

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

15 January 2015

KEY POINTS

- President Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone reportedly predicted that his country would be Ebola-free by May.
- WHO announced that Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone have recorded their lowest weekly number of new cases for months.
- The Logistics Cluster will provide an additional free-of-charge flight at a date to be determined.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. According to press reports, President Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone predicted while visiting Port Loko, Tonkolili and Bombali in the northern District that his country would be Ebola-free by May.
2. In Forécariah, Kindia Prefecture, Guinea, following the lynching of two police officers and a driver by the local population on 10 January, tension remains high. Evaluation team for the campaign “Zero Ebola in 60 days” reported that several villages were currently inaccessible due to the heightened tension.

Response Efforts and Health

3. Cross-border meetings are jointly organized by national counterparts in Liberia and Sierra Leone and the next meeting is scheduled for 24 January in Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount County, Liberia. UNMEER, WHO, UNICEF and CDC along with national counterparts of Liberia coordinated the details for participating in an IOM-initiated Liberia-Sierra Leone border assessment mission scheduled to commence on 19 January.
4. Guinea reported its lowest weekly total of new confirmed Ebola virus disease (EVD) cases since the week ending 17 August 2014. Case numbers remain low in Liberia, with no confirmed cases nationally for the final 2 days of the week ending 11 January, and the lowest weekly total of confirmed cases since the first week of June 2014. Sierra Leone has now reported a decline in case incidence for the second week running, and recorded its lowest weekly total of new confirmed cases since the week ending 31 August 2014.
5. In total, 21,261 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 8,414 deaths.

Logistics

6. WFP in Guinea has so far provided support to build three Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs), one in Nzérékoré (50 bed capacity); one in Coyah (50 bed capacity) and one in Beyla (100 bed capacity). A fourth ETU at Kerouane, which will hold 50 beds, is 95% completed.
7. Due to the high demand for space on the two inter-agency flights scheduled for 21 and 25 January, the Logistics Cluster, through the Air Coordination Cell (ACC), will provide an additional free-to-user inter-agency flight in the same week, from the European Staging Area at Cologne Bonn Airport in order to facilitate the delivery of the essential cargo to the affected countries. The exact date and destination of this additional flight will be communicated to partners in the coming days.
8. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

9. 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 77% of the total ask.
10. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 135.8 million in commitments. In total USD 140 million has been pledged.

11. 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

12. Global Communities in Liberia reported at the Grand Cape Mount County (GCM) Ebola Taskforce meeting that community resistance continues to be an issue. Global Communities reported that on 13 January burial teams were chased away by the communities in Konton, Garwula district. Community denial and resistance also translates into refusal to follow prevention measures put in place. Reportedly, 17 people under epidemiological investigation in GCM traveled to an unknown destination in Bong County.
13. UNICEF in Liberia supported social mobilization team composed of three local organizations, Development Communication Initiative (DCI), Professional Artist Group (PAG) and National Youths Service Program (NYSP) to reinforce EVD preventive measures in communities within Voinjama and Foya districts by conducting door-to-door sensitization and distributing IPC materials to 2,071 targeted individuals.

Essential Services

14. The County Superintendent and the County Health Officer of Liberia led a discussion on the reopening of schools on 2 February and concluded that majority of the schools in Grand Cape Mount would not be ready to open by the target date. It was agreed that an assessment of each school (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)) would be carried out in the following weeks and plans to upgrade relevant capacities would be made.
15. Global Communities started the registration of people who will receive hygiene kits in Voinjama, Vaahun, Zorzor and Foya districts in Lofa County, Liberia.

Upcoming Events

16. NSTR

Attachments and resources

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