



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

5 January 2015

KEY POINTS

- The new Head of UNMEER, SRSG Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, assumed his functions on 3 January and will visit the three most affected countries in the coming days.
- UNICEF is ensuring that all children registered in Liberia as orphaned by EVD are receiving follow-up and psychosocial support.
- The National Coordinator in Guinea briefs responders on the launch of the campaign “Zero Ebola in 60 days”.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. The New Head of UNMEER, SRSG Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, assumed his functions on 3 January. In a joint townhall meeting with outgoing SRSG Banbury, SRSG Ould Cheikh Ahmed praised the achievements of all Ebola response partners, but also noted challenges ahead. He stressed that “this is a global crisis. We definitely have a difficult time ahead of us, but we can achieve our goal of zero cases,” said Ould Cheikh Ahmed. “This is within our reach, but we should not be complacent. We need to keep going until we don’t have even one case, because even one case is too many”. Together with the Special Envoy on Ebola, Dr. David Nabarro, SRSG Ould Cheikh Ahmed will be visiting Liberia, Sierra Leone this week and Guinea shortly after.
2. Incoming UNMEER Guinea Ebola Crisis Manager (ECM), Mr. Abdou Dieng, arrived in Conakry on 3 January.

Response Efforts and Health

1. In Guinea, the National Coordinator briefed key response partners on 2 January on the launch of the campaign “Zero Ebola in 60 days”. Working groups have in recent days developed action plans for the campaign across the main lines of intervention: surveillance, case management, infection prevention and control, community engagement and social mobilization, safe burials and coordination. The first step of the campaign will involve the fielding of teams including experts from each line of action in six regions of the country for one or two weeks starting 6 January. The purpose of the missions will be for each team to assess the response efforts at the local level and develop with each prefecture the coordination of a local plan of action mirroring the national plan of action.
2. The total number of children registered as orphaned by EVD in Liberia is 4,128. All registered orphans are currently receiving follow-up and psychosocial support. More than 250 volunteer contact tracers trained and engaged by UNICEF are 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, to prevent them from becoming institutionalized in an orphanage. To strengthen this, UNICEF provides onetime cash transfers to families that take the responsibility to care for orphaned children of relatives.
3. On 2 January, UNMEER Liberia carried out a monitoring visit to Koutozou, a town along the border with the EVD-affected Macenta préfecture in Guinea, about 20 km from the Liberian border. An EVD outbreak along the border could potentially have a spill-over effect into Lofa county given the active border crossings and reopening of border markets.
4. The Liberian government is in discussions with German Agro Action (GAA), the Swedish Government Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) and Pacific Engineers and Architects (PEA) for the rehabilitation of the road leading to the new ETU (under construction) in Murrasville, Sinoe County.
5. In total, 20,381 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 7,989 deaths.

Logistics

6. WFP has donated three mobile storage units (MSU) to MSF France for use at its planned Ebola treatment centre in Kankan, Guinea.
7. The WFP Engineering support team has completed the clearing of land for safe burials and installation of landfills in Waterloo, Sierra Leone.
8. The Logistics Cluster is providing support to WHO in Sierra Leone for the transportation and storage of 36 containers of medical consumable supplies. These containers arrived in the port of Freetown on 22 December, and will be transported to the Central Medical Stores (CMS) warehouse in Freetown while additional warehouse capacities are being explored.
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 USD 1.5 billion, has been funded for USD 1.12 billion, which is around 74% of the total ask.
11. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 134.9 million in commitments. In total USD 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. According to WHO, on 31 December, there were 25 sub-prefectures in Guinea where EVD response efforts were facing community resistance. These sub-prefectures are located in the prefectures adjacent to Conakry (Dubreka, Forécariah, Coyah and Kindia), in the Forest Region (Kissidougou, Guéckédou, Nzérékoré), in Upper Guinea (Dabola) and in Western Guinea (Télimélé and Labé).
14. On 1 January, a team of the Guinean Red Cross was assaulted by the local community in Kindia, Guinea resulting in one injured Red Cross volunteer and one vandalized vehicle. According to the IFRC, the team had travelled to Kindia to conduct a safe burial and to transfer suspected cases. The prefectural coordination solicited the support of the military which proceeded to arrest two persons suspected of taking part in the assault.
15. CARE, in coordination with UNICEF, plans to support social mobilization activities through primary school teachers in Sinoe county, Liberia.
16. The Government of Liberia, with support from Global Communities, the Carter Center and the IFRC, organised a stakeholder workshop near the new burial ground in Monrovia on safe and dignified burials on 2 January. Religious leaders, traditional and local leaders, funeral directors as well as technical experts met to discuss ways to make burials more dignified while still keeping them safe.

Essential Services

17. NSTR

Upcoming Events

18. NSTR

Attachments and resources

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