

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

27 February 2015

KEY POINTS

- Study in Sierra Leone finds women took the brunt of EVD
- Response partners in Liberia intensify support to border crossings
Guinea, Mali and Senegal cross-border meeting in Labe, Guinea

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. The Government of Sierra Leone in partnership with UN Women, OXFAM and Statistic Sierra Leone released the findings of a country-wide Multi-Sector Gender Dimensions impact assessment on Ebola Virus Disease on 24 February. The assessment revealed that more females were infected (56%) due to gender norms and behavior that perpetuate gender inequality. EVD outbreak poses an unprecedented challenge in the overall achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment. The assessment found that EVD has brought about a sharp decline in maternal and child health indicators because health facilities were overwhelmed, in addition to mistrust of health services and the fear of contracting EVD. The assessment also revealed that health seeking behavior of women in particular has been negatively impacted with expectant mothers going without pre-natal care, obstetric services and a number of new-born babies not receiving lifesaving vaccines – 45% of respondents were not seeking health services for fear of contracting EVD. This assessment sets the tone for gender issues in the EVD recovery programming in Sierra Leone. UNMEER gender advisor provided technical input to the assessment process.

Response Efforts and Health

2. In total, 23,781 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 9,637 deaths.
3. In Liberia, WHO and UNMEER visited Juarzon on 26 February, to follow up on the woman who escaped from the ETU in Monrovia on 20 February (see sitrep 23 February). The County Health Team (CHT) informed the team that the patient has not been located. The community has been informed to be vigilant.
4. Response partners are increasing community engagement and social mobilization interventions in the face of intimidation, stigmatization and death threats. On 25 February, community resistance to response efforts was reported in Boffa, Dureka, Forecariah and Conakry.
5. In Guinea, the Government reinforced operational capacity in Faranah prefecture by donating eight motorcycles and WHO deployed a field coordinator. The Community Watch Committees (CVVs) in the prefecture were also paid their incentive. In Forecariah prefecture, the Institut Pasteur donated a mobile ambulance to the Transit Centre, UNMEER provided office supplies and IOM donated furniture to the Forecariah Command Center. The Ebola National Coordination Centre donated a motorcycle ambulance to Oureka border and UNICEF provided 2,800 wash kits to PRIDE.

Logistics

6. Due to the reduction in need for storage capacity in Freetown, WFP plans to close its warehouse in Freetown and extend the storage capacity of the main logistics hub in Port Loko from 2,880m² to over 5,000m². This extension will be implemented through the setup of an additional 14 Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) of 32x10m.
7. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.
8. 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

9. 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.
10. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 136.8 million in commitments. In total USD 140 million has been pledged.
11. 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

12. NSTR

Essential Services

13. UNMEER, UNICEF and Global Communities jointly visited an inaccessible community in Seegar town in Kokoyah district, Bong County, Liberia. The town has no school nor health facilities. Community awareness on EVD is low and there were no hand washing and awareness materials. UNICEF plans to distribute these through social mobilisers. UNMEER plans to visit more such inaccessible communities in Bong County along with integrated teams to enhance awareness on EVD and ensure basic IPC materials are available.
14. UNMEER monitored two inland border checkpoints - Timbo Bridge (connects Rivercess and Grand Bassa counties) and Yapa town, Rivercess county, Liberia. According to the officers from the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (BIN), no sudden change of the movement in pedestrian and vehicular traffic has been noted. Both check points have thermoflash thermometers, hygiene buckets and the general community health volunteers (gCHVs) were recording the temperature of the travelers. The BIN officers were reportedly unaware of the reopening of the national borders.
15. UNMEER met with the Governor of the Fanti sub-committee (a fishing community) in Grand Bassa County to assess the maritime traffic at the border crossings by fisherfolk from other counties – mainly Montserrado, Rivercess, Margibi, Sinoe and Grand Cape Mount. He noted that the number of fisher folk is gradually increasing with the borders reopening and they lack hygiene materials. This concern was reported at the incident management meeting and the county health team plans to address the issue.
16. UNMEER conducted a field visit to Kondadou border point in Lofa County, Liberia. The BIN officials and gCHVs are actively engaged in cross border monitoring, recording temperature and active case finding. They requested for basic PPEs such as hand gloves, portable sanitizers, sprayers, rain boots since they are in direct contact with people.
17. The Prefectural Coordinator of Yomou in Guinea plans an assessment mission to the border with Liberia to identify operational needs related to border reopening.
18. On 26 February in Guinea, a two day cross-border meeting concluded in Labe between Guinea, Mali and Senegal with the signing of a communiqué which includes a broad range of cross-border recommendations on cooperation to be implemented by the countries to mitigate the spread of EVD.

Upcoming Events

19. On 27 February, as part of continued progress in response efforts in Liberia, Camp 3 market and Jenneh Wonde market in Tewor District, in Grand Cape Mount County will be officially re-opened. These erstwhile EVD hotspots were closed due to the impact of the outbreak in the communities.

Attachments and resources

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