



## PRESS RELEASE

### **AMID EBOLA RESPONSE PROGRESS, UNMEER COMPLETES TRANSITION IN LIBERIA**

Monrovia, 1 May 2015 – On Thursday, the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) closed its office in Liberia. The transition of functions to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), and UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes was planned in view of the remarkable progress the country has made in reducing and containing the spread of Ebola. Should no new cases present themselves, Liberia will have passed 42 days and be declared free of the Ebola Virus Disease on 9 May.

Under the direction of the UNMIL Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Resident Coordinator, the UN system will continue to provide coordination and leadership support to the Government of Liberia.

"We are confident that the Government of Liberia has the necessary systems in place to respond to any new cases," said Peter Graaff, Acting Head of UNMEER and former Ebola Crisis Manager in Liberia, pointing specifically to the establishment of an Emergency Operations Cell. "The successful establishment of this emergency structure in Liberia is an example of the legacy of systems that should remain in countries. "

Meanwhile, the UN cluster system continues to be active in Liberia's Ebola response. The World Health Organization maintains its presence in all 15 counties, with scaled up capacity in five strategic counties, and has all the required capacity and assets in place. UNMEER Field Crisis Managers completed the necessary handover of tasks to WHO and UNMIL in the field.

UNICEF continues to provide crucial assistance to Ebola-affected children, including those who are quarantined, orphaned, unaccompanied, and separated from their family members. UNICEF is also supporting the revitalization of birth registration and certification, which had slowed down or stopped in many health centres during the Ebola outbreak.

The World Food Programme (WFP) has also taken over UNMEER's logistics support and is providing food and/or cash to Ebola-free communities, where access to food and resumption of livelihoods remains challenging. In Liberia, more than 50,000 people received a mix of food and cash assistance to support the households while stimulating the local economy. Among other critical aviation support, WFP continues to provide support to Rapid Isolation and Treatment of Ebola (RITE) capacity.

Meanwhile, UNDP continues to lead the early recovery cluster.

"The UN and its partners will continue to work with the Government of Liberia at this critical time, as it strives to remain Ebola free" said Graaff. "We need to restore the country's health services, which were decimated during the outbreak."

To this end, the World Bank recently announced that it would provide at least US\$650 million during the next 12 to 18 months to help Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone recover from the impact of the Ebola crisis and advance their longer-term development needs.

UNMEER continues to maintain its presence in Sierra Leone and Guinea, which together experienced 33 new confirmed cases of Ebola in the week to 27 April.

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For more information:

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