

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

16 January 2015

KEY POINTS

- SRSG Ould Cheikh Ahmed and SRSG Chambas are participating today in the ECOWAS High-level Coordination meeting.
- In Sierra Leone, 15,258 children are been directly affected by the Ebola crisis.
- The additional Free-of-charge flight to Freetown and Conakry has been scheduled for 27 January.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. UNMEER participated yesterday in the ECOWAS Technical Coordination meeting. UNMEER co-chaired with Togo a working group. SRSG Ould Cheikh Ahmed and SRSG Chambas are attending today the High-level Coordination meeting of the ECOWAS partners on the fight against EVD.

Response Efforts and Health

2. In Sierra Leone, the UNICEF-led Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) network have identified 15,258 children as being directly affected by the Ebola crisis (7,664 girls and 7,594 boys), with 7,968 children having lost one or both parents to Ebola and 552 unaccompanied or separated from their caregiver. 9,103 Ebola-affected children have been provided with psychosocial support.
3. UNDP Country Director of Liberia handed over 100 solar powered radios and 100 solar lanterns to Ebola survivors in New Kru Town, Montserrado County. The radios were a donation from Lifeline Energy, a South African NGO, and the lanterns were donated by Panasonic. The survivors were identified by UNDP's active case finders.
4. In total, 21,329 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 8,444 deaths.

Logistics

5. WFP, under its mandate to provide Common services to the humanitarian community, continues to support partners in the augmentation of storage capacity in Sierra Leone. In Freetown, an assessment is ongoing with UNICEF and WHO to identify suitable sites for additional warehouse setup. Work is ongoing to erect between one and three Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) at the Central Medical Store (CMS) located in Kingtom, Freetown; works on the extension of the main Logistics Hub in Port Loko, in the Northern Province also continues.
6. The Logistics Cluster, through the Air Coordination Cell (ACC), is providing an additional free-to-user inter-agency flight on 27 January from the European Staging Area at Cologne Bonn Airport, to Freetown and Conakry, in order to facilitate the delivery of the essential cargo to the affected countries. This additional flight has been made available due to the high demand for space on the two inter-agency flights scheduled for 21 January (to Freetown) and 25 January (to Monrovia).
7. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

8. 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.
9. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 135.8 million in commitments. In total USD 140 million has been pledged.
10. 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

11. A joint delegation composed of UNMEER, UNICEF, CHT and e-Health visited three remote mining communities – Gagama, Boduala, and Vanjah - in Fuama district (Bong mines) in Bong County, Liberia along the Guinea border. The three communities have not experienced any EVD outbreak due to the concerted efforts of the community members. The District health team (DHT) has also done a commendable job to increase awareness on EVD through radio talk shows and by organizing series of workshops. The visiting team disseminated messages on EVD prevention as part of its social mobilization strategy. Challenges remain in increasing community awareness on safely dealing with dead bodies. Other challenges include inadequate buckets/chlorine water solution for hand washing, inaccessible road network and lack of canoes for navigating across the river. Given the proximity to Guinea, the DHT plans to establish Community Watch Teams to monitor the border.
12. Due the continued pushback against safe burials in Grand Cape Mount County, Liberia, the County Health Office (CHO) and partners agreed to map the communities resisting safe and dignified burials with a view to enhance advocacy as well as social engagement activities in these communities.

Essential Services

13. The guidelines for the reopening of schools in February was shared with educational authorities in Sinoe County, Liberia. The schools need to establish a committee to oversee the implementation of the guidelines, register the students and identify people trained in IPC procedures. Medical Team International (MTI) offered to distribute the guidelines to the schools. UNICEF will provide three thermoflashes per school to 220 schools. Among the challenges and issues in instituting the guidelines are: 1) the lack of personnel to implement them in the schools (some schools have one teacher for 100 students); 2) the inaccessibility of some schools due to their remote location; 3) lack of basic equipment like printers and photocopiers to disseminate the guidelines; and 4) lack of clarity on no-touch policy for people caring for children under 3-years-old (it may not be possible to institute the policy in these cases). The general community health volunteers (gCHVs) plan to support the schools in some locations.
14. Preparations are underway for a second mass distribution of anti-malaria treatments in Ebola hotspots in Sierra Leone. An estimated 2.5 million are expected to be reached in the coming days in a joint operation between the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS), UNICEF and MSF.

Upcoming Events

15. NSTR

Attachments and resources

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