

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

2 March 2015

KEY POINTS

- President Koroma of Sierra Leone visits Tombo and reiterates commitment to get to zero
- Vice President Sumana of Sierra Leone quarantine's himself
- Response partners intensify community engagement in Guinea

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. On 27 February, President Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone undertook a field visit to the quarantined community in Aberdeen and a fishing village in Tombo, where he recalled the objective of the Mano River Union (MRU) to get to zero in 60 days (by 15 April) and reiterated the country's commitment to get to zero. He highlighted that it is the responsibility of all Sierra Leoneans to join in the fight to getting to zero and called on the fishing community to help in this final push to zero. He announced measures such as checkpoints to enhance monitoring and additional public transportation protocols. President Koroma was accompanied by UNMEER Ebola Crisis Manager, Ms. Bintou Keita and the Head of National Ebola Response Cell (NERC), Mr. Palo Conteh, among others.
2. On 28 February, the Vice President of Sierra Leone, Chief Sam Sumana, issued a statement informing the nation that a member of his security team died of EVD on 24 February. He noted that the standard operating procedure applies in all cases and steps are already underway to identify all potential contacts of the deceased and called on all that may have been in contact with the diseased to identify themselves and cooperate with the implementation of the protocols. The Vice President declared that he will be under quarantine for 21 days at his residence and that his office where the deceased worked was being disinfected.
3. On 27 and 28 February, the President of the National Assembly of Guinea undertook an advocacy visit to Guéckédou and Kissidougou, to support local authorities in the fight against Ebola.
4. On 26 February, the SRSG visited Boffa prefecture, an area where response partners have experienced community resistance and held talks with local and community authorities. While in Guinea, the SRSG also met with President Alpha Conde to update him on UNMEER's efforts.

Response Efforts and Health

5. In total, 23,825 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 9,666 deaths.
6. Community resistance continues in sections of Guinea. On 26 February, a suspected EVD case from Matoto (*a retired Colonel*) refused to be transferred to Donka ETU. In Dixinn, the IFRC burial team were impeded by the community. At the Sandénia centre in the prefecture of Faranah, the community refused the washing hands kits offered by non-resident nationals.
7. Response partners continued to take steps to address community resistance challenges. Save the Children conducted a sensitization campaign for 53 women associations, local authorities and youth organizations in Gouecke sub-prefecture of N'Zérékoré on 26 February. UNICEF conducted two sensitization sessions in Lola prefecture and distributed sanitation kits in Yeneta village and in Kokota villages. UNICEF, in collaboration with CERADE, carried out training of community watch committees/Comités Villageois de Veille (CVVs) from Diakolidou Sobakono area in Beyla town.
8. In Liberia, UNMEER is following up on information that some communities in Tappita district, Nimba County are not reporting deaths in their families as they prefer to follow traditional burial practices. The County Health Team (CHT) has scheduled a visit to the district on 6 March to ascertain and address the situation.

Logistics

9. WFP continues to make preparations for the rainy season by strengthening existing infrastructure and prepositioning essential items across the three affected countries. In Liberia, WFP has begun to build drainage channels at the main hub in Monrovia, as well as at all five Forward Logistics Bases (FLBs), to ensure the adequate protection of cargo. The prepositioning of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) supplies is also taking place throughout the country, in order to provide coverage for at least 8 months.
10. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.
11. 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

12. 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.
13. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 136.8 million in commitments. In total USD 140 million has been pledged.
14. 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

15. On 28 February, WHO Liberia supported the Montserrado County Sector 2 Community Engagement Pillar to provide a training to 93 block leaders in the sector to enhance their capacity to carry out social mobilization activities and monitoring. The block leaders are expected to provide daily updates on the status of all EVD prevention interventions in their blocks. They were also provided with rain gear and phone credit to support their work.

Essential Services

16. On 28 February in Liberia, the CHT, UNMEER/WHO, E-Health, UNICEF and Care International held a meeting in Tarsue district, Sinoe County with the parents of students who were removed from schools on 25 February, following rumours that children receive Ebola vaccines in the schools. The team informed the parents the health worker were in fact administering tetanus vaccines and apprised them on the importance of timely vaccinations. The team also updated the parents on the Ebola vaccination trial that is ongoing in Monrovia. The parents agreed to send their children back to school from 2 March.
17. In Liberia, low student attendance in Nimba County schools is attributed to two major factors – confusion over the officially reopening date and the persistent fear of EVD among communities. The students turn out will be closely monitored to note any changes in attendance rates from 2 March. WFP completed the distribution of 46 mobile phones to Ebola survivors in Nimba County and will start cash transfers to the beneficiaries next week. They also plan to roll out food distribution and school feeding programmes from March. The CHT expects that the school feeding programme will encourage students to attend schools.
18. In Sierra Leone, WFP provided 200 survivors with one month's food assistance following their discharge from treatment in Kenema District. Some 3,900 beneficiaries in Port Loko and Kambia Districts were assisted last week to support efforts to contain the virus. Additionally, approximately 2,880 beneficiaries have received one month's food assistance as part of a second round of general food distributions provided to EVD hotspot communities in Kenema District. In Port Loko and Kambia Districts, alongside food assistance, WFP is delivering Non-Food Items (NFIs) donated by Irish Aid, including jerry cans and mosquito nets. 22 quarantined households have benefitted from this donation.
19. At the task force meeting in Margibi County, Liberia, it was decided that patients who cannot be taken to the ETU or the CH Rennie hospital will be treated at the mini special unit in Kakata Health Centre to be sponsored by International Medical Corps (IMC) and run jointly by AU-ASEOWA and CH Rennie hospital teams.

Upcoming Events

20. NSTR

Attachments and resources

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