

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

4 February 2015

KEY POINTS

- President, Ernest Bai Koroma pays surprise visit to national Ebola Situation Center
- EVD situation in Guinea underscores need for continued vigilance to mitigate micro-flare ups
- Response partners support cross-border initiatives

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. On 3 February, President Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone paid a surprise visit to the National Ebola Response Centre (NERC)'s Situation Room where he was briefed on response efforts by government officials, UNMEER and UN agencies. The President expressed appreciation for the efforts of the NERC and added that easing of restrictions of movement should not be seen as a sign that the fight against Ebola is over. He underscored the continued need for response efforts as there are still problems with people washing corpses and carrying out unsafe burials in some places. The President reminded that the health sector also needs support and hoped that with Ebola transmission declining, the excess NERC capacity could be used to strengthen the health sector.
2. On 3 February, UNMEER Ebola Crisis Manager Mr. Abdou Dieng in Guinea, met with response partners, including UNICEF, UNDP, WHO and UNFPA, to discuss the initiative of the National Ebola Response Coordination (NERC) for government ministers to visit hot spots in the 5 communes of Conakry in order to follow up on challenges faced by Community Watch Committees. Following the meeting of the NERC on 30 January, the Government had requested UNMEER to facilitate a needs assessment of the Community Watch Committees and support coordinate response efforts in 17 priority prefectures.

Response Efforts and Health

3. In total, 22,444 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 8,959 deaths.
4. In response to the 11 cases in the Lola area in Guinea, WHO field investigation team, including Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) partners (CDC and ECDC) are currently deployed to Lola Prefecture and actively following up on the cases and contacts, strengthening coordination and communications with local communities, and investigating reports of villagers fleeing the area. The WHO Guinea country office is redeploying staff from N'Zerekore Prefecture to Lola to support the investigation of the current cluster of cases. On 3 February, WHO also deployed a mission to assess the local situation in neighbouring areas of Cote d'Ivoire to carry out risk assessments and evaluate active surveillance capacity in border areas, and support cross-border communications. WHO Country Offices in Guinea, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, and Liberia are in immediate contact to heighten vigilance level in border areas.
5. On 2 February, UNDP and WHO provided training to village committees in the area of Foogne and its vicinity, in the Forest area of Guinea, where 11 new cases were reported and villagers are said to be resisting health efforts. UNDP also sent hygiene kits consisting of 100 buckets and 100 cartons of chlorine to infected area in Lola and is involving local chiefs in sensitization and social mobilization activities. Additionally, fuel was provided to local authorities to scale up contact tracing efforts.
6. WHO is working to rapidly develop a field tool to support improved contact tracing; based on rapid re-development of key features of the Field Information Management System (FIMS). The new tool (Go-Data) will be rolled out for pilot testing in the affected countries by 14 February.
7. The County Health Team (CHT) in Lofa county, Liberia reported that one suspected case admitted in Zorzor CCC tested positive. The patient reportedly travelled from Monrovia to Zigida, Zorzor district.

The active case search team traced and admitted the patient to the CCC. The response team returned the patient to Monrovia ETU to undergoing treatment. The family of 20 in Zigida are now quarantined.

Logistics

8. WFP, in coordination with the Government of Liberia, UNMEER and UNICEF, is providing logistics support for the transportation of WASH supplies for the safe re-opening of schools in Liberia. Dispatches are planned to commence on 4 February in Nimba County and are planned to be completed in all 15 counties by 15 February ahead of the school start date on 2 March. Dispatches will be conducted by road, air and sea transport. In total over 7,000 kits (some 2,700m³) will be delivered to over 4,000 schools serving one million students.
9. The WFP-led Emergency Telecommunications Cluster is providing Internet access for 1,112 humanitarian staff in 59 locations across Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.
10. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

11. 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.
12. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 135.8 million in commitments. In total USD 140 million has been pledged.
13. 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

14. NSTR

Essential Services

15. UNICEF Guinea distributed more than 31,720 household hygiene kits to 222,040 people in Ebola-affected areas. This brings the total number of household kits distributed since the beginning of the outbreak to 81,252 and the number of beneficiaries to 568,764. In support of government efforts as students returned to schools and universities, UNICEF distributed 25,800 school hygiene kits benefitting 1,467,252 students.
16. The Ministry of Health & Social Welfare (MoH&SW) in Liberia started an assessment of health systems in Grand Cape Mount (GCM) County today in order to develop appropriate health recovery plans for Liberia (2015-2021). Three facilities in the county will be assessed in Bo Water Side, Sinje and Roberstport.
17. UNMEER facilitated a rapid assessment of three border crossing points along the Liberia/Bong country - Guinea border, namely Jowah, Gboata and Garmu. The joint team composed of the CDC and UNMEER was led by the Director of Operations in the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (BIN), Liberia. The joint team interacted with border officials who reported the crossing were officially closed in July 2014, but illegal crossings continue due to extensive family, cultural and economic ties on both sides. The border officials reported that each border post is manned by 10-15 personnel, which is insufficient for ensuring the necessary patrolling of the border area. The CDC experts also held extensive discussions with the medical personnel at Joseph Clinic in Jowah, a regional medical facility that provides medical care for the population across 5 areas, including to patients from Guinea (especially before the outbreak). Medical personnel at Jowah Clinic emphasized the need for a joint health team and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) resources before officially re-opening the borders.

Upcoming Events

18. From 11 to 18 February, UNDP Administrator Helen Clark will travel to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to express solidarity with the governments and people of the three countries, and meet with partners assisting in the fight against Ebola. The Administrator will discuss ongoing efforts to respond to the crisis, with an emphasis on socio-economic recovery.

Attachments and resources

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