

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

11 February 2015

### KEY POINTS

- UNDP study finds women disproportionately affected by EVD
- President Alpha Condé of Guinea pays solidarity visit to Liberia
- Schools scheduled to re-open on 2 March in Liberia

### Key Political and Economic Developments

1. According to a new study by UNDP, women have been disproportionately affected by the Ebola virus because they serve as family caregivers and health workers, take part in traditional practices and rituals, and trade across borders where they come into contact with many people. The disparities are most visible in Guinea's most affected areas. In Gueckédou, for instance, women represent 62 percent of the infected, and in Télémilé, 74 percent. The study finds large numbers of women have lost their livelihoods due to reduced productivity in agriculture, slowing down of trade and small business activity. In addition, maternal deaths have increased because of reduced antenatal and neonatal care. The study says recovery plans should incorporate gender considerations, and countries need to put in place specific social protection programmes for women.
2. On 10 February, President Alpha Condé of Guinea and Chairman of the Mano River Union (MRU), paid a one-day solidarity visit to Liberia, where he held talks with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia. Among others, they assessed progress made in the fight against the EVD. The Presidents decided to convene an MRU Summit on cross-border issues at the Presidential level to be held in Conakry on 15 February. They also decided that technical sessions will be held from 12-14 February. On the same day, UNMEER Ebola Crisis Manager in Liberia, Mr. Peter Graaff met with President Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia and briefed her on UNMEER activities. President Johnson-Sirleaf thanked him for UNMEER's assistance and requested UNMEER's support for the scheduled MRU Presidential Summit.
3. On 10 February, the Ministry of Education (MoE) officially announced that schools in Liberia will be reopened on 2 March. In its public service announcement, the MoE noted that the decision was taken following appeals from school administrators, parents and other stakeholders. The MoE also called on school authorities to complete all outstanding orientation activities for teachers and students, including refresher and Ebola training workshops. UNICEF have been assisting Liberian authorities to implement the 'Protocols for Safe School Environments in the EVD Outbreak in Liberia'. UNICEF and WPF, through the Logistics Cluster have provided supplies to ensure the safe re-opening of schools across Liberia (see sitrep of 10 February).

### Response Efforts and Health

4. In total, 22,859 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 9,162 deaths.
5. In Sierra Leone, biometric verification of over 10,000 Ebola Response Workers, and the national Hazard Payroll System was completed in the Western Area. Ten partners making direct payments have also been incorporated in the process. The system was developed with technical assistance from UNDP, NERC, CDC, Handicap International, Goal International, Helen Keller International, DFID, Smart Consortium, UNFPA and Concern Worldwide.
6. On 9 February, the County Health Team (CHT) of Lofa County in Liberia discussed the recurring challenges faced by the county health office over the lack of ambulances to respond to both EVD and other health related issues. The county health officer requested support from partners. Inadequate water supply also continues to hamper operations at the Women's International Health Alliance (WAHA)/Goal managed ETU in Voinjama.

7. As part of its routine monitoring activity on the EVD situation in Liberia, the county and the district health teams of Lofa County along with UNMEER, WHO, CDC and E-health Africa conducted a monitoring mission to Konia and Zigieda in Zorzor district on 8 February. Fourteen (14) quarantined homes were monitored following recent reports of a confirmed case who travelled from Montserrado to Zigieda and Konia and had contact with family members. Reportedly, the quarantined persons are in stable condition (this report is based on visual screening of the suspected cases by general community health volunteers (gCHV)) and case monitoring will continue for 21 days. The gCHVs intensified their active case search in Lofa County conducting house-to-house search and community awareness on hygienic practices as well as the use of Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) materials following this incident.
8. Following reports of Guineans crossing the border into Liberia in the area of Saclepea, Nimba County (Liberia) to escape the recent flare-up in Lola, Guinée Forestière (Guinea), UNMEER dispatched a field team to the border areas in Saclepea-Sanniquellie-Ganta to meet with local officials and community leaders. The Saclepea hospital is aware of the situation and received information about a sick individual who traveled from Kindia town (Guinea) on 5 February, to stay with her relatives in Ganta (Liberia) and proceeded to Mehnpa town of Saclepea on 6 February. Hospital staff along with UNFPA and UNMEER interviewed the lady who seemed fine and is now under surveillance. UNMEER also alerted UNHCR field office in Saclepea, which manages the Bahn refugee with about 5,300 refugees from Cote d'Ivoire.

### Logistics

9. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.
10. UNMEER Geo-Information Management Services (UNMEER GIMS) v1.0, web mapping application can be freely accessed at <http://www.unmeer-im-liberia.website>.

### Resource Mobilisation

11. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling USD 2.27 billion, has been funded for **USD 1.23 billion**, which is around 54% of the total ask.
12. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 136.8 million in commitments. In total USD 140 million has been pledged.
13. 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](mailto:fts@un.org).

### Outreach and Education

14. On 9 February, UNMEER together with the county health team (CHT), Liberia's Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), Guinean delegation and traditional leaders met in Bong County (Liberia) to discuss ways to curb illegal cross-border crossing between the two countries. Global Communities shared a blueprint of the strategy they plan to implement which uses gCHVs and traditional/local leaders (town, zonal and paramount chiefs for cross border monitoring). Global communities will pay incentives for all those involved in these cross-border surveillance activities as well as provide a vehicle to the CHT. The Guinean officials pledged to adopt a similar monitoring strategy as Liberia on their side of the border. Traditional leaders and local youth have also expressed interest to be involved in monitoring illegal border crossing and pledged to support related activities.

### Essential Services

15. In Sierra Leone, the UNDP Recovery Advisor is working with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development on the preparation of the government's Post Ebola Recovery Strategy, to be released next week.

### Upcoming Events

16. From 11 to 18 February, UNDP Administrator Helen Clark will visit the affected countries.
17. UNMEER SRSG Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed will travel to Guinea from 11 to 15 February to, among other things, participate in the MRU Heads of State Summit on cross-border issues.

### Attachments and resources

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