

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

29 December 2014

KEY POINTS

- A field hospital donated by Israel will be established as an Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) in Dubreka, Guinea.
- UNICEF joined partners in engaging the population of the quarantined and neighboring villages of Lonfaye town and Yekepa town, Liberia, following two separate outbreaks there.
- In response to measles cases in Lofa county, Liberia, the UNICEF-supported periodic intensification of routine immunization, or PIRI, is ongoing across all of the 15 counties.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. The Minister of Health of Guinea is continuing his sensitization and oversight mission in EVD affected prefectures. On 25 December, the minister took part in the prefectural coordination meeting in Guéckédou, attended by UNMEER's FCM. The minister reportedly stressed the need for national and international crisis responders to cover the whole prefecture and not remain concentrated in Guéckédou. Concerning EVD sensitization activities the minister underscored the need for social engagement to be community-based, to ensure local ownership and thus prevent future EVD outbreaks. During the meeting, the Guinean Red Cross representative informed about the non-payment since August of salaries of Red Cross volunteers (who are meant to receive \$5 per day). He also pointed out the Red Cross' need for 10 motorcycles and one vehicle for sensitization and safe burial purposes. The minister promised to follow up on the issue.

Human Rights

2. NSTR

Response Efforts and Health

3. On 26 December, the National Ebola Response Coordinator informed UNMEER that a field hospital donated by Israel would be established as an ETU in Dubreka, Guinea. He added that the target opening date was 15 January. This ETU and the one in Coyah will help relieve the caseload on the ETU in Conakry (Donka) coming from prefectures adjacent to the capital.
4. According to recent data from the Liberian health ministry, there have been at least 1,042 confirmed cases of children with EVD in the country. The number of children identified by name and location as orphaned by EVD is 4,115. All of the children identified are currently receiving follow-up and psychosocial support. Over 250 volunteer contact tracers, trained and engaged by UNICEF, are now reporting cases of children orphaned or otherwise affected by EVD. UNICEF is working to ensure that children who have lost their parents due to EVD continue to receive care through a kinship arrangement. That way children may be from becoming institutionalized, for example in an orphanage.
5. On 24 December, UNMEER visited the newly inaugurated ETU in Coyah. The ETU is to be jointly operated by Guinean and Cuban doctors as well as medical staff provided by ECOWAS / West African Health Organization. UNMEER met with the Guinean doctor who has been appointed as the ETU manager. He informed that final construction works were planned to be concluded on 28 December to address issues raised by an evaluation mission conducted by WHO and MSF on 18 December. WHO and MSF notably pointed to the lack of a triage area for the separation of confirmed, probable and suspected cases. The ETU also lacked mattresses wrapped in protective plastic sheeting and water reservoirs for hand washing in some areas.
6. A surveillance team visited Poly town, Karquekpo, Diyankpo, the Government Camp and Greenville in Sinoe county, Liberia, to provide daily support for contact tracing (in Poly town) and door-to-door active case search. Poly town was a hot spot where 4 deaths were recorded. 42 people are in the 7th day of quarantine. Some 8 general Community Health Care Volunteers (gCHVs), half of them

from the local village, are deployed in monitoring the quarantined contacts. This approach enhances community involvement and buy-in to control the outbreak.

7. In total, 19,695 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been 7,693 deaths.

Logistics

8. NSTR
9. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

10. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling US\$ 1.5 billion, has been funded for \$ 1.1 billion, which is around 73% of the total ask.
11. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 134.9 million in commitments. In total \$ 140 million has been pledged.
12. 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

13. Following two separate outbreaks this week in Lonfaye town and Yekepa town, Liberia, UNICEF joined partners in organizing social mobilizers to engage the population of the quarantined and neighboring villages through house-to-house visits, town hall meetings and focus group discussions. Efforts were focused on prevention practices, rapid reporting and isolation of sick family members, safe and dignified burials, addressing issues of stigma, and asking residents if anyone was sick in their community. In addition, the team was able to gain approval from communities to set up a CCC in nearby Saclapea (Nimba county).
14. The County Health Team, WHO and UNICEF held a meeting in Sinoe, Liberia, to discuss the lack of hygiene (hand washing in particular) in the county. Some of this is caused by the growing general perception that the EVD crisis is over. There is a need to strengthen community mobilization and reinforce messages that simple measures like hand washing not only prevent EVD but other communicable diseases as well. Further, there is currently a lack of financial support for community mobilizers, and there is a need to engage more religious leaders.

Essential Services

15. West Africa's fight to contain EVD has hampered the campaign against malaria, which is a fully preventable and treatable disease. In Guéckédou, Guinea, doctors have had to stop pricking fingers to do blood tests for malaria. Bernard Nahlen, deputy director of the US President's Malaria Initiative, said Guinea's 40% drop in reported malaria cases this year is likely because people are too scared to go to health facilities and are not getting treated for malaria. Nets for Life Africa, a New York-based charity that provides insecticide-treated mosquito nets, said some 15,000 Guineans died from malaria last year.
16. In response to measles cases in Lofa county, Liberia, the UNICEF-supported periodic intensification of routine immunization, or PIRI, is ongoing across all 15 counties. The goal is to rapidly reduce the number of unimmunized children against measles. This intensification comes in lieu of an immunization campaign, which is not recommended in the EVD context. Vaccinators are being trained simultaneously across the country on infection prevention and control measures, supervision during PIRI and on how to conduct outreach sessions in remote areas. In addition, UNICEF provided basic infection control kits, including infrared thermometers, to 500 health facilities providing immunization services in Liberia.

Upcoming Events

- UNMEER SRSG Anthony Banbury is visiting Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone from 27 December to 1 January

Attachments and resources

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