

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

2 January 2015

KEY POINTS

- SRSG Banbury concluded his farewell visit to the three most affected countries in Sierra Leone from 30 to 31 December.
- In New Year's Address, President Koroma calls for continued vigilance, and announces the planned reopening of schools in Sierra Leone.
- A WFP-chartered helicopter is now operational in Conakry to be used for humanitarian personnel medical evacuation.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. SRSG Banbury concluded his farewell visit to the three most affected countries in Sierra Leone from 30 to 31 December. He travelled to Bombali District, where he met with members of the District Ebola Response Center and visited three Ebola Treatment Units as well as a Community Care Center. He also met with President Ernest Bai Koroma in Freetown to commend him for his leadership and engagement on the Ebola crisis. The President thanked UNMEER for the support provided to date, noting its positive impact on the ground. He expressed his hope that Sierra Leone, with the support of the international community, will be able to fully contain the Ebola outbreak by mid-2015 and pursue the economic agenda that had been set.
2. In his New Year's Day Address, President Ernest Bai Koroma called on the country to begin a week of fasting and prayers to end the Ebola outbreak. The President urged people not to touch the sick or corpses and not to disobey quarantine orders. The President also indicated that schools, which have been closed since July due to the outbreak, would reopen soon.

Response Efforts and Health

3. In Liberia, during the last week, social mobilization teams continued response activities to the outbreaks in Lonfaye-Town, Margibi county, and Yekepa-Town, a village bordering Guinea in Nimba county as well as Woloquah and Bo-Waterside towns in Grand Cape Mount county. UNICEF joined partners in organizing social mobilizers to engage the populations of the quarantined and neighbouring villages through house-to-house visits, community meetings and focus group discussions with 'contacts' focusing 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.
4. The number of 'Ebola orphans' increased in Voinjama, Lofa county, Liberia from 13 to 33 children at the Children of Destiny Welfare Center. The center was established to provide interim care and protection for children whose parents died of EVD. The center requires increased support from partner organizations and donors in order to effectively assist the orphans.
5. The construction of a new ETU in Murrasville, Liberia, (about 7 km from the center of Greenville) will be completed on 7 January. The ETU will most likely begin receiving patients by mid-January. In order to improve access to the ETU, a request for the rehabilitation of the Greenville-Murrasville road will be raised with the authorities.
6. In total, 20,206 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 7,905 deaths.

Logistics

7. Two Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) have been erected in Hastings, Sierra Leone, to be used as Convalesce Centers next to a fully operational Ebola Treatment Center (ETC). WFP is procuring additional insulation and ventilation equipment from UNMEER, which will be shipped as a priority order.

8. AWFP-chartered Bell 205 Helicopter is now operational in Conakry; this aircraft will be used for the medical evacuation of humanitarian personnel working in Guinea. The first flight was conducted to validate the helipads at Coyah, Kerouane and Belya.
9. UNMEER Aviation facilitated the transport of an engineer and equipment to Harper, Liberia, to restore a water supply system at a Community Care Center (CCC) managed by UNICEF.
10. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

11. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling USD 1.5 billion, has been funded for USD 1.1 billion, which is around 74% of the total ask.
12. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 134.9 million in commitments. In total USD 140 million has been pledged.
13. 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

14. There are rumors in Polytown, Sinoe county, Liberia, that general Community Health Volunteers (gCHVs) are being paid for every patient they refer to the county hospital. A community meeting is being organized on 2 January to dispel such rumors and clarify misleading information about EVD and the response.

Essential Services

15. In Karquekpo, Sinoe county, Liberia, some families refused to vaccinate their children because of the presence of a CCC near the hospital. It was also observed that simple hygienic practices like hand washing were not being widely practiced.

Upcoming Events

16. NSTR

Attachments and resources

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