

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

30 December 2014

KEY POINTS

- SRSG Banbury traveled to Guinea and Liberia on his farewell visit.
- UNDP made additional incentive payments to 758 health personnel workers in ETUs in Guinea.
- WFP facilitated the receipt and the off-loading of the Dutch vessel MV Karel Doorman in Conakry, Guinea. The vessel carried cargo for several organizations.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. The Head of UNMEER, SRSG Anthony Banbury, made his farewell visit to Guinea from 27 to 29 December and Liberia on 29 December. In Guinea, the SRSG travelled to Kourémalé (Siguiiri) where he met with the prefect, prefectural coordinator, other local authorities and response partners and visited the border screening point and the Community Care Centre (Centre de Transit Communautaire) in Kourémalé. He also held meetings with President Condé, government authorities, response partners and UNMEER personnel in Conakry. The SRSG credited the Guinean government for its leadership in rallying the Ebola response effort with support from national partners, donors, NGOs, the UN Country Team and UNMEER. He stressed the need for UNMEER to be creative and adaptable and to undertake all its activities with the goal of supporting national and international responders. In Liberia, the SRSG travelled to Sinje in Grand Cape Mount county for the opening of a new Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU), which has been constructed by USAID and will be operated by IOM. The SRSG then traveled to Sanniquellie in Nimba county for a tour of the GW Harley Hospital and met with county health officials, UN agencies, NGOs and Ebola response teams operating in the area.
2. The Minister of Health of Guinea is continuing his sensitization and oversight mission in EVD affected prefectures. On 27 December, the minister took part in the prefectural coordination meeting in Nzérékoré, attended by the main response partners. The prefectural coordinator gave a briefing on the current situation, highlighting challenges including persistent resistance in communities in Sadou, Banzou North, Baya and Zenemouda; insufficient supply of thermo flash thermometers; lack of equipment and electricity; lack of an office for the prefectural coordination; and weak coordination among response partners. Concerning local resistance, the minister advised that partners must enable community members to take ownership of the sensitization process to engage their respective communities. Concerning the Community Watch Committees (CWCs), response partners briefed the minister that a number have been established but their members have not yet received training and are not operational. The minister stressed that partners involved with the CWCs had to work faster and he warned that alternative measures would be taken in case partners could not deliver on the operationalization of CWCs. He also encouraged response partners to better integrate their activities under the umbrella of the prefectural coordination and to increase their actions in the field where flare-ups and resistance are persistent.
3. On 29 December, a healthcare worker was diagnosed with EVD after returning to Scotland from Sierra Leone. On 30 December, the patient was transferred to a specialist treatment centre in London. Authorities reported that two more people were being tested for the virus.

Response Efforts and Health

4. UNDP has made additional incentive payments to 758 health personnel working in four ETUs in Guinea, ensuring their continued engagement in saving patients. The agency was requested by Guinea's National Coordination Unit against Ebola to complete existing salaries with incentive pays for the French Red Cross, Doctors without Borders and Alima, three Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) operating ETUs in Donka, Macenta, Kissidougou and Nzérékoré. Together with UNMEER and the World Bank, UNDP assisted the Ministry of Health in harmonizing incentives, and ensured that US\$ 220,000 were deposited in local banks.

5. In Liberia, UNDP distributed a first batch of 240 solar lanterns, donated by Panasonic, to health workers in Monrovia, allowing them to work at night. Similar lamps were also due to be given out to Ebola survivors. Quarantined homes, which often have limited access to energy in the first place, will also be receiving them.
6. The health care staff at the CCC in Greenville, Sinoe county, Liberia staged a protest over delay in salary payments. The issue was discussed with the Swedish government Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) and Medical Teams International (MTI) for an ad hoc solution. It will also be raised with the Ministry of Health to ensure that payments are expedited.
7. UNDP organized a series of large Christmas events for Ebola orphans in Liberia. Staff from UNDP in Liberia, New York, Belarus and Turkey, as well as staff from the UN mission in Liberia, UNMEER, the World Food Program, the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency all contributed funds, along with individuals donations from around the world, in order to provide lunch, drinks, presents and entertainment for thousands of children.
8. In total, 20,081 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been 7,842 deaths.

Logistics

9. WFP has deployed 10 DAF (6x6) trucks (8 to 10mt capacity) in the five Forward Logistics Bases and in three locations where needs have been identified. An additional 4 trucks are expected to be deployed this week. The trucks will primarily be supporting the “last mile” delivery in Liberia.
10. To address the outbreak of a large number of EVD patients identified last week in Kono, Sierra Leone, WFP supported the IFRC in the set-up of a CCC, an ETU, staff offices and warehouse space. WFP supported the electrical setup and developed the plumbing network for the health and staff facilities to ensure access to electricity and water so that the IFRC has the necessary tools to undertake its health operation.
11. The Dutch vessel MV Karel Doorman reached Conakry, Guinea on Saturday 27 December in the morning. The vessel carried cargo for several organizations. WFP facilitated the receipt and the off-loading of the vessel, and discharge of the cargo was completed during the same day.
12. The Emergency Telecommunication (ET) cluster is providing internet connectivity in 21 locations across the three affected countries, ensuring reliable internet access for 400 inter-agency and humanitarian staff.
13. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

14. 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 74% of the total ask.
15. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 134.9 million in commitments. In total \$ 140 million has been pledged.
16. 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

17. WHO deployed 89 newly trained social mobilization coordinators to support all 15 country health teams in the country on rapid response, micro-planning, and to facilitate community engagement.
18. EVD response partners in Lofa county, Liberia, requested additional training for general community health volunteers (gCHVs) to strengthen active case search, community awareness and psychosocial activities along the border areas of Guinea and Sierra Leone.

Essential Services

19. NSTR

Upcoming Events

- NSTR

Attachments and resources

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