



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

26 February 2015

### KEY POINTS

- Unsafe burials remains a challenge
- EVD stigmatization potential threat to response efforts
- Guinea opens border with Liberia at Diecke

### Key Political and Economic Developments

1. On 25 February, the border between Guinea and Liberia (Diecke side) reopened to the public after months of closure. The response team posted at the border (Guinea side) reported a lack of essential equipment, including an isolation room and a sufficient stock of hand sanitizers, among others.

### Response Efforts and Health

2. In total, 23,694 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 9,589 deaths.
3. WHO reported a total of 99 new confirmed cases of EVD in the week to 22 February, a decline from 128 cases reported in the week to 15 February. Guinea reported 35 new confirmed cases. Cases continue to arise from unknown chains of transmission. Sierra Leone reported 63 new confirmed cases and transmission remains widespread, including a spike of 20 new confirmed cases in Bombali linked to a cluster of cases in the Aberdeen fishing community in Freetown. There were 14 new confirmed cases in Freetown over the same period, with cases still arising from unknown chains of transmission. Liberia reported 1 new confirmed case, which originated from a registered contact associated with a known chain of transmission in Monrovia.
4. In addition to cases arising from unknown chains of transmission, a total of 16 new confirmed cases were identified in Guinea and Sierra Leone after post-mortem testing of individuals who died in the community, indicating that a significant number of individuals are still either unable or reluctant to seek treatment. In Guinea and Sierra Leone, 19 and 15 unsafe burials were reported, respectively.

### Logistics

5. WFP has been capitalising on its standby partnership scheme by deploying staff with technical expertise to the three affected countries. Since September 2014, almost 40 standby partners have been deployed to support the WFP Common Services operation; these standby partners have been generously loaned from organisations including Ericsson Response, DEMA, DFID, DRC, MSB, NRC, RedR and THW. Over half of these partners have been deployed on behalf of the WFP-led Emergency Telecoms Cluster, sharing their specialised knowledge as well as providing equipment to bolster the overall response.
6. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.
7. 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

8. 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.
9. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 136.8 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](mailto:fts@un.org).

## **Outreach and Education**

11. Peace Link Liberia in collaboration with the district health team trained 35 community leaders (chiefs, religious leaders, women and youths leaders) in seven border communities in Kolahun district, Lofa County on EVD awareness, cross-border monitoring and reporting as well as the proper use of IPC materials.
12. UNMEER provided logistics support to County Health Team (CHT), ASEOWA and WHO in a jointly organized training for general community health volunteers (gCHVs) in Garmu, Bong County, Liberia. The 27 participants from Garmu, Gboata, and Jorwah border check points were trained on instituting basic IPC measures. Another training is planned for community watch teams from four areas along the Liberia-Guinea border area in Bong County.

## **Essential Services**

13. UNMEER, the CHT and UNFPA visited Yekepa and Bolewee borders points in Nimba County, Liberia which opened on 23 and 24 February, respectively. The port health teams at both border points have been trained and supplied with hygiene kits by Global Communities. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is conducting a three day training workshop in Sanniquellie, Nimba County for 20 Liberian border police and 30 immigration officials drawn from Ganta, Yekepa and Luoguoquo border points. The training focuses on IPC measures and improving coordination mechanisms with government counterparts on the other side of the border.
14. In Liberia, Save the Children completed five cluster trainings on the 'Protocols for safe school environments' in 74 schools for 252 participants. Save the Children's back to school supervisors will be conducting one day training for 25 gCHVs on 27 February on community mobilization activities. While DRC has started providing cash support to Ebola survivors and since 20 February have assisted 20 survivors in Ganta district, DRC is working with the CHT to cover more districts in this exercise.
15. As preparations for the safe reopening of schools in Sierra Leone, the NERC, with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS) and partners, have initiated the process for the closure of some selected ECCs and CCCs. Of the 46 CCCs currently supported by UNICEF, 18 are planned to be closed. The selected 18 CCCs are those adjacent to or on school grounds as well as those located in close proximity to an ETC. In each district, the District Health Management Team (DHMT), in collaboration with the District Ebola Response Centre (DERC) Social Mobilization pillar, is leading discussions with the community on this transitioning process with the support of UNICEF's implementing partners, in order to ensure that communities are fully engaged, just as when the CCCs were first constructed.
16. In Liberia, UNMEER and the CHT visited Randy Godfrey elementary private school in Unification town and Lugbyee elementary public school in Lugbyee town - in Sanniquellie Mah district Nimba County, Liberia. Although the schools opened on 19 and 20 February, respectively, students have not reported to the schools. While in Sinoe County, about 75% of the schools have opened. The schools located at inaccessible areas are yet to open due to challenges with the distribution of the IPC materials.
17. UNMEER met with the County Education Officer (CEO) and Concern Worldwide in Grand Bassa County, Liberia to follow up on preparedness for school reopening in the County. The CEO informed that the distribution of hygiene kits has been completed in its 5 districts and Concern Worldwide has concluded the training of the teachers, distribution of kits, and the establishment of the school safety committees in 100 schools in the 5 districts. The isolation rooms in the 100 schools have not been set up due to the lack of space. The Parents/Teacher Association (PTA) has offered to assist with this.
18. On 24 February, Representatives from the Ebola Network (Ministry of Health), Ebola Survivors Association of Liberia, MSF, Island Clinic, WHO, USAID and CDC attended the third meeting of the Survivors Working Group. The working group aims to establish and operate a national clinical network to support Ebola survivors. Also in Liberia, the Ministry of Health has requested proposals from partners including WHO, CDC, USAID, MSF and IOM for an expanded Ebola testing protocol that would allow clinicians to 'rule out' Ebola for patients who seek care in non-Ebola facilities. The proposed pilot would run for one month in a Montserrado County healthcare facility.

## **Upcoming Events**

19. UNMEER SRSG Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed will visit Guinea on 26-27 February, where he will hold the first meeting of the Coordination Board on 27 February.

## **Attachments and resources**

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