

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

17 February 2015

KEY POINTS

- UNDP Administrator commends Liberian people for incredible courage in tackling Ebola
- UNICEF intensifies community engagement in hotspots of affected countries
- WFP continues to leverage logistics expertise to support response efforts

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. Speaking at a press conference with the Liberian Foreign Minister Augustine Ngafuan, UNDP Administrator Helen Clark cautioned that the Ebola crisis will not be over until there are zero cases. Ms Clark commended the Liberian Government and people for their ongoing efforts to contain the Ebola outbreak which have resulted in a sharp decline in the number of cases in the country and highlighted that working together with support from international partners, the government and communities had shown “incredible courage” in tackling the Ebola crisis.

Response Efforts and Health

2. In total, 23,182 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 9,353 deaths.
3. The Liberian Ministry of Health and WHO have developed a seven day infection prevention control (IPC), clinical and ETU training package for healthcare facility workers which is aligned with national phase 2 objectives of staying safe and providing quality patient care in Ebola and non-Ebola healthcare facilities. The package consolidates the existing Keep Safe, Keep Serving training and the current ETU trainings; it also includes emergency care and outbreak detection and response components (from the Integrated Management of Adult Illness manual). It is anticipated training will commence in March and move through all counties over the course of the year, with monitoring occurring later in the year. Part of package will include training of trainers as healthcare worker capacity building.
4. In response to the EVD cases in Monsterrado (Zuma town and Paynesville), Liberia UNICEF has intensified door-to-door campaigns reaching all households with an emphasis on EVD prevention, contacting, searching for unsafe/secret burials and identification of special needs of families affected by EVD. In Margibi, UNICEF is also supporting a team of 20 general community health volunteer (gCHVs) to conduct intensive social mobilization in two quarantined communities and five communities under observation.

Logistics

5. Through UNMEER in Sierra Leone, WFP has received an official request from the National Ebola Response Centre (NERC) to support the maintenance of the ambulance fleet in the Western Area through a dedicated workshop. WFP has proposed to include both dedicated Ebola response ambulances as well as regular ambulances, in order to facilitate the eventual handover of these assets and the workshop to the Government of Sierra Leone. Discussions with the NERC and partners on the required scope of the workshop are ongoing.
6. WFP is supporting WHO and the Liberian Ministry of Health in its distribution of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to over 700 Ministry of Health facilities (clinics, hospitals, and other health care centres). The ‘last mile’ distribution will run from 9 February to 6 March in all 15 counties with approximately 800m³ of PPE to be distributed.
7. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

8. 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

9. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling USD 2.27 billion, has been funded for USD 1.25 billion, which is around 55% of the total ask.
10. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 136.8 million in commitments. In total USD 140 million has been pledged.
11. 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

12. In the previous week in Sierra Leone, UNICEF supported Hotspot Busters project. During this last week, Health For All Coalition (HFAC) social mobilizers covered 45 hotspots, 4 communities nationwide (including nine that were newly identified) reaching 58,557 households through door to door community sensitization. The mobilizers reported 54 suspected cases of Ebola (41 from existing hotspots and 13 from non-hotspot areas). 18 cases were referred to CCCs/holding centres/treatment units within 48 hours. A total of 1,943 traditional healers and religious leaders were engaged in promoting safe and dignified burials and demystifying rumours about Ebola.
13. In Guinea, national authorities are increasing social sensitization efforts, largely through the media particularly in Boffa, Dubreka, Faranah, Forecariah, Kindia, Lola, Macenta, Matam and Matoto, where communities have shown strong resistance to response efforts.
14. Last week in Guinea, UNICEF intensified social mobilization and community sensitization efforts in many prefectures that exhibited resistance to response efforts including Conakry, Dubreka, Siguiri and Forecariah. In Conakry, social mobilizers and Community 4 Development (C4D) coordinators organized sessions on EVD prevention in schools, reaching 1,016 pupils and 34 teachers in the commune of Kaloum. In Dubreka, UNICEF and partners delivered 2000 hygiene kits to be given to the families of Ebola victims. In Forecariah, social mobilizers and C4D coordinators trained 60 religious leaders on Ebola prevention in Maferinyah. In Siguiri, social mobilizers and C4D coordinators conducted 95 home visits and reached 647 people in rural towns and the urban commune. The social mobilizers and C4D coordinators also conducted 19 awareness sessions with 63 religious leaders in the rural towns of Bankon, Franwalia, Kintinian, Siguirini and the urban commune.
15. In the previous week in Liberia, UNICEF provided training to 40 religious leaders on EVD protection and prevention measure and their role in their communities to enhance and ensure vigilance. The leaders are to develop their own local action plans on how to disseminate information, mobilize and train other religious leaders in their communities. UNICEF also intensified social mobilization campaigns on EVD prevention measures in Grand Cape County through door-to-door awareness. UNICEF also handed over 81 motorbikes to the 15 County Health Teams (CHT) of the Ministry of Health- 62 were donated by UNMEER. These motorbikes will enhance the efforts of the CHT, especially to access hard to reach areas.

Essential Services

16. In Sierra Leone, UNICEF continued to support the MoHS in training Peripheral Health Unit (PHU) health workers on the revised 'Guidelines for Appropriate Management of Childhood Illnesses and Immunization in the context of Ebola'. The cascade training process was completed nationwide with an additional 237 staff trained last week, bringing the cumulative number of trained staff to 2,411, surpassing the target of training 2,400 staff.
17. Schools officially opened across Liberia on 16 February, however schools must be in full compliance of the Safe Schools Reopening Protocols. A flexible schools calendar will ensure that schools open after this date will not have reduced learning time.

Upcoming Events

18. NTSR

Attachments and resources

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