

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

4 March 2015

### KEY POINTS

- Presidents of the affected countries call for a 'Marshall Plan'
- UNMEER Sierra Leone sustains support to District Ebola Response Centers
- National Assembly President continues EVD advocacy field visits

### Key Political and Economic Developments

1. On 3 March, the European Union hosted the "Ebola: from emergency to recovery" conference in Brussel. The aim of the conference was to sustain the international mobilization, ensure pledged resources are made available to support response efforts, promote regional cooperation, assist West Africa to plan the next steps in the fight against EVD and assist the countries build resilient health systems to help secure that no other epidemic will have such devastating impact in the future as well as improve governance and accountability in the affected countries. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, President Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone and President Alpha Condé of Guinea thanked the EU and international community for their continued support in the fight to zero EVD transmission and reiterated their call for a "Marshall Plan" to rebuild their shattered economies. President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, noted among others that "to end Ebola and ensure sustainable development in the affected region is the best way to honour the memory of the victims". The conference was co-chaired by the EU, the Presidents of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the UN, the AU and ECOWAS. SRSO Ould Cheikh Ahmed and Special Envoy Nabarro attended the conference.
2. On 3 March, the President of the National Assembly of Guinea continued his advocacy tour by visiting N'zérékoré to support local authorities in the fight against Ebola.

### Response Efforts and Health

3. In total, 23,913 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been reported 9,714 deaths.
4. In Sierra Leone, Field Crisis Managers (FCMs) and partners assessed the situation of quarantined households and observed the need to enhance coordination in some districts in order to rationalise supplies. General lack of potable water, adequate sanitation facilities and cash was also found to be a challenge. UNMEER will be working with partners to address some of the identified problems.
5. WFP, via UNHAS/UNMEER aircraft and on behalf of the Centre for Disease Control (CDC), facilitated the transport and handover of 70 vials of the ZMapp Ebola therapy (two treatments) from Liberia to Sierra Leone. The treatments arrived at Lungi Airport and were transported by helicopter to Freetown for delivery at an Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU).
6. In Liberia, UNMEER, Global Communities and County and District Health Teams (CHT and DHT) from Nimba County held a meeting with town elders and community of Zuo-Tuo in Tappita District to follow up on reports that the community had conducted two traditional burials on 21 and 26 February without informing the safe burial teams. The community disclosed that they followed traditional practices because of fear of stigmatization associated with the burial teams and the entire community being quarantined should one of the bodies test positive for EVD. The integrated team advised the community to work with the general Community Health Volunteers (gCHVs) and report suspected EVD cases. The CHT will look into making provisions for a mobile clinic to the area and engaging the community to clear the access road.
7. The Community Care Center (CCC) in Karquekpo, Sinoe County, Liberia is now functioning and serves the neighbouring District of Niplaikpo in Grand Kru County as well. The Swedish Civil Contingency Agency (MSB) completed the rehabilitation of the Lab and construction of the triage area at the E. J. Grante Hospital.

8. In support of the Ministry of Health in Liberia, WHO with partners, including UNOPS, ICRC, MSF, IRC, MCC, IOM and German Red Cross continue to support ETU decommissioning planning. Visits over the last week to inspect waste management and infection control at seven Montserrado ETUs and healthcare facilities have helped to inform this process.

### **Logistics**

9. WFP continues to support partners with 'last-mile' transport upon request. Last week in Guinea, WFP supported the distribution of 30,000 WASH kits on behalf of UNICEF to 89 villages across Macenta, N'zérékoré and Lola prefectures. WFP has been requested to support the further distribution of an additional 80,000 WASH kits, scheduled to arrive in Guinea in the next two weeks. In Liberia, WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, has been supporting the dispatch of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) supplies to 700 health facilities across the country. Deliveries have now been completed in 12 out of 15 counties. Deliveries to the three remaining counties – Maryland, Grand Kru, and River Gee - are planned to be completed this week.
10. UNMEER in Sierra Leone has started to remove communication equipment from the UN vehicles earmarked for donation by UNMEER. Thirty out of 105 vehicles have been completed. The vehicles will be donated to Ebola response groups to speed up the efforts.
11. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

### **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](mailto:fts@un.org).

### **Outreach and Education**

15. In Liberia, UNMEER and WHO conducted a sensitization campaign for CHT members in Grand Kru County on early detection and reporting of suspected EVD cases in the national phase II of the response. On 2 March, WHO, UNICEF and the Liberian Crusaders for Peace facilitated a traditional leaders forum on Ebola prevention in Bong County in recognition of traditional leaders' important role in EVD response efforts. Traditional leaders from communities in Bong, Lofa, Nimba and Grand Cape Mount counties participated and expressed their continued commitment to the response and sustaining action to maintain zero Ebola cases, particularly in border communities.

### **Essential Services**

16. In preparation of the reopening of schools in Sierra Leone, UNMEER in collaboration with the District Ebola Response Center (DERC) in Koinadugu and a Surveillance Pillar have initiated the mapping of all schools in the district that have been used as Ebola facilities. Mobile technology was used to capture exact geographical coordinates of the schools, as well as some attributes. This information will be used by partners working on school decontamination projects.
17. UNMEER and CHT visited Gonnyeh Public School in Lee Weepee Mah District, Nimba County, Liberia where students' turnout was 100%. Although the students follow the IPC measures no trained staff was present to supervise the process. The team raised the issue with the school principal who assigned one of the trained teachers to the task.
18. In the previous week in Guinea, UNICEF and Action Contre la Faim (ACF) have commenced organizing sensitization sessions at community level and providing WASH kits to individuals who have come into contact with Ebola victims in Forécariah and together with Plan Guinée have completed two new water points in Guéckédou, bringing the total number of completed boreholes in health centres to five out of the 10 planned.

### **Upcoming Events**

19. NSTR

### **Attachments and resources**

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