

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

23 February 2015

### KEY POINTS

- Liberia reopens borders
- UNICEF supports school reopening in affected countries
- Overview of Needs and Requirements (ONR) funding gap- USD 1 billion

### Key Political and Economic Developments

1. The Liberian government officially reopened its borders with Sierra Leone and Guinea on 22 February. According to the Superintendent of Grand Cape Mount (GCM) County and Liberia's Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (BIN), Sierra Leone's joint security personnel at Jendemba claimed that although they were aware of the border opening they had not received instructions from Freetown. UNPOL at Robertsport team site and UNMEER plan to visit Bo Waterside this week to assess the situation as well as all border crossings in due course.

### Response Efforts and Health

2. In total, 23,371 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 9,442 deaths.
3. From 19 to 21 February, 125 general Community Health Volunteers (gCHVs) were trained by Global Communities and the GCM County Health Team (CHT) on contact tracing and active case finding. UNICEF trained religious leaders, the district EVD task force members and gCHVs on EVD prevention and social mobilization. The CHT plans to train over 1,000 gCHVs on EVD response. Among others, it was recommended that the trainings need to follow a more dynamic format in order to sustain interest and move away from "sitting allowances" for the participants.
4. On 21 February, the CHT of Rivercess County received a large consignment of IPC materials donated by Direct Relief through Last Mile Health. The supplies are currently stored at a mobile storage unit and ready for distribution to the 18 health facilities in the county by John Snowe Inc. from 24 February.
5. On 20 February, the Rapid Isolation and Treatment of Ebola (RITE) team reported that an individual escaped from an ETU in Monrovia and travelled to Juarzon in Sinoe County. The patient had tested negative but was waiting for a second test which was to be repeated after 72 hours. On 21 February, the RITE team continued its search for the patient in Juarzon. On 22 February, an individual with the same name as the one who escaped from ETU in Monrovia was located in Juarzon. The individual admitted to having visited Monrovia but denied being admitted in an ETU and also showed no symptoms. The community and partners in Juarzon were informed and requested to be vigilant.
6. In the previous week, contact tracers in the sub-prefectures of Diecke and Bignamou who received death threats were relocated to Yomou center and sheltered in the prefectural hospital. Also in Guinea, students from a school in Kissidougou prefecture refused to attend EVD sensitization sessions due to misinformation.

### Logistics

7. The final free-to-user flight departed on 18 February, transporting over 90 metric tonnes, on behalf of 12 organisations, to Freetown and Conakry. All future flights, coordinated by the Logistics Cluster from the Europe Staging Area, will be made available on a cost-recovery basis. Since November, the WFP-led Logistics Cluster has co-ordinated 10 free-to-user flights from the Europe Staging Area at

Cologne-Bonn Airport, on behalf of the humanitarian community; these 10 flights have delivered a total of 932 metric tonnes of critical relief items to the three Ebola-affected countries.

8. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.
9. 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**

10. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling USD 2.27 billion, has been funded for USD 1.3 billion, which is around 57% of the total ask.
11. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 136.8 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](mailto:fts@un.org).

### **Outreach and Education**

13. As part of the EVD social mobilization strategy in Sierra Leone, UNICEF developed its U-Report, a text-based communications platform, to gauge youth's perceptions of school reopening in March 2015. Results showed that 65 percent of respondents feel it is a good idea, with 34 percent saying they had spent their time during school closures learning by themselves and another 24 percent who learned through radio programmes.

### **Essential Services**

14. In the previous week, UNICEF continued to provide support to the safe re-opening of school planned on 30 March in Sierra Leone. UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) to finalize all protocols on school reopening. Case Management and Social Mobilization pillars, among others, are actively being engaged by UNICEF in order to ensure harmonization of efforts. UNICEF also supported MEST and key partners to coordinate trainings of enumerators in 12 districts on the School Needs Assessment Tool. Teachers are being trained on protocols for referral of suspect cases of Ebola in schools, and school preparation kits will be distributed to each school. UNICEF also has focal points for each district who are prepared to respond to hotspots to coordinate district-level response for Education with partners, ensuring linkage with Child Protection on provision of radio education programmes for children unable to attend school.
15. With the official reopening on 16 February, in Liberia, UNICEF delivered school reopening kits to all 98 districts. Education Cluster partners have taken on the last mile distribution of kits to 4,038 schools. Training of teachers, administrators and PTA members on the implementation of the Protocols will continue through 27 February. Key messages targeting students, teachers, parents and communities are being aired on 44 community radio stations throughout the country. Schools will progressively reopen as they reach full compliance with the Safe School Reopening Protocols up to 2 March.
16. Of the 9,059 primary schools that have reopened in EVD-affected areas in Guinea, 8,606 are equipped with the basic resources to prevent EVD. This includes hand-washing kits and no-contact thermometers. The Education Cluster is working with Fondation Hirondelle, a media development NGO, to address concerns that parents and pupils have raised in regards to Ebola prevention measures in schools, including the use of no-contact thermometers. Fondation Hirondelle is developing radio spots that will be broadcast via national radio and via 23 rural radio stations starting on 18 February.

### **Upcoming Events**

17. NTSR

### **Attachments and resources**

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