

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

3 March 2015

### KEY POINTS

- EU holds Ebola conference today
- Overview of Needs and Requirements (ONR) funding gap- USD 1 billion
- Response partners support safe re-opening of schools in Liberia

### Key Political and Economic Developments

1. The EU and key partners are holding a high-level international conference on Ebola on today. The main objective of the conference is to maintain global attention on the Ebola crisis, take stock of the current fight against Ebola, coordinate further action and discuss the recovery process. While the meeting is not a pledging conference, it is also viewed as a critical staging meeting for international dialogue on post-Ebola recovery that precedes the IMF-World Bank Spring meetings and a UN Conference on Ebola to be held later this year, as well as the African Union conference on post-Ebola recovery scheduled for July in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

### Response Efforts and Health

2. In total, 23,913 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 9,714 deaths.
3. In the previous week, UNICEF Sierra Leone continued its technical support to Social Mobilization Pillars in 14 districts. Under the UNICEF-supported Hotspot Busters initiative, social mobilizers covered 49 hotspot communities nationwide, reaching 62,156 households through door-to-door community sensitization. The mobilizers reported 37 suspected cases of Ebola (21 from existing hotspots and 16 from non-hotspot areas). Fourteen of these suspected cases from Kambia (3), Kenema (1), Moyamba (1), Port Loko (4), and Western Area (5) were referred within 48 hours to Community Care Centres (CCCs), holding centres or treatment units. A total of 2,135 traditional and religious leaders were engaged in promoting safe and dignified burials, the handling of sick persons and dead bodies, as well as in the re-integration of Ebola survivors and demystifying rumours about Ebola. This model of community engagement in hotspot areas is being replicated by all partner agencies.
4. In Sierra Leone, the UNMEER Information Management team has trained three individuals from the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoH&S) on using web and mobile technologies to collect and manage data. The goal is to have it operational in the coming weeks, initially in Freetown and expand it to the districts. UNMEER has agreed to provide five smart phones to the MoH&S to support this initiative. Additionally, funds have been released for Catholic Relief Services to provide additional support to the District Ebola Response Centres for equipment and operations. The aim of the project is to ensure that District response teams can be properly equipped to drive the infection rate to zero.

### Logistics

5. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.
6. 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

7. 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.
8. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 136.8 million in commitments. In total USD 140 million has been pledged.

9. 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**

10. In the previous week in Guinea, UNICEF and partners trained 60 religious leaders on EVD and 148 religious leaders disseminated messages on the EVD response efforts. Social mobilizers educated more than 9,600 people nationwide this week about the Ebola virus. Two imams and two priests addressed the resistance to Ebola messaging among religious leaders in Dubréka.
11. The County Health Team (CHT), UNMEER, WHO and CARE carried out a training for community leaders in EVD prevention in Buah district, Grand Kru County, Liberia. The training aims to sensitize community leaders on the continuing need to remain vigilant and ensure that their communities observe EVD preventive measures in order to sustain progress made in the fight against EVD.

### **Essential Services**

12. The Guinean Ministry of Social Action and Promotion of Women and Children officially launched a project on psycho-social care and protection of children affected by Ebola.
13. In N'Zérékoré, Guinea, UNDP, in close coordination with the NGO Alima, opened 200 bank accounts to make direct deposits for hazard payments. Should this initiative prove reliable, it will be used for all Ebola Response Workers. As requested by Guinea's National Ebola Coordinator, UNDP participated in a week-long field mission to assist the provincial government with the technical aspects of the payments.
14. In Monrovia, Liberia UNDP facilitated a third batch of payments to former traders in bush meat. 112 women from four market places each received US\$100, adding to the 244 market women who already benefited from this initiative.
15. In Sierra Leone, WFP is participating in the school reopening assessment led by the Ministry of Education to advise the needs of schools for their reopening late this month. WFP plans to resume its school feeding programme which will target approximately 255,000 students with a daily meal. Additionally, WFP is planning to use its Purchase For Progress (P4P) channel, to purchase roughly 500mt of commodities from local small holder farmers in order to support the local economy.
16. In Liberia, UNMEER and partners continued to monitor schools reopening process to ensure that the protocols on safe school environments are in place as well as identify any areas for assistance to implement the protocols. In Bong County, UNMEER, ASEOWA and UNICEF visited D. Gboveh, John Bakalu and Salvation Army schools. While students adhered to the basic IPC practices, challenges remain such as lack of accessible water source and inadequate latrine facilities (in John Bakalu School) and lack of hand washing facilities in the food vendors area. In Grand Bassa County, the County Education Officer (CEO) and District Education Officers (DEO) from Diahn-Blea Statutory and Buchanan districts reported to UNMEER that the distribution of hygiene kits and materials as well as training of teachers in IPC measures have been completed in all 38 and 92 schools, respectively. They indicated that designating isolation rooms remains a challenge. However, lessons have not started in all schools due to the lack of teaching materials. In Nimba County, UNMEER and the CHT visited Zolowee Primary School in Sanniquillie district and noted that school attendance had significantly increased from an average of about 90 students last week to 205 as of 2 March. The Lutheran Elementary & Junior High school in Yekepa district also reported an increase in attendance rate to UNMEER. In both schools it was established that spray kits were not distributed. UNMEER and the CHT engaged with Global Communities who indicated that they have received the sprays from UNICEF which will be distributed soon.
17. UNMEER and CHT visited Yekepa border post and noted that the triage unit constructed by Global Communities is almost complete. The port health team was in place and is ensuring that people crossing the borders undergo proper screening procedures. UNMEER and the CHT discussed the issue of lack of ablution facilities and safe water at the border post with Global Communities who informed that they will address it.

### **Upcoming Events**

18. NSTR

### **Attachments and resources**

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