



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

26 January 2015

KEY POINTS

- President Koroma of Sierra Leone declares 31 March to reach zero
- Tri-border government officials and partners meet in Guéckédou to share experience
- WFP continues to leverage its technical capacity in support of response efforts

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. In an address to the nation on 22 January, President Koroma of Sierra Leone, declared the nation's goal to move towards the target of zero cases by 31 March. The President announced the easing of restriction of movement; he highlighted measures for the safe re-opening of schools to be in the third and fourth week in March are underway. The President emphasized that the nation needs to continue to focus on surveillance and contact tracing; enhance social mobilisation and community engagement efforts; refrain from washing and touching corpses; and not to relent until Sierra Leone gets to zero cases for 42 days and until Liberia and Guinea have had zero cases for 42 days. He also underscored the importance of building the national surveillance capacity and resilient healthcare system to interrupt transmission and prevent future outbreaks.

Response Efforts and Health

2. In Liberia, the team leader of the mobile laboratory for EVD testing set up near the Sinje ETU, Grand Cape Mount County informed UNMEER that six months' worth of supplies, including PPE and isolation kits, arrived at the facilities. This lab is funded by the Government of the Netherlands and operated by Dutch volunteers.
3. In Sierra Leone, IOM has signed an MoU with two implementing partners Oxfam and ACF for the distribution of emergency care kits. The next steps include training and coordination with each District Ebola Command Centre. While in Guinea, WHO and IOM are working together to build the capacity and infrastructure of the Emergency Operation Centres (EOC). Other support will also include interventions on a standardized approach to staffing, training and oversight of Provincial Emergency Operations Centres (PEOC). The National Emergency Operations Coordinator reaffirmed support for this important cooperation.
4. In Liberia, UNMEER facilitated a one-day training for technical assistants and data managers from Porkpa, Golakonneh and Tewor districts in Grand Cape Mount County to set up and utilize Broadband Global Area Network (BGAN) in their district health offices. The training was carried out by Nethope who also provided the BGANs. This intervention will seek to enhance the internet connectivity of the three remote districts and enable them to share crucial data on time with the county health office.
5. In total, 21,797 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 8,675 deaths.

Logistics

6. The WFP-led Emergency Telecommunication (ET) cluster is constructing towers (17x24m in height) across the three affected countries, in order to widen the coverage of internet in hard to reach locations. More Wi-Fi hotspots will now be available to the humanitarian community, as the ET cluster is in the process of constructing towers in six locations in Guinea; in three locations in Liberia; and in six locations in Sierra Leone.
7. On request of UNMEER, WFP in Sierra Leone, continues to provide support to the vehicle Decontamination Centre at Hastings. This Centre routinely cleans around 40 ambulances, trucks

and minibuses transporting EVD patients or transporting potentially contaminated commodities, as well as the motorbikes, donated by the Government of Germany, which are being used for specimen transport. Last week, WFP installed a septic tank for the ablution units, as well as set up two Mobile Storage Units (MSUs).

8. WFP, via the two C-160 aircraft donated by the Government of Germany, continues to coordinate strategic airlifts of essential items and logistics equipment from Accra to, and between, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, on behalf of the humanitarian community. Last week over 30mt of cargo was dispatched from Accra including 36 motorbikes, a pick-up truck, VSAT equipment and pallets on behalf of UNMEER and almost 6mt of plastic sheeting on behalf of USAID/OFDA.
9. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

10. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling USD 2.27 billion, has been funded for USD 1.19 billion, which is around 52% of the total ask.
11. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 135.8 million in commitments. In total USD 140 million has been pledged.
12. 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

13. In Guinea, UNICEF in partnership with CARITAS has set up 20 social Mediation Councils comprised of religious leaders of all faiths to act on resistance across the country; the social mediation councils have been deployed to communities reporting resistance. UNICEF, Research for Common Ground and the Ministry of Youth continue to use the platform provided by African Cup to scale social mobilization featuring football legends, Guinea national team and Miss Guinea.
14. On 24 January, WHO Guinea with support from CDC, IOM, UNMEER Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone organised a cross-border community-based consultative meeting in Nongowa, Guéckédou Prefecture, reuniting state, security and health officials from the tri-border area districts, prefectures and chiefdoms. 24 local community leaders from Liberia and Sierra Leone attended the meeting with support from UNMEER field teams. WHO representatives across the tri-border area districts - Guéckédou (Guinea), Kailahum (Sierra Leone) and Lofa (Liberia) led the discussions which were chaired by the prefect of Guéckédou. These were followed by a series of focus groups sessions. The objectives of the meeting was to share updates on the epidemiological reports; experiences and lessons learned as well as explore ways to strengthen cross border community engagement, surveillance and notification mechanisms, among all stakeholders.

Essential Services

15. UNMEER with the District Health Supervisor and the CDC visited the Liberia-Guinea border to meet Liberian immigration authorities. Even though the border crossing is officially closed, illegal crossings continue. According to Liberian immigration, Guinea has a medical team on the border but there is none on the Liberian side. The immigration police requested a health team and sanitization materials at the border point in case there are illegal crossings.

Upcoming Events

16. NTSR

Attachments and resources

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