

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

3 February 2015

KEY POINTS

- Phase III vaccine trials underway
- UNMEER ECM updates public of response efforts
- Ministry of Education in Liberia postpones the reopening of schools

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. WHO reports that 3 phase III trial collaborations are planned: a ring vaccination trial in Guinea, organized through a large international collaboration including WHO and MSF; a randomized-controlled trial in Liberia, under a Liberian government–US-NIH collaboration, due to begin week of 2 February; and a stepped-wedge trial in Sierra Leone under a Sierra Leonean-US-CDC collaboration. Strong emphasis is being given to effective communication and engagement with communities to build trust, address concerns about clinical trials and vaccination campaigns and ensure that volunteers can make informed choices. WHO will continue its facilitator role as trials move forward, in particular by ensuring that national regulatory oversight and patient safety remain top priorities. WHO's efforts in R&D for Ebola have had one overriding objective: to help end the epidemic and provide insurance against future epidemics.
2. On 31 January, the UNMEER Ebola Crisis Manager (ECM) in Sierra Leone, Mr. Amadu Kamara, participated in a live television programme titled: The UN and the Ebola Fight in Sierra Leone: Past, Present and Future. The ECM provided an update on the efforts of UN and the global response. Abdulai Bayraytay, a government outreach coordinator expressed appreciation for UNMEER's efforts. The ECM highlighted that UN agencies, such as UNICEF, UNDP, WHO would continue to assist the government with long-term rebuilding efforts, once the objectives of UNMEER are achieved. On 30 January, the ECM participated in a one-day discussion forum with more than 80 Ebola social mobilizers. The CEO of the National Ebola Response Centre, Paulo Conteh, warned against complacency during the last lap of the "race to end Ebola".
3. The Ministry of Education in Liberia has postponed the reopening of schools to allow for continued preparation for the safe re-opening of schools. Schools were initially planned to re-open on 2 February.

Response Efforts and Health

4. In total, 22,334 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 8,921 deaths.
5. The Ebola National Coordination Cell in Guinea reported in its daily meeting on 2 February that 11 new confirmed EVD cases were reported in Lola and one in Sigiri Prefectures. The one individual from Sigiri is believed to have taken part in a funeral in Lola, which is an area where the community has shown resistance to EVD response efforts. Two other confirmed cases were reported in Tougué Prefecture. These are the first reported cases in Tougué.
6. On 2 February, two survivors were discharged from the Sinje ETU in Grand Cape Mount (GCM) County, Liberia. There are no more cases at the ETU. The Chief Physician at IOM informed UNMEER that the two new positive EVD cases in the Tubmanburg ETU, Bomi County died on 2 February.
7. On 2 February in Monrovia, WHO concluded a two-day workshop, hosted by the Ministry of Health & Social Welfare (MoH&SW) on ethics and public health emergencies with a focus on research (e.g. vaccine/treatment trials) in the context of Ebola. The workshop, aimed at strengthening the capacities of the public healthcare system to address health ethics issues, was attended by members of the

National Ethics Committee, comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Health and training, regulatory and research institutions.

8. UNICEF Sierra Leone is providing nutrition supplies to 24 Ebola Treatment Units (ETU), 56 Ebola Holding Centres (EHC), and 10 ETU/EHCs, 21 interim care centres (ICC)¹ and 13 Observational Interim Care Centres (OICC) as well as 46 Community Care Centres (CCC). Furthermore, nutrition supplies have been prepositioned at district medical stores (DMS) for replenishment to all ETUs, EHCs, CCCs, ICCs and OICCs as well as to support quarantined households countrywide.
9. In Liberia, WHO, in collaboration with partners including CDC, UNICEF and the Swedish Civil Contingency Agency (MSB), have drafted standard operating procedures (SOPs) for decommissioning ETUs. The SOPs has been provided to the Ministry of Health for review. The partners will continue to support the Ministry of Health to finalise these materials.
10. The Ebola Task Force meeting in Rivercess County, Liberia focused on its phase II EVD response strategy. A rapid response team has been established including a fully operational Emergency Centre (EOC) and stand-by vehicles to respond to any emergency. The ETU is fully operational and the CCC is 95% complete. Restoration of normal health services was considered to be a priority. The meeting assessed that the county is better prepared to respond to cases.

Logistics

11. The Logistics Cluster continues to coordinate free-to-user inter-agency flights from the Europe Staging Area at Cologne Bonn Airport, in order to facilitate the delivery of critical relief items to the affected countries. The next flight is scheduled for 4 February to Freetown and Conakry; a double-drop flight is scheduled for 9 February for Freetown and Monrovia. A further flight is being made available for Conakry and Freetown and the Logistics Cluster has asked partners to communicate their urgent requirements so that a tentative date for this additional flight may be arranged.
12. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

13. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling USD 2.27 billion, has been funded for USD 1.22 billion, which is around 54% of the total ask.
14. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 135.8 million in commitments. In total USD 140 million has been pledged.
15. 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

16. In response to continued occurrence of EVD in Grand Cape Mount County, Liberia UNICEF deployed 82 social mobilisers and 82 contact tracers to 120 communities to kick start the EVD mop-up campaign in Tewar district. The 13-week campaign started last week and will cover the entire district with activities on EVD prevention, contact tracing, searching for unsafe/secret burials, and identification of special needs of families/children affected by EVD.

Essential Services

17. The second phase of the Periodic Intensification of Routine Immunization (PIRI) drive began in Liberia on 2 February. UNICEF trained the field monitoring teams from the Ministry of Health and partners are in place to ensure effective monitoring of PIRI activities in all 15 counties. The role of social mobilization teams and community leaders will be critical in dispelling rumours of Ebola spread through vaccinations.

Upcoming Events

18. NSTR

Attachments and resources

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