

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

27 January 2015

KEY POINTS

- Overview of Needs and Requirements (ONR) funding gap- USD 1 billion
- Senegal re-opens land borders with Guinea
- Communities actively engaged in awareness activities

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. On 26 January, Senegal reopened its land borders with Guinea. Senegal had reopened air and sea borders on 14 November 2014, after closing all borders on 21 August 2014.

Response Efforts and Health

2. UNICEF has established an Interim Care Centre in Guéckédou, Guinea to receive children accompanying their mothers hospitalized with EVD. A total of eight children have been cared for in the centre so far.
3. The EVD taskforce partners in Bong County, Liberia met and discussed the national phase II plan for the county. Eight (8) thematic areas (case management, community engagement, psychosocial, coordination at county level, safe and dignified burials, active case finding, surveillance and social mobilization) were highlighted. The technical team will develop the Bong county phase II plan based on the discussions and best practices from the phase I. Areas for improvement include better coordination at all levels and resources to implement activities.
4. In total, 21,924 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 8,737 deaths.

Logistics

5. The Logistics Cluster has been coordinating the transport of a donation of 400 motorbikes from the Government of Germany to UNMEER on behalf of the humanitarian community. The motorcycles have proved essential to the implementation of response operation, providing a mechanism for additional surveillance, social mobilization, and the collection of lab samples. So far 253 motorbikes have been dispatched from Accra to the three Ebola-affected countries: 45 to Guinea, 78 to Liberia, and 72 to Sierra Leone.
6. Over the weekend, the Danish naval vessel Ark Futura docked and delivered in Conakry port 53 UN vehicles and 4 containers with vehicle spare parts and IT racks. The vehicles will be distributed according to current needs of the response partners.
7. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

8. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling USD 2.27 billion, has been funded for USD 1.21 billion, which is around 54% of the total ask.
9. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 135.8 million in commitments. In total USD 140 million has been pledged.
10. All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (<http://fts.unocha.org>) of their contributions via the e-mail address: fts@un.org.

Outreach and Education

11. UNDP is training hundreds of community police officers to help keep EVD case numbers down and prevent future outbreaks. 450 newly trained officers have begun sharing information with communities in Matoto, in Guinea's capital Conakry, enhance public awareness to help stop EVD spread and to build more trust between the public and the security services.
12. Several community mobilization initiatives are underway in Guinea with support of UNICEF, UNMEER and other health partners. NGO, Plan Guinea will commence training of trainers for the Community Watch Committees in Kissidougou, which is slated to take place between 26 to 30 January; the Islamic League held sensitisation sessions in the five communities of Fermessadou, Sangardo, Yende, Gbangbadou, Kondeadou as well as visited 18 mosques in the urban district of Kissidougou to deliver sensitisation messages on EVD; and traditional communicators, healers and women workers carried out door-to-door sensitization in the urban district reaching 527 people including 203 women.
13. IOM, CDC and UNMEER undertook, with the support of county authorities, a border assessment mission in Grand Cape Mount County, Liberia to explore how best to enhance Ebola response services. Key activities included community focus group discussion, interviews local authorities and 3 technical assessments of the immigration post, health services and WASH.
14. In continuous efforts to enhance EVD preventive measures, the County Health Team (CHT) at River Cess, Liberia with UNICEF and the Carter Centre concluded the social mobilization training for 864 general Community Health Volunteers (gCHV) and 270 town chiefs drawn from six (6) health districts. The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOH&SW) continues to look for ways to pay incentives for the group.

Essential Services

15. In Guinea, UNICEF in collaboration with other partners undertook a vaccination catch-up programme in 19 high risk health districts during its Child Health Days. While in Liberia, the second phase of the Periodic Intensification of Routine Immunization drive is set to begin to reach children aged under five with the measles vaccine. UNICEF is also financing the cold chain and vaccination teams in addition to leading social mobilisation efforts.
16. Under the leadership of the Liberian Ministry of Health, UNICEF is a key partner in the upcoming assessment and development of a budgeted health plan to building resilient health systems in Liberia. Discussions are underway on the scope and level of preparedness for this assessment. Eight thematic groups were formed, namely: (1) context and policies, (2) health governance, (3) health workforce, (4) healthcare financing, (5) health information and surveillance, (6) technology, medicines, supply chain management systems, (7) health service delivery, and (8) health infrastructure and logistics.
17. The first cross-border project with IOM Mali has been activated. Fifteen border community sites in Mali and three cross-border sites in Guinea Conakry will be conducting joint social messaging, data collection and other health surveillance services in the coming months. In Mali, IOM continued to enhance and expand the Flow Monitoring point (FMP) services at principle Western and Southern border crossing areas. At full capacity 16 Ebola FMPs will be operational at health checkpoints in addition to the deployment of a new team at the airport.

Upcoming Events

18. On 26 and 27 January in Freetown, Sierra Leone the Mano River Union is holding a Sub-regional Ebola Technical meeting on border surveillance and disease control, with support from the African Development Bank (Afd) and UNMEER.
19. On 28 and 29 January, UNMEER in collaboration with the African Union Support to Ebola Outbreak in West Africa (ASEOWA), UNICEF and the Joint Force Command (JFC) plan to support the County Education Officer of Greater Monrovia Area to carry out a rapid assessment of educational institutions that served as quarantine centres or treatment facilities at the peak of the EVD outbreak. The institutions to be assessed are the most neglected and inaccessible in the area.

Attachments and resources

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