

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

12 February 2015

KEY POINTS

- UNMEER Ebola Crisis Managers in Guinea and Sierra Leone consult nation partners
- EVD incidence increased for the second consecutive week
- Schools scheduled to re-open on 30 March in Sierra Leone

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. On 11 February, UNMEER Ebola Crisis Manager (ECM) in Guinea, Mr. Abdou Dieng met with the Prime Minister and Head of Government Mohamed Said Fofana and briefed him on UNMEER's activities. They also discussed progress and challenges in response efforts.
2. The CEO of the National Ebola Response Centre (NERC), Mr. Paulo Conteh, at a press briefing yesterday lauded the efforts of outgoing UNMEER ECM Amadu Kamara in Sierra Leone, underscoring that EVD response would have been difficult without UNMEER.
3. In Sierra Leone, the government has announced that schools will reopen on 30 March, after a seven-month shutdown to limit the spread of the Ebola virus. UNICEF has been leading response partners support authorities with the safe re-opening of schools. Preparation are also underway for the decommissioning of 11 Community Care Centers (CCCs) that are situated in or within 200m of school compounds. A total of 16,200 hand washing facilities have been ordered for the back-to-school initiative.

Response Efforts and Health

4. In total, 22,859 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 9,162 deaths.
5. WHO reported that the total weekly EVD case incidence increased for the second consecutive week, with 144 new confirmed cases reported in the week to 8 February, compared to 124 confirmed cases reported in the week to 1 February. Guinea reported a sharp increase in incidence, with 65 new confirmed cases compared with 39 the week before. Following the steep decline in case incidence in Sierra Leone from December until the end of January, incidence has now stabilized. A total of 76 cases were reported in the week to 8 February, a decrease from the 80 confirmed cases reported in the week to 1 February, but higher than the 65 confirmed cases reported in the week to 25 January. Transmission remains widespread, with 7 districts reporting new confirmed cases. Liberia continues to report a low number of new confirmed cases with a total of 3 confirmed cases reported in the week to 8 February. All confirmed cases were reported from Montserrado, the county that includes Monrovia. All cases in Liberia were reported to be linked to the same chain of transmission.
6. Following reports that a suspected EVD case had escaped from the City clinic, Margibi County, Liberia, WHO and UNMEER visited the border checkpoint in Salala. According to reports a case investigation team informed the Kakata ETU that an individual from Weaa town, Kakata, reportedly had had headache, fever and weakness for seven days, but the patient fled before the ambulance arrived. The individual frequented Salala and Felala markets in Bong County. The case investigation team is following up and provisions are in place for Save the Children to provide food for the individual's three children if taken to the ETU.
7. During the same visit by WHO and UNMEER to the Salala check point in Bong County, it was observed that mainly travelers in commercial vehicles are screened with the thermoflash (not private vehicles). It was also observed that there are no hand washing facilities due to the lack of water. The border officials were informed about the deployment of general Community Health Volunteers (gCHVs) by the County Health Office to ensure proper screening.

8. UNMEER along with WHO met with the head of the WFP-Forward Logistic Base (FLB) in Bong County, Liberia to review the materials to be used by the gCHVs for screening at the 21 border points. Most of the materials (thermoflash, personal protection equipment (PPE), boots, soap and buckets) are available, while flashlights and small bags are yet to be provided by partners.

Logistics

9. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.
10. UNMEER Geo-Information Management Services (UNMEER GIMS) v1.0, web mapping application can be freely accessed at <http://www.unmeer-im-liberia.website>.

Resource Mobilisation

11. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling USD 2.27 billion, has been funded for USD 1.23 billion, which is around 54% of the total ask.
12. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 136.8 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. In Sierra Leone, more than 30 radio, television and newspaper journalists and bloggers received training on how to report on Ebola survivor stories on 11 February. This is the first in a planned series of training of journalists in different parts of the country. The training is part of a communication strategy devised by the Communications Pillar of Sierra Leone's Ebola response to ensure that Ebola survivors are treated as heroes rather than being stigmatized. Community and religious leaders also participated in the training and provided their perspectives on the topic.

Essential Services

15. A committee of eight partners comprising of UNMEER, Plan Liberia, UNICEF, the County Education Office, CHT, Pentecostal Mission Unlimited (PMU), WHO and WAHA/GOAL - has been established to support the County Education office, Lofa county, Liberia to plan and prepare for the 2 March reopening of schools. The committee will aim to carry out training of trainers for teachers and peer educators on hygienic practices and the use of IPC materials; conduct EVD awareness programmes in schools; monitor cross border movements for the safe return of children and parents to schools; support the distribution of IPC materials; assess the facilities that were used as ETUs/CCCs /holding centers and support WASH activities in the schools.
16. On 9 February, AU Support to Ebola Outbreak in West Africa (ASEOWA) dispatched three epidemiologists to Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount (GCM) County, Liberia to assess EVD prevention procedures at five checkpoints in Bo waterside (along the Liberian - Sierra Leone border) and one in Bomi County (Liberia), as well as schools in the area. On 11 February, AU experts reviewed contact tracing and case investigation forms with the county health team's data manager in order to harmonize data entry and collection at the national, county and district levels. ASEOWA has also deployed two epidemiologists to Gbarpolu County (Liberia), to work with the CHT to strengthen epidemiological surveillance, build capacity of CHT staff on epi-surveillance and institute proper IPC measures (triage).
17. UNMEER along with the District Health Officer (DHO) visited the Yekepa border point, Nimba County and met the immigration officials. The border which is officially closed remain porous and easily assessable between Guinea and Liberia (Lola town where a recent outbreak was reported is at a 2 hour drive from the border). The immigration police recommended opening the border point and assigning a medical team to it. The border closing has affected the economy of Nimba County as the trade between Guinea and Liberia is disrupted.

Upcoming Events

18. NTSR

Attachments and resources

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