



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

14 January 2015

KEY POINTS

- An Early Recovery Assessment mission is visiting the three most affected countries.
- Health workers have been paid across Liberia by the Ministry of Health with the support of UNDP and UNMEER.
- WFP held an internal Logistics Workshop in Freetown for its staff working in Forward Logistics Bases (FLBs) and Sub-Offices throughout Sierra Leone.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. UNDP is leading an Early Recovery Assessment mission in the three most affected countries. The mission includes representatives from the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the European Union and UN agencies. In Liberia, the mission met with President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, as well as with Ministers and Deputy Ministers, the Governance Commission, Land Commission, Civil Services Agency and the leadership of the IMS and UNMEER. The mission is today in Sierra Leone and will then travel to Guinea before compiling a plan for early recovery in the three most affected countries.
2. The Islamic Development Bank (IDB), has announced financing in the amount of USD 35 million to countries affected by Ebola.

Response Efforts and Health

3. Health workers have been paid across Liberia in a coordinated effort led by the Ministry of Health and supported by UNDP and UNMEER. In total, more than USD 1 million in cash was distributed to thousands of workers, with Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance and UNDP staff travelling to remote areas over the past six days. Logistics assistance was provided by WFP and UNMEER, as well as the County Health Teams. The Ministry is now collecting data from the field and will report on final numbers this week.
4. The Voinjama Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) in Lofa County, Liberia was officially opened by Women Health Alliance International (WAHA) after its rehabilitation. WAHA took over its operations from MSF in collaboration with the County Health Team (CHT) and other partners.
5. Africare/UNICEF distributed personal protection equipment (PPE) and thermo flags across all 64 health facilities in Nimba County, Liberia. UNDP donated two motorbikes to the CHT. WFP provided package for 64 survivors and food rations for care givers in the county. Project Concern International (PCI) donated discharge packages to 46 contacts recently discharged individuals from the holding centre as part of their reintegration benefits.
6. As of last week, the number of children in Liberia registered as orphaned due to EVD is 4,372. All of the children identified are currently receiving follow-up and psychosocial support. The Child Protection Sub-Cluster estimates that there can be as many as 7,500 Ebola orphans in Liberia. UNICEF is partnering with the government and NGOs to train and engage more social workers to identify and ensure that all the orphans are in an adequately protective environment.
7. In total, 21,171 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 8,371 deaths.

Logistics

8. Coordination and prioritization of activities are ongoing in order to ensure an effective operational response. Yesterday, WFP held an internal Logistics Workshop in Freetown for its staff working in Forward Logistics Bases (FLBs) and Sub-Offices throughout Sierra Leone. The forum provided a strategic opportunity to address current and potential gaps and challenges in key locations in Sierra Leone. Also yesterday, the Logistics Cluster held its weekly inter-agency coordination meeting with 12 organisations in attendance, including WHO, CDC, DFID, USAID/OFDA, Save the Children and

THW. Discussions focused on partners' storage needs; the Logistics Cluster communicated to partners that it has the capacity to implement one more FLB, based on needs.

9. The Emergency Telecoms (ET) Cluster has fulfilled 85% of Internet and radio communications needs in Guinea; the team estimates to finish all major deployments by 31 January. Last week in Liberia, the ET Cluster installed radio communications at the Forward Logistics Base (FLB) in Buchanan to ensure that all staff with hand-held radios can easily communicate at a long distance.
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 1.15 billion, which is around 76% 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 their contributions via the e-mail address: fts@un.org.

Outreach and Education

14. The CHT in Bong County, Liberia with technical support from WHO continued to conduct active case search in the area. UNMEER/WHO/UNICEF/ Development Education Network- Liberia (DEN-L) are working together to provide orientation on social mobilization strategies to inaccessible/remote communities in the county, particularly along the border areas.
15. On 12 January, the Ministries of Health and Social Welfare and Internal Affairs, supported by the Carter Center, conducted a one-day training on Ebola Awareness and Prevention for 45 community leaders, including paramount, clan and town Chiefs, as well as for members of the women's wing, youth and elders of Barclayville health district, Grand Kru county, Liberia.
16. Cross-border issues along Yekepa in Nimba County, Liberia and Guinea border remain of concern, given the frequent movement of vehicles and porous nature of the border. Despite repeated messages from the County Health Team (CHT) that all burial procedures must be handled by Global Communities, community members are still resistant.
17. The Foya border market, Liberia, has reportedly been reopened. It brings people from the border areas of all three countries - Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia- and serves as a key point for the exchange of basic goods and services. The general Community Health Volunteers (gCHVs) who engage in active case search and community awareness campaigns in Foya district expressed concern over the decline in both hygienic practices and the use of infection prevention and control (IPC) materials on market day, given that EVD cases are still being reported in neighboring countries. UNMEER discussed this issue with partners in the technical team meeting on 12 January. It was agreed that an assessment team will visit Foya to evaluate the situation and provide recommendations.

Essential Services

18. As the Government of Liberia plans to reopen schools in the first week of February, there is a need to reinforce infection Prevention and Control (IPC) methods like hand washing, verification of temperature and general cleanliness (toilets and latrines) within the institutions. The CHT in Sinoe County plans to hold a meeting with educational authorities and the County Superintendent on 15 January to discuss a strategy. In Lofa County, the reopening of schools has the potential to increase cross-border movement of those families who left the country during the EVD outbreak. The general community health volunteers (gCHVs) with support from the CHT and partners continued their active case search and community awareness on EVD to prevent the reoccurrence of the disease given the inherent challenges from the many uncontrolled border crossing points in the area.

Upcoming Events

19. NSTR

Attachments and resources

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