

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

18 February 2015

KEY POINTS

- UNDP Administrator meets President Koroma of Sierra Leone
- 58 individuals convicted for attacking response workers in Guinea
- Guéckédou, Guinea records 60 consecutive days free of Ebola

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. UNDP Administrator Helen Clark's mission to the Ebola-affected countries continued in Sierra Leone on 17 February. In addition to meetings with President Ernest Bai Koroma, ministers and representatives of the UN Country team in the country, Ms. Clark met with UNMEER and National Ebola Response Center (NERC) representatives. She also held discussions with affected communities in informal settlements in Freetown. The visit was an opportunity to get a first-hand impression of how effective UNDP's support through the crisis has been, and also to discuss strategies for future work in support of economic recovery.
2. According to media reports in Guinea, on 17 February, 58 individuals have been convicted over an attack on Ebola workers in January 2015. Charges included assault and battery of several government workers and staff from MSF, destruction of public buildings, public insults/threats and rebellion. The group has been on trial in Forecariah, and people were arrested after the attack in early January 2015 on the nearby island of Kakack. Community resistance remains widespread particularly in ten prefectures: Boffa, Dubreka, Faranah, Forecariah, Kindia, Kissidougou, Kouroussa, Macenta, Kaloum and Matoto.

Response Efforts and Health

3. In total, 23,218 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 9,365 deaths.
4. In Guinea, a new Ebola Prefectural Coordinator was nominated for Guéckédou, while the once epicenter of the outbreak records 60 consecutive days free of Ebola. Active surveillance and other response measures remain in place, at the sub-prefectures with a particular focus on its border with Sierra Leone.
5. In Liberia, UNMEER took the lead with WHO to map out the actions taken by partners in the 4 districts in Bomi, Liberia with regards to contact tracing, active case search and community engagement. This exercise aimed to identify the level of engagement in each of the four districts. Additionally, following UNMEER assessment of three check-points in Grand Cape Mount (GCM) on 15 February, the check point in Klay, Bomi (intersection point to go to Montserrado and GCM) was identified as the site that lack an isolation room and a dressing room for health workers. This issue is of concern given that 99 suspected cases were detected in this area over the last two weeks.
6. Health workers in Sinoe County, Liberia refused to start work in an isolation unit due to lack of payment of hazard benefits. The County Health Officer (CHO) explained no benefits will be paid for isolation unit because it is part of the hospital.
7. In Liberia, UNICEF provided 40 health workers from ten Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) facilities and six district social workers from six health districts in Nimba County training on the modified nutrition protocols to ensure screening, referral and treatment of acute malnutrition in the EVD context. From 23 November 2014 to 7 February 2015, 823 out of 956 (86 per cent) patients admitted in ETUs and Community Care Centers (CCC), received special nutrition products for the duration of their admission following global and national nutritional care and support protocols for EVD patients.

8. In Sierra Leone, UNICEF is providing 18 ETUs, 1, 53 EHCs, 20 OICCs as well as 55 CCCs with nutrition supplies. Supplies include high energy fortified biscuits (BP100), ready-to-use infant formula (RUIF) and Ultra High Temperature (UHT) whole/full cream milk for Ebola patients and survivors, including children.

Logistics

9. A Logistics Cluster-coordinated flight from the Europe Staging Area at Cologne-Bonn Airport delivered over 88mt of cargo to Liberia and Sierra Leone on 10 February. This cargo was transported on behalf of ICRC, St Joseph's Hospital in Monrovia, WHO, UNMEER, Samaritans Purse, Americares, MedShare. Cargo included face shields, Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), examination gloves, suits, IT equipment and hospital supplies. The final free-to-user flight is scheduled for today, 18 February, to Freetown and Conakry, and is planned to transport medical items and support equipment for 15 organisations. All future flights, coordinated by the Logistics Cluster from the Europe Staging Area, will be made available on a cost-recovery basis.
10. In preparation for the rainy season, WFP is making contingency plans throughout the three affected countries by strengthening existing infrastructure and establishing additional facilities where required. WFP is prepositioning essential cargo in Liberia in deep field locations in Liberia, and fuel in Guinea. In Sierra Leone, WFP is setting up prefabricated office structures at the three Forward Logistics Bases (FLBs) and the main hub to ensure operations continue uninterrupted despite potential access constraints.
11. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.
12. 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

13. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling USD 2.27 billion, has been funded for USD 1.25 billion, which is around 55% of the total ask.
14. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 136.8 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. Local authorities and partners in Lola, Guinea, handed over equipment provided by UNICEF to the Mano River community radio station. This equipment for the community radio will reinforce social mobilization capacities in Lola prefecture and its surroundings. In Faranah, sensitization activities have been conducted by the rural radio and radio Bambou focusing on curbing the spread of chlorination rumours in schools. The sensitization campaign about chlorination rumours has also targeted six mosques, a youth association and three schools. A training programme has been proposed to religious leaders and to traditional healers on Ebola prevention measures.

Essential Services

17. NTSR

Upcoming Events

18. UNMEER SRSG Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed will visit Liberia on 18 and 19 February, together with the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Mr. Carlos Lopes where they will meet with national authorities among others.

Attachments and resources

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