

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

17 March 2015

KEY POINTS

- Former EVD patients in Guinea, stigmatized by their communities, are being assisted by Guinean authorities and other Responders.
- In Sierra Leone, traditional healers are being engaged as social mobilisers.
- EVD Responders continue to prioritize assistance for quarantined households, hotspot communities, and areas of widespread and intense transmission

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. NSTR

Response Efforts and Health

2. In total, 24,597 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been 10,144 reported deaths.
3. In Guinea, the N'zérékoré Prefectural EVD Coordinator has highlighted a problem with the national 115 Ebola alert number. All calls from all prefectures are routed to a switchboard in Conakry and are then re-routed back to the relevant prefectures for action. In the case of N'zérékoré, there appear to be technical communication difficulties preventing the re-routing of calls back from Conakry. Measures are being taken to resolve the problem.
4. Former EVD patients have been identified as a vulnerable social group due to stigmatization by their communities. The Guinean authorities and EVD Response partners have started providing them with food and monetary assistance in order to improve their living conditions.
5. MoneyGram International (through banks and micro-finance partners in Guinea) has provided the EVD National Coordination Office in Guinea with 200 seal kits with taps, 100 thermo flashes, 100 kits of chlorine solutions and 100 boxes of soap to be used in EVD prevention.
6. In Guinea, the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) has donated 28 motorbikes to regional health workers to fill gaps in data collection.

Logistics

7. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.
8. WFP continues to support partners throughout the affected countries with the transportation of items essential to the Ebola Response. Most recently in Liberia, on behalf of the Ministry of Health, the WFP-led Logistics Cluster has been facilitating the delivery of over 2.5 million mosquito nets (approximately 7,974m³ of cargo) across all 15 counties.

Resource Mobilisation

9. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling USD 2.27 billion, has been funded for USD 1.39 billion, which is around 61% 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 Bombali District (Sierra Leone), 50 traditional healers have been engaged as social mobilisers. As influential members of their community, they are expected to be a powerful force to influence change.
13. The Peace Corps ended their hygiene and EVD-prevention training to 50 teachers in the Guinea Forestiere region on 15 March. The Prefectural EVD Coordinator has requested the Peace Corps to extend this training to university teachers in N'zérékoré.
14. The Guinean Ministry of Social Action and Promotion of Women and Children has officially launched a project on psycho-social care and protection of children affected by Ebola.
15. The County Health Team (CHT) in Nimba County (Liberia) will conduct two radio talk shows on the county radio station during the course of this week to dispel rumours concerning Ebola vaccines. These talk shows follow UNICEF's announcement that it had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with local radio stations in Nimba County, allowing partners to use them for purposes of social mobilization.
16. UNMEER Liberia, together with IOM, CDC and Global Communities, facilitated training for officials from the Bureau of Immigration and naturalization (BIN), traditional leaders, local officials and health personnel in Sinje, Grand Cape Mount County on 12 – 13 March. EVD-specific border management Standard operating procedures (SOPs) were presented to over 140 participants from the adjacent border districts/counties/chiefdoms. Similar trainings will be carried out in Nimba and Lofa counties, which share borders with Guinea and Sierra Leone respectively. It is expected that the working documents and training components will be adopted on a sub-regional level to ensure that a systematic border strategy is implemented through inter-regional cooperation.
17. In Guinea, IOM and UNICEF are funding the physical renovations of the Yomou Prefectural Coordination Office and the community radio station respectively.

Essential Services

18. WFP continues to prioritize food assistance for quarantined households, hotspot communities, and areas of widespread and intense transmission. With a reduction in the number of patients in treatment centres, the volume of food assistance requested by treatment and holding centres has decreased in recent weeks. In the Western Area of Sierra Leone where transmission remains intense, WFP provided food to 378 quarantined households during their quarantine period and to 1,585 households in hotspot communities. In addition, in Kenema District, 8,900 beneficiaries received food assistance for one month as did more than 2,500 beneficiaries in Moyamba District.
19. WFP is providing food assistance to support 30 orphans currently residing at the Kambui Advocacy Group for Women and Children (KAGWC) Centre in Sierra Leone.
20. UNMEER Liberia joined UNOPS, a technical team from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoH&SW) and the County Health Team (CHT) on an infrastructure site assessment of Kayah community clinic at RiverCess County on 13 March. The clinic is located in an area severely hit by the EVD outbreak. UNOPS plans to upgrade the clinic to a health centre. However, access to the clinic requires crossing 12 wooden/log bridges which cannot support heavy machinery and construction materials. The clinic serves as the only referral to St Francis Hospital in Cestos City. These activities fall within the framework of Ebola emergency response projects funded by the World Bank. In Liberia, 45 health facilities will be assessed.

Upcoming Events

21. NSTR

Attachments and resources

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