

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

23 January 2015

### KEY POINTS

- Davos panel underscores need to guard against complacency in global response to EVD
- US Ambassador to Liberia hands over primary healthcare centre in Bakedu
- Response partners continue support to Liberia's plan to open schools next month

### Key Political and Economic Developments

1. In Davos, Switzerland, a panel discussion on 'Confronting the Challenge of Catastrophic Outbreaks: What critical lessons can be learned from the 2014 Ebola outbreak to prepare us for the future?' was held on 22 January. Moderating the talks, Peter Piot, the Director of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, characterized the EVD outbreak in West Africa as a black swan event. The panel which included President Alpha Condé of Guinea and WHO Director-General Margaret Chan underscored the need to guard against complacency and donor fatigue, until we get to zero transmission as well as build resilient public health care systems and infrastructure to better cope with future outbreaks and endemic diseases.

### Response Efforts and Health

2. In response to recent outbreaks UNICEF, the Liberian Ministry of Health and partners, are conducting a mop-up campaign targeting 33,000 people living in 6,600 households in Tewar district, Grand Cape Mount County. The campaign will also be focusing on prevention practices, rapid reporting and isolation of sick family members, safe and dignified burials as well as addressing issues of stigmatization.
3. The primary healthcare centre in Bakedu town, in Lofa County was handed over to the county authorities in a ceremony attended by the US Ambassador to Liberia. Funded by USAID, the newly rehabilitated centre will help upgrade the standard of health services in Bakedu, a community that lost about 200 people to EVD. The ceremony concluded with the distribution of 200 Information, Education and Communications (IEC) materials on EVD by UNMEER and UNMIL.
4. In total, 21,759 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 8,668 deaths.

### Logistics

5. The WFP is relocating one Mobile Storage Unit (MSU) at Lungi airport closer to the cargo handling area to accommodate for urgent storage requests from incoming inter-agency cargo flights. Ground preparation (levelling, compacting, and drainage), followed by the erection of the MSU will be finished today. A second MSU has been dismantled and will be sent to Port Loko main logistics hub.
6. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

### Resource Mobilisation

7. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling USD 1.5 billion, has been funded for USD 1.18 billion, which is around 79% of the total ask.
8. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 135.8 million in commitments. In total USD 140 million has been pledged.
9. 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**

10. Community resistance towards safe burials and general suspicion of burial teams continues in many parts of the Liberia. UNMEER and partners are engaging more with local communities to enhance awareness in the Phase II national response efforts. In this regard, UNMEER along with county authorities plan to follow up on some recent burials that took place in Flowin, Garbusi and Boapea towns in Nimba County.
11. Also in Liberia and within the framework of the Phase II national plan, the County Health Team (CHT) and partners plan to focus on community engagement/empowerment, contact tracing, active case investigation, cross-border coordination and beginning to strengthen the health system in the weeks to come.
12. A joint team of UNMEER, UNICEF, AFRICARE, WHO and eHealth conducted a field visit to three border towns (Baila/Sokopa/Kowai) in Kpaai District Bong County, Liberia to implement social mobilization strategies in remote areas. Messages on EVD prevention were disseminated through a radio talk show, series of workshops by the district health team, posters and house-to-house campaigns. As the Community Watch Teams are not in place, community members were encouraged to establish them to better monitor movement of people/vehicles in the area.

## **Essential Services**

13. The joint team also observed registration of students to prepare for the school opening in Liberia. Some identified challenges included the lack of disinfection materials and thermos flashes for the schools. Red Cross/Save the Children plan to assist with the provision of these materials, while UNICEF will provide more social mobilization awareness tools (posters) to the three communities. UNMEER will support this intervention as part of its strategic plan to garner community support and buy-in for the EVD response.
14. WFP, in coordination with the Government of Liberia, UNMEER and UNICEF, will be supporting re-opening of schools starting in February: WFP will facilitate the transport of WASH supplies to ensure that schools, as they open, have all supplies necessary to prevent the transmission of EVD.
15. In Sierra Leone, two successive emergency campaigns to distribute anti-malarial drugs successfully reached more than 2.5 million people in door-to-door distribution in 8 districts (Bombali, Kambia, Koinadugu, Moyamba, Port Loko and Tonkolili and Western Area - Urban and Rural). The campaign was implemented by the National Malaria Control Programme of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation with technical support and guidance by WHO in collaboration with MSF, UNICEF and other Roll Back Malaria partners. This effort will significantly reduce the number of people with fever that might be mistaken for EVD.

## **Upcoming Events**

16. NTSR

## **Attachments and resources**

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