

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

12 March 2015

KEY POINTS

- All new EVD cases in a contiguous arc around the coastal capital cities of Conakry and Freetown
- Response partners in Guinea intensify community engagement
- WFP and WHO launch Joint Collaborative Initiative

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. In the context of the 11 March Decoration Day national holiday in Liberia, WHO and response partners joined sector colleagues and family members of Ebola victims for an informal tribute in Montserrado County in memory of the dead who have lived and died in the interests of the Liberian nation and made invaluable contributions to society and the State.

Response Efforts and Health

2. In total, 24,247 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been 9,961 reported deaths.
3. WHO reported a total of 116 new confirmed cases of EVD in the week to 8 March, a marginal decline compared to 132 cases reported in the week to 1 March. All the new cases in Guinea (58 compared to 51 during the previous week) and Sierra Leone (58 compared to 81) occurred in a geographically contiguous arc around the coastal capital cities of Conakry and Freetown, with a total of 11 districts reporting cases. In Guinea, cases are clustered in an area around and including the capital Conakry (13 cases), with the nearby prefectures of Boffa (2 cases), Coyah (8 cases), Dubreka (5 cases), Forecariah (28 cases), and Kindia (2 cases) the only other prefectures to report cases, while in Sierra Leone the neighbouring districts of Bombali (6 cases), Kambia (7 cases), Port Loko (12 cases) and Western Rural (6 cases) also reported cases. No new cases were reported in Liberia for the second consecutive week. In the four days to 5 March there were 90 reported suspected cases in Liberia, none of whom tested positive for EVD, indicating vigilance and diligent implementation of the lines of action. A total of 102 contacts were being followed up.
4. In Sierra Leone, UNMEER participated in the Micro-Burial and Surveillance (MB) Teams Launching Ceremony in Kono district. The DERC, IRC and World Vision funded and trained four joint MB Teams (eight staff per team) in order to enhance coverage and implementation of the lines of actions in remote areas of the District where few alerts are received due to poor or non-existent telephone signals. The teams will be covering Gbane Kandor, Mafindor, Soa, Lei, Toli, and Sandor Chiefdoms.
5. The Government of Japan donated six ambulances and a large batch of PPEs to the Government of Guinea on 6 March. The ambulances will be used for the transportation of patients in the Prefectures of Conakry, Fria and Coyah.
6. In Port Loko, Sierra Leone, UNMEER delivered a 35 kva generator to the DERC, to improve the operational capacity of the District Command Center. UNMEER is also supporting the DERC to prepare for a presidential visit to Port Loko later in the week.

Logistics

7. WFP and WHO are working together in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to enhance the capability and capacity of the health response. The Joint Collaboration Initiative was officially launched at a Press Conference on 11 March in Geneva. Under this initiative, WFP will provide support to WHO's technical field teams across the three affected countries, aiming to expand the presence of WHO's medical expertise, at the district and county levels, in order to mitigate the impact of EVD.
8. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

9. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling USD 2.27 billion, has been funded for USD 1.38 billion, which is around 61% 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. Response partners continue to ramp up community engagement and social mobilization efforts in view of the challenges in Guinea. The Association d'Action Communautaire en Guinée (AACG) supported by UNICEF conducted door-to-door EVD sensitization activities in Gueckedou town, National Network of Traditional Communicators (RENACOT) & River Union of Women Network for Peace (REFMAP) reached 118 students with awareness messages to curb rumours related to the use of thermo-flashes as a possible source of infection whilst MSF conducted sensitization activities in schools.
13. UNMEER participated in a one-day workshop in Freetown on post-Ebola strategy planning organized by the local NGO Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD) and the Civil Society Movement - Sierra Leone (CSM-SL) with support from the UN Democracy Fund. The civil society identified socio-cultural and economic impact of the EVD in Sierra Leone and their roles in addressing them in collaboration with all national and international stakeholders.

Essential Services

14. On 11 March, UNMEER and the County Health Team (CHT) visited the Blolewee border in Nimba County. The team observed that the border is open on the Liberian side, but remains officially closed on the Guinean side and assessed the sanitation facilities at the border post. There is a functional water pump which also serves the neighbouring community as the community water pump broke down about a year ago. UNMEER and CHT plan to inform relevant partners about getting the pump repaired to ease pressure near the border. Blolewee border post is located where there is no mobile phone network coverage and no arrangement for quick communication with the nearest health centre. UNMEER and CHT will follow up with Global Communities to provide emergency communication support between the border post and Lugbey health center which is about 20km away.
15. In Liberia, the CHT in Grand Bassa County with the support of WHO began Rapid Health Assessment for Safe Care in the Context of Ebola. The rapid assessment will cover 28 health facilities throughout Grand Bassa to identify potential needs, gaps and ways to address these issues.
16. UNMEER and response partners continued to support the safe reopening of schools in Sierra Leone. In Freetown the Western Area Rural District Coordinator disclosed that preparation is ongoing for schools to re-open on 30 March. UNMEER also participated in a training of teachers on psycho-social support to children coming from EVD-related traumatic situations. There are plans to have one trained teacher in each school. The Moyamba district school re-opening taskforce meeting was held and decided that the Deputy Director of Education in Moyamba will lead the Taskforce with representatives from government departments, AFPs, the local council, Sierra Leone Police, DERC and UNMEER supporting efforts.

Upcoming Events

17. NSTR

Attachments and resources

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