

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

20 February 2015

KEY POINTS

- President Koroma of Sierra Leone appreciates UN role in fight against Ebola
- UNMEER SRSG Ould Cheikh Ahmed tour Montserrado County in Liberia
- UNICEF continues to scale community outreach efforts in Guinea

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. President Ernest Bai Koroma yesterday expressed to the outgoing UNMEER Ebola Crisis Manager (ECM) Amadu Kamara, that Sierra Leone will forever remain grateful to the UN, and particularly UNMEER, for the role it has played in the fight against Ebola. The President disclosed this when Mr. Kamara paid him a courtesy call to bid farewell. Mr. Kamara seized the opportunity to request for continued support for the incoming ECM Ms. Bintou Keita.
2. On 19 February, UNMEER SRSG Ould Cheikh Ahmed toured Montserrado County, Liberia. He met with President Johnson-Sirleaf, UNMIL SRSG Landgren, DART Team Leader Doug Mercado and UNMEER staff. In addition, the SRSG visited Redemption Hospital in New Kru Town – where Ebola vaccine tests are underway – and Didho Tweh Memorial High School, which reopened on 16 February after having been closed for six months. For the last few weeks, all Ebola cases in Liberia have originated from Montserrado County.

Response Efforts and Health

3. In total, 23,218 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 9,365 deaths.
4. On 19 February in Geneva, WHO concluded a two-day meeting of 160 participants representing the 40 organisations sending foreign medical teams to agree on best practices in Ebola care and discuss how best the teams can continue to contribute to achieving zero Ebola cases as well as how to assist with reactivating essential health services.
5. There are 13 operational laboratories in Sierra Leone, 6 in Guinea and 5 in Liberia, with 87%, 98%, 83%, respectively, of samples from suspected and probable cases tested within one day of collection and 78%, 50% and 43%, respectively of samples tested on the same day they were collected.
6. In Guinea, UNMEER and WHO disseminated cross-border tools (reporting form and checklist) to the local community focal points in Faranah, Forécariah, Lola, Mali, Nzérékoré and Siguri, along with a tailored local concept note on hosting cross-border meetings at the prefecture level.

Logistics

7. In response to an urgent request from the Ministry of Health in Sierra Leone, WFP has provided 1,000m³ of additional storage space at the Central Medical Stores (CMS) in Freetown to stockpile essential medical items before their dispatch to health facilities. Engineering works were led by a member of WFP's Rapid Response Team and the setup of the storage facility was completed in ten days. On 17 February, the storage facility was officially handed over to the Ministry of Health by WFP's Emergency Coordinator for Sierra Leone.
8. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.
9. 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

10. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling USD 2.27 billion, has been funded for USD 1.3 billion, which is around 57% of the total ask.
11. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 136.8 million in commitments. In total USD 140 million has been pledged.
12. 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

13. In Guinea, UNICEF and the communication commission participated in a roundtable organized by RTG-Boulbinet TV station on the Ebola response in Forécariah, prefecture, followed by individual interviews in national languages. In Dinguiraye, UNICEF funded a roundtable broadcast on Rural radio discussing the 10 key Ebola messages and provided training with partners to 30 religious leaders on key Ebola messages, held sensitization interactions on safe burials for religious leaders in mosques. Community Watch Committee (CWC) members completed 79 door-to-door Ebola sensitization visits reaching 1,976 people.
14. In Kankan prefecture in Guinea, social mobilizers and Community 4 Development (C4D) coordinators organized sessions on Ebola prevention reaching 1,536 people in the sub-prefectures of Baté Nafadji, Gberedou Baranama, Sabadou and Tokouno. UNICEF and partners held a community meeting convened by the Fourban district chief to address community concerns about disinfections in schools.

Essential Services

15. In Rivercess County, Liberia WHO, WFP, CHT, John Snow Inc (JSI) and UNMEER held a meeting to discuss the supply chain of IPC material from the Forward Logistics Base (FLB) in Buchanan to Cetos City and onward transportation to the facilities. WFP informed the partners it has set up mobile storage unit in Cetos City which will be available for use in two days. Supplies for the County will now be delivered directly to Cetos City without passing through the FLB in Buchanan.

Upcoming Events

16. NTSR

Attachments and resources

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