

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

23 December 2014

KEY POINTS

- The NERC and WHO in Guinea have dispatched additional resources to contain a flare-up in a number of villages in Kissidougou. UNMEER has conducted an assessment mission.
- A rapid response team was sent to Yekepa, Liberia, following reports of a flare-up there.
- Dutch navy transport vessel Karel Doorman is scheduled to arrive in Sierra Leone today loaded with equipment and materials to be used in the response to Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. The United Nations must learn lessons from the EVD crisis and begin preparing now for the next outbreak of a deadly disease, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in New York after returning from a visit to West Africa. "We must learn the lessons of Ebola, which go well beyond strengthening public health systems", Ban stated. "The international community needs better early warning and rapid response." The UN chief said he will launch a serious effort to "explore what more we can do to stay ahead of the next outbreak of disease -- a test that is sure to come." Ban also called for recovery efforts to be stepped up in West Africa in order to rebuild shattered economies, get children back in school and begin caring for EVD orphans.
2. Sierra Leone is withdrawing its troops from Somalia after the African Union blocked the West African country from rotating its soldiers over fears for EVD. Sierra Leone sent 850 troops to Somalia in 2013 for a 12-month deployment to fight jihadist terrorist group al-Shabab. Their rotation was delayed after a group of 800 soldiers, who were waiting to replace their comrades in Somalia, were quarantined after one of the soldiers was tested positive for EVD. In August, Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud said no new troops from Sierra Leone will be deployed to his country after calls by activists and a campaign on social media by Somalis calling for a halt to the deployment.

Human Rights

3. NSTR

Response Efforts and Health

4. Faced with an outbreak of 50 confirmed EVD cases in a number of villages of Kissidougou prefecture, the Guinean National Ebola Response Cell and WHO have mobilized the dispatch of additional ambulances as well as response experts in case management, contact tracing, social mobilization and communication, body disinfection and safe burials. The UNMEER ECM a.i. in Guinea, Bintou Keita, conducted an assessment mission to Kissidougou and Kérouané on 22 December to help coordinate the response efforts.
5. On 19 December, UNMEER ECM a.i. Bintou Keita took part in the inauguration of a new ETU in Coyah, Guinea. The inauguration was led by the Prime Minister. The organization and supply of the 100-bed ETU is still being completed prior to becoming fully functional. The ETU will be jointly operated by Guinean, ECOWAS/West African Health Organization and Cuban medical personnel; a first in Guinea, where current ETUs are operated by a single Foreign Medical Team each.
6. Using SMS-based technology, UNICEF is piloting a CCC-monitoring system in Dolo, Liberia, to replace paper reporting with an easy to track and time-efficient system. CCC monitoring includes tracking patient movements, supply availability, bed occupancy, and other indicators.
7. A Rapid Isolation and Treatment of Ebola (RITE) team was flown in on 22 December, at the direction of the Liberian Incident Management System, to look at the situation in Yekepa. This followed reports that a 12 year old girl with EVD crossed the border from Guinea into Nimba county, Liberia.
8. The coordinator of Forécariah prefecture in Guinea informed the local UNMEER Field Crisis Manager about the reasons for community resistance in a number of sub-prefectures (Kakossa,

Kaliah, Mafeninayah, Farmoriah and Sikourou). The population is averse to referring ill persons to response workers due to the use of the same latrine for confirmed cases and suspected cases in the transit centre and concerns about the treatment of drinking water. On 17 December, the Minister of Communication led a high-level visit to Sikhourou prefecture to reinforce sensitization and social mobilization among local authorities and the community.

9. In the last 21 days, there have been 1,507 new cases of EVD in the three most affected countries, and 1,058 deaths. By far the most new cases were in Sierra Leone, where these figures were 1,069 and 667, respectively. In total, 19,340 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries, where there have been 7,518 reported deaths.

Logistics

10. Dutch navy transport vessel Karel Doorman, on its second rotation, is scheduled to arrive in Sierra Leone today. The total amount of inter-agency cargo aboard the ship is 2,110 metric tonnes. This cargo is made up of logistics assets key to the implementation of the response, such as trucks, 4x4s, ambulances and 20ft containers, and is being transported on behalf of partners such as DfID, UNICEF, Lion Heart, Plan International, Partners in Health (PiH), the Dutch Red Cross, and Welthungerhilfe.
11. WFP is stepping up its support to WHO in Sierra Leone. One WFP logistics officer has been deployed to Kambia to support WHO with the rehabilitation of a hospital to be used for EVD treatment. WFP has also procured a shipment of 5,000 swabs for use in laboratory sample collection, through UNHRD on behalf of WHO. Further, WFP has been requested to provide accommodation and office support for ten WHO staff across ten locations in Sierra Leone. WFP will be conducting an assessment next week in Kabala, Port Loko, Freetown, and Makeni to determine the exact requirements and see whether deployment of additional staff is necessary.
12. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

13. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling US\$ 1.5 billion, has been funded for \$ 1.09 billion, which is around 72% of the total ask.
14. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 129.8 million in commitments. In total \$ 140 million has been pledged.
15. All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (<http://fts.unocha.org>) of contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org.

Outreach and Education

16. More than 1,000 Community Watch Committees (CWCs) have been established to date in more than a dozen prefectures in Guinea, including 694 with UNICEF support. Other partners providing support include UNFPA, UNDP, WHO and Plan Guinea. These agencies jointly developed a training of trainers manual intended for local authorities and community leaders on strategies for the establishment of CWCs.

Essential Services

17. NSTR

Upcoming Events

- NSTR

Attachments and resources

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