

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

31 December 2014

KEY POINTS

- According to WHO, the total number of confirmed, probable or suspected cases of Ebola Virus Disease exceeded 20,000 on 29 December.
- WFP is strengthening the logistics capacities at its Forward Logistics Bases (FLBs) in the three countries.
- UNICEF and UNFPA donated materials to Guinea and Liberia to fight the EVD outbreak.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. On 29 December, the Prime Minister of Guinea visited the construction site of the new centre for epidemiological research and microbiology funded by the Russian aluminum company Rusal in Kindia. The centre will become part of *the Institut Pasteur de Guinée* which has secured funding from the *Institut Pasteur* in France and the French Government to enhance its capacity for surveillance, detection and prevention of infectious diseases in Guinea and the sub-region.
2. On 30 December, three national trade unions in Guinea issued a statement requesting that the government decrease the retail price of gasoline and fuel to reflect the drop in the price of oil in the global market. They have also urged the government to honour its pledges concerning the revised pay scale of civil servants and retirees. This request comes at a time when six other trade unions have threatened to launch an open-ended strike on 5 January 2015 if these grievances are not met by the government.

Response Efforts and Health

3. In Guinea, UNICEF handed over ten (10) ambulances to the National Coordination for the fight against Ebola. The ambulances were financed by a grant of US\$ 300,000 from the Government of Japan.
4. On 30 December, UNFPA donated materials worth USD 1,086,227 to help the Government of Guinea fight EVD. Materials include kits for Ebola survivors and pregnant women, as well as hand washing kits for maternity and youth centres. The donation also included 222 bikes and 36 motorcycles to facilitate contact tracing in affected communities.
5. To support the Government of Sierra Leone's response to the EVD outbreak, the World Bank and UNFPA have designed a joint project to reinforce and scale-up contact tracing, so as to strengthen the existing surveillance system.
6. In Liberia, UNFPA has recently provided materials to 72 health facilities to support Infection Prevention and Control in the four Eastern counties of Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland and Grand Kru. UNFPA, is also supporting contact tracing activities in two counties (Grand Cape Mount and Bomi), where UNFPA-trained contact tracers are following up 360 contacts.
7. In Liberia, WHO has identified the growing need for more disaggregated epidemiological data on children affected by the Ebola crisis for cross-cluster planning. Other vulnerable groups (patients, affected families, the elderly and the disabled) should also be considered.
8. In total, 20,129 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 7,879 deaths.

Logistics

9. In support of the Western Area Surge in Sierra Leone, USAID airlifted two urgently needed ambulances from Monrovia to Freetown.
10. WFP has taken a series of measures to strengthen the capacities of its Forward Logistics Bases (FLBs). In Sierra Leone, fifteen trucks with a capacity of 8-10 metric tons have arrived in Freetown

over the past week and are undergoing customs clearance. In Liberia, 5 trucks carrying 7,500 litres of fuel will be dispatched to the FLBs to support last mile logistics support. The first truck was dispatched on 30 December and the remaining four are expected to be dispatched before the end of this week. In addition, the German C-160 aircraft has transported a total of 24 generators to support the logistics capacities at the FLBs in the three affected countries.

11. The logistics commission of the National Ebola Response Cell of Guinea informed that there is a need for 2,901 thermo-flash thermometers for medical facilities country-wide. An additional 1,416 thermometers are required for all health supervisors and community agents. The NERC also projects a need for 5.6 million pairs of surgical gloves for all public and private health facilities for the period of January and February 2015. The national purveyor of medical supplies, Pharmacie Central de Guinée, informed UNMEER today that it is proceeding to distribute the supplies.
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 \$ 1.1 billion, which is around 74% of the total ask.
14. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 134.9 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. In Guinea, the prefect of Lola prefecture conducted a sensitization mission in the village of Thuo on 30 December to address community resistance. Thuo has seen a flare-up of EVD cases in the past ten days and 2 new suspected cases were transferred today to the ETC in Nzérékoré. Members of the local community have reportedly threatened EVD response partners who have mostly left the area due to the tensions. The return of response partners is pending the outcome of the prefect's mission. Save the Children has begun identifying 40 children in Thuo who have lost one or both parents to EVD with the aim of providing protection, but they will only deploy after a lifting of community resistance in Thuo.
17. Similarly, on 29 December, the prefectural coordination in Nzérékoré prefecture, Guinea, deployed a sensitization mission to the resistant communities of Banzou North and Zeremouda. The mission faced difficulties in engaging in dialogue with the members of the local community in both areas. UNMEER's FCM covering Nzérékoré is following up to ascertain the reasons for resistance in these specific communities.
18. In Liberia, the general community health volunteers (gCHVs) in Lofa county have increased their active case search of EVD in the six districts conducting house to house search and community awareness on the use of Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) materials to prevent the reoccurrence of EVD.

Essential Services

19. In Sierra Leone, the World Bank and UNFPA have developed a joint project to support the Government of Sierra Leone to establish appropriate arrangements to revitalize Reproductive, Maternal, Adolescent and Newborn Health (RMANH) services in the context of Ebola.
20. In Liberia, the Ministry of Health with support from UNFPA is conducting fistula prevention awareness in two counties (Margibi and Grand Bassa). UNFPA also hired a local NGO (Liberia Prevention Maternal Mortality) to conduct Maternal and Newborn Health (MNH) needs assessments in 20 health facilities in four Counties (Montserrado, Cape Mount, Margibi and Grand Bassa).

Upcoming Events

21. NSTR

Attachments and resources

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