

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

8 January 2015

### KEY POINTS

- In Liberia, SRSG Cheikh Ould Ahmed undertook a field visit to Grand Cape Mount county.
- National Trade Unions in Guinea end general strike after reaching agreement on salary increase with the Government.
- The Logistics Cluster has airlifted to date over 190 metric tons of cargo between Accra and the three most affected countries.

### Key Political and Economic Developments

1. SRSG Ould Cheikh Ahmed continued his familiarization visit to Liberia on 7 January, and conducted a field mission to Robertsport and Sinje in Grand Cape Mount county, accompanied by Special Envoy David Nabarro, WHO Assistant Director-General Bruce Aylward and UNMEER Liberia's ECM Peter Graaff. The delegation also included the Presidential Advisor on EVD and the Deputy Minister for Health in charge of the Incident Management System (IMS). In light of the recent flare-ups in EVD transmission in the county, and the risk of cross-border transmission along the frontier with Sierra Leone, the UNMEER leadership invited the county's traditional and religious leaders, along with county health and security officials, for a series of meetings. The SRSG underlined the importance of national ownership to defeat the epidemic. He also emphasized the need to respect local communities and their values when implementing internationally-sponsored support activities, especially with regard to safe and dignified burials. He reiterated that coordinating activities at the district levels was essential. During the County Health Team meeting, the participants discussed the evolution of the epidemic in the county, as well as the emergency measures taken in response to the recent flare-up. Participants highlighted key challenges, including inadequate monitoring of cross-border traffic along the Sierra Leone frontier, ongoing traditional practices, secret burials, community pockets of denial and resistance, as well as lack of motivation among the response teams. The delegation also visited the recently opened Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) in Sinje, before the SRSG is today in Sierra Leone.
2. On 7 January, the national trade unions in Guinea called off the general strike throughout the country, which had started on 6 January (refer to UNMEER Sitrep of 6 January), after reaching an agreement on salary increases with the Government.

### Response Efforts and Health

3. To date, the UNICEF-led Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) network in Sierra Leone has identified 14,766 children as being directly affected by the Ebola crisis (7,410 girls and 7,356 boys), with 7,938 children having lost one or both parents to EVD and 1,578 being unaccompanied or separated from their caregiver. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs' (MSWGCA) figures have jumped markedly from 24 – 31 December as child protection networks strengthened across the country.
4. UNICEF continues to directly provide nutritional supplies in Sierra Leone to nine Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs), three ETU/Ebola Holding Centres (EHCs), 30 EHCs, three interim care centres (ICCs) and two observational interim care centres (OICCs), as well as to UNICEF-supported CCCs. UNICEF also continues to support 23 ETUs and EHCs in eight districts with an essential WASH package (sanitation facilities, waste management and water supply for drinking, personal hygiene and disinfection).
5. In total, 20,712 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 8,220 deaths.

## Logistics

6. The Logistics Cluster, via the two C-160 aircraft donated by the Government of Germany, have been coordinating strategic airlifts of essential items and logistics equipment from Accra to, and between, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Over 190 metric tons of cargo has been transported since the beginning of December 2014, including ambulances, motorbikes and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) kits.
7. WFP has provided engineering support at the UNMEER Air Operations Cell at Cockerill RSLAF airfield in Freetown, Sierra Leone. WFP has so far rehabilitated the helipad to increase its visibility, as well as eleven offices and a passenger-waiting terminal, all of which are now fully operational.
8. UNMEER in Guinea received 82 motorbikes from Germany to support the work of partners throughout the country. UNMEER is in the process of allocating them.
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 1.14 billion, which is around 76% 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](mailto:fts@un.org).

## Outreach and Education

13. Due to the persistent community resistance in 31 sub-prefectures in Guinea to EVD response efforts, WHO commissioned a number studies on this topic that will be collated as soon as possible.

## Essential Services

14. Following reported cases of measles in Lofa county, Liberia, UNICEF supported periodic intensification of routine immunization against measles throughout the country. So far, the routine immunization has been completed in 8 counties, is underway in 4 and is about to begin in the last 3 counties (namely Maryland, Bong and River Gee). This activity is being implemented in lieu of an immunization campaign, which is not recommended in the Ebola context and aims at rapidly reducing the number of unimmunized children against measles.

## Upcoming Events

15. NSTR

## Attachments and resources

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