSTR

Attachments and resources

Reliefweb: [Maps on the EVD response](#)