

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

24 February 2015

KEY POINTS

- Response partners increase community engagement efforts in Guinea
- UNMEER and partners increase monitoring of crossing points
- UNICEF continues support for safe re-opening of schools in Liberia

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. NSTR

Response Efforts and Health

2. In total, 23,539 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 9,541 deaths.
3. In the previous week, two healthcare workers were infected in Coyah and Conakry, Guinea. Investigations are underway to determine the origin of the infection and identify case contacts.
4. In Guinea, response partners intensified community engagement efforts in the previous week. An innovative approach involving community elders and Imams in an EVD sensitization campaign is being implemented in the sub-prefectures of Tintioulen, Tokono and Moribayah, with support from the Communication Commission of Regional Coordination. IFRC conducted a two-day training on GPS contact tracing data collection, among others. UNMEER assisted a Training of Trainers (ToT) for 29 individuals on Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) with partner agencies in the prefecture of Kankan. WHO and ASEOWA supported training for “Comité de villageois de vigilance” (CVV) on epidemiological surveillance and active EVD case search was carried out in Womey sub-prefecture. Mass sensitization campaign in Kankan University to curb the spread of false rumours against humanitarian organizations accused of spreading Ebola and preliminary results demonstrate message is being well received. CCV with the support of UNICEF and UNFPA reached 76 households (or 1,217 individuals) in a mass “door to door” campaign in Balandou, Safina, Kangan and Djanssoumana.
5. In Guinea, the corpse of a suspected EVD victim was intercepted by authorities in Diecke village, Yomou prefecture and safely buried. It was reported that the corpse was transported across the country on 18 and 19 February. It was also reported that the two confirmed cases reported in Mali, Guinea on 14 and 19 February came from Liberia.
6. In Liberia, at Klay check point, Bomi County, a sick individual from Monrovia, who refused to be taken to the ETU in Tubmanburg was sent back to Monrovia and a corpse from JFK hospital in Monrovia was intercepted and taken to Sinje in Grand Cape Mount County upon request from the joint border control task force with UNMEER intervention. The death certificate and documentation to prove that it was a non EVD case were found to have been faked. Finally, the Ministry of Health & Social Services (MoH&SW) staff including security staff at the check points complained about the lack of remuneration.

Logistics

7. WFP operations across Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, have been receiving essential logistics equipment on behalf of the humanitarian community, as part of an in-kind donation from the Government of Germany. This donation has included 45 generators, four forklifts and also two tents for Terminal H in Dakar. Last week 13 Mercedes trucks were received in Freetown, Sierra Leone. These trucks are currently undergoing customs clearance; once cleared these vehicles will be allocated between the WFP Forward Logistics Bases (FLBs) in order to augment ‘last mile’ transport capacity.
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.

Outreach and Education

13. NSTR

Essential Services

14. Following the decision of Liberia to lift curfew and reopen its borders, UNMEER monitored county and border crossing points. In Nimba County, although the Liberian immigration opened the Ganta border, it remained closed on the Guinean side. In Lofa County, the reopening of the border was received with mixed feelings. While some people viewed it as a turning point, many remain cautious that little EVD prevention and control measures have been put in place along the primary and secondary border points. The movement of commercial vehicles were a concern as it could potentially lead to reoccurrence of the disease with new cases reported from Guinea which borders Lofa County. In Bomi county UNMEER with the Join Task Force monitored the county crossing point at Gbah and Klay (Ghah is the entry point from Sierra Leone). The border opening was well received and movement through the Klay check point has increased. The Sierra Leone border however remains closed.
15. UNMEER and WHO visited the checkpoint Gbarnga in Bong County and met with Deputy Commander of the Liberian Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (BIN). The check point has sufficient IPC materials but there is no stable water supply. He indicated that although the border points are open, the Guinean borders were still restricted. Many remain cautious that little EVD prevention and control measures have been put in place along the primary and secondary border points.
16. Initial observation indicates that with the lifting of curfews and re-opening borders, movement will increase there by highlighting the need to strengthen IPC and surveillance measures at county check points and international land border crossing points. UNMEER will continue to assess the border crossing points and coordinate necessary support with response partners.
17. UNICEF continued to provide support to the safe reopening of schools in Liberia, in Bomi County, UNICEF provided IPC material for schools in four districts. The District Health Officer (DHO) of Klay confirmed that all schools are opened. In Senjeh, Catholic and Pentecostal schools will open on March 2. Hygiene kits have been distributed to schools across Nimba County and majority of the staff have been trained on safe school protocols. In Lofa County the roll out of safe school protocols continue and the schools have slowly reopened. However, the distribution of hygiene materials to schools in inaccessible communities remains a challenge. The International Women's Health Alliance (WAHA) has completed the training of trainers' workshop for 214 teachers across the county who will be responsible for the training of more teachers on EVD awareness and monitoring.
18. UNMEER, WHO and the County Health Team (CHT) in Sinoe County, Liberia conducted an assessment visit to the clinics in Butaw, Togbaville and Diankpo. The team observed and will follow up on several challenges including lack of essential drugs, vaccines, IPC training for health care workers, non-functional base radio.

Upcoming Events

19. NTSR

Attachments and resources

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