

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

20 January 2015

### KEY POINTS

- President Condé of Guinea called for the debt of the three most affected countries to be cancelled.
- SRSG Ould Cheikh Ahmed is visiting Sierra Leone and will visit Mali.
- Schools reopened in Guinea on 19 January.

### Key Political and Economic Developments

1. In a press interview on his way to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, President Alpha Condé of Guinea called on the IMF to cancel the debt of his country as well as of Liberia and Sierra Leone. He further indicated that the cancellation should be for bilateral and multilateral debt.
2. SRSG Ould Cheikh Ahmed was yesterday and today in Sierra Leone to meet with visiting Prime Minister of Denmark and interact further with the United Nations system as well as visit an Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU). He will then proceed to Mali to meet with the Malian authorities and the United Nations system following the declaration on 18 January that the country was Ebola-free.

### Response Efforts and Health

3. On 14 January, the Ebola Response Taskforce of Liberia established a committee comprised of the County Health Team (CHT), UNMEER, UNICEF, WHO, Women Health Alliance International (WAHA) and Plan Liberia to develop border management strategies in Lofa County. Issues to be included in the report are, among other things, mapping of primary and secondary crossing points, key mining areas and functional market areas along the border, joint cross border monitoring by the Taskforce and the deployment of health personnel at primary crossing points to facilitate temperature taking and referral of suspected EVD cases.
4. In total, 21,614 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 8,594 deaths.

### Logistics

5. WFP is augmenting the storage capacities of Regional Health Directorates in Kankan, Mamou, Labe and Boke in Guinea, as these locations are not covered by Forward Logistics Bases (FLBs). These locations will be provided with pick-ups, drivers and fuel to support the distribution of Universal Protection Equipment to health facilities.
6. WFP has provided an incinerator to the Centre for Healthcare Workers, managed by the French Army and inaugurated on 19 January in Conakry, Guinea. The centre has a capacity of ten beds and is dedicated to the treatment of Ebola humanitarian personnel involved in the fight against Ebola. UNHAS is also providing medical evacuation to this centre via a dedicated Bell 205 helicopter.
7. The Logistics Cluster, via the two C-160 aircraft donated by the Government of Germany, has been coordinating airlifts of essential items and logistics equipment from Accra to, and between, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. During the reporting period, 61 motorbikes were transported from Accra (16 to Freetown and 45 Conakry); 12 metric tons (mt) of food from Freetown to Monrovia; 3mt of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and other medical items from Monrovia to Conakry; and 12mt of operations support equipment from Accra to Freetown, including 1 forklift, 12 generators and ICT equipment.
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 1.19 billion, which is around 79% 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](mailto:fts@un.org).

### **Outreach and Education**

12. UNICEF continued sensitization initiatives throughout Guinea. For instance, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Youth in Guinea through the training of 777 (417 in Coyah and 360 in Forecariah) youth community sensitizers for social mobilization to help address the issue of resistance in these areas.
13. Similarly, UNICEF helped the Ministry of Youth broadcast Ebola sensitization messages to youth during the Africa Nations Cup. Messaging will continue 30 days after the end of the African Cup. UNICEF provided flat screen TVs, generators, retro-projectors, and screens to broadcast the Cup in 200 locations throughout the country.
14. Save the Children in collaboration with the County Health Team (CHT) established a Survival-Network in three districts (Joequelleh, Salala & Suakoko) in Bong county, Liberia. The Network held a session for 81 participants (72 adults and 9 children) on the need to organize themselves into vocational groups (tailoring, carpentry, masonry and other activities). Save the Children provided the technical support while the CHT led the discussion. The Ministry for Gender was also present to assess how best children could be reintegrated into schools.
15. Reporting by social mobilization (SM) partners from the districts in Sierra Leone improved significantly with 12 out of 14 districts reporting for the period 7 to 14 January. A total of 8,235 social mobilizers were trained to support SM activities in Bo, Bombali, Kailahun, Kambia, Kono, Tonkolili and Western Area Urban. These social mobilizers reached 26,499 households through inter-personal communication and engaged 618 religious leaders and 223 paramount chiefs and other community leaders in supporting intensified social mobilization efforts.

### **Essential Services**

16. Schools reopened across Guinea yesterday. In preparation, 80,657 teachers were trained on safe school opening protocol (100% teachers from preschool to higher education) with the assistance of UNICEF. UNICEF and partners also helped ensuring that thermoflash and hand washing stations were provided on locations. Early reporting suggests attendance is low, with for instance 63 students present at the Lycée 2 Octobre in Conakry out of 1,300 students. Current estimates are that students will receive 160 of the usual 180 days of instruction and local media are encouraging attendance to make best use of the reduced time.
17. As part of the ongoing rapid assessment of the Emergency school radio programmes in Sierra Leone, 1,051 households covering five districts (Western Urban and Rural, Porto Loko, Kambia and Kono) were visited from 7 to 14 January by UNICEF implementing partners to determine if children were listening to the education programmes. It was assessed that 47% of households had children of primary school age who were listening to the programmes.
18. In Liberia, schools began registering students on 12 January for the launch of the new academic year, and the Ministry of Education finalized a condensed 2015 academic calendar, including a minimum of 187 instructional days from 2 February to 2 November.
19. As part of its early recovery programme in Liberia, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoH&SW), the CHT and county authorities launched a six-month support project for the revitalization of health facilities in Lofa County. The project is intended to regularize the functions of some of the health facilities that suffered breakdown in normal service delivery as a result of EVD outbreak in the county.

### **Upcoming Events**

20. On 24 January, WHO will organize a cross-border meeting in Guéckédou, Guinea along the Sierra Leone/Liberia border to discuss EVD related issues. A team of WHO, the CHT, UNMEER, other partners and traditional chiefs is expected to participate.

### **Attachments and resources**

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