



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

13 March 2015

KEY POINTS

- SRSG's visit to Guinea culminates in Stakeholder's Forum declaring the fight against Ebola a national priority above all individual and sectional interests.
- Economic impact of EVD for West Africa quantified in report released by the UNDG.
- Some easing in community reticence reported in Dubreka, Guinea

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. UNMEER SRSG Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed visited Guinea from 9 to 13 March, holding meetings with local and national authorities and response partners, which culminated in a forum des "force vives" of Guinea (Stakeholders Forum) on 12 March. The Stakeholders Forum brought together political and religious leaders, media, representatives of syndicates, and civil society who declared their collective commitment to the fight against Ebola as a national priority above all individual and sectional interests. The SRSG also met President Alpha Condé on several occasions during the visit to discuss the evolution of the epidemic and response efforts. On 11 March, the SRSG visited Forécariah and observed that while community reticence has decreased and response efforts have been scaled up, the region still requires sustained engagement.
2. According to a report released by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) on 12 March, West Africa as a whole may lose an average of at least US\$3.6 billion per year between 2014 and 2017, due to a decrease in trade, closure of borders, flight cancellations and reduced Foreign Direct Investment and tourism activity, fuelled by connections with the three most affected countries and EVD stigmatization. There has also been an impact on human development. The region's per capita income is expected to fall by US\$18 per year between 2015 and 2017. In Côte d'Ivoire, the poverty rate has risen by at least 0.5% because of Ebola, while in Senegal, the proportion of people living below the national poverty line may have increased by up to 1.8% in 2014. In addition, food insecurity in countries such as Mali and Guinea-Bissau is expected to increase.

Response Efforts and Health

3. In total, 24,350 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been 10,004 reported deaths.
4. According to WHO, the number of confirmed EVD deaths occurring in the community has risen for the past 3 weeks in Guinea. From a total of 40 EVD-positive deaths reported in the week to 8 March, 24 occurred in the community, compared to 11 out of 83 in Sierra Leone. A total of 13 unsafe burials were reported from Guinea and 2 from Sierra Leone over the same period. The relatively low proportion of cases arising from known contacts, the high proportion of EVD-positive deaths that occur in the community, and the continued occurrence of unsafe burials in Guinea are indicative of significant challenges in terms of contact tracing and community engagement.
5. The NERC in Guinea reported some encouraging developments in its 12 March meeting. Following sustained engagement some easing in community reticence in Dubreka was reported and there has been no new cases in the Mali Prefecture. Two contacts from Matoto reported themselves to the ETU in Donka, where they tested positive for EVD.
6. UNDP has installed a new medical waste sterilizer and trained staff in its use at Tapitta Hospital, in Nimba County, the 2nd of 12 to be installed in Liberia. The sterilizer, known as an autoclave, decontaminates used medical equipment and waste such as syringes, PPE etc. through several cycles of high-pressure steam and vacuuming, allowing for their safe disposal.

7. UNMEER Liberia met with Community Health Education and Social Services (CHESS) to discuss the 17 March launch of UNMEER's Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in Ganta, Nimba County. The QIPs aim to support efforts to mitigate cross-border transmission by implementing EVD prevention, monitoring and awareness activities in 7 administrative districts along Liberia's borders with Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire. A project management committee comprising representatives of the County Health Team (CHT), UNMEER, UNMIL, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Bureau of Immigration (BIN), Liberia Institute for Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), UNICEF and the WHO was established.
8. As part of efforts to assist the DERC to 'get to zero' in Sierra Leone, UNMEER is focused on working at the local and district levels to identify and close gaps in collaboration with other response partners. In Tonkolili District, UNMEER is supporting the social mobilization initiative of the Kholifa Rowallan Chiefdom Ebola Task Force. In Yonni Chiefdom, UNMEER is working with the leadership and the NGO Future in Our Hands (FIOH) in defining details of a Social Mobilization QIP in the Chiefdom. UNMEER also met with the head of the Masanga Hospital to finalize a proposed QIP on water supply for the hospital. In Western Area Urban, a QIP for building capacity of the local community to sanitise 10 public toilets and to enhance hand washing facilities in the market area was approved. The project will be implemented by Cap Anamur, with MSF providing technical support. In Bonthe District, UNMEER provided two satellite phones to the Dima Chiefdom. These QIPs are made possible by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) and have contributed to achieving rapid and critical results, thus magnifying the effectiveness of the overall Ebola response.
9. In Guinea, UNMEER handed over two fully equipped containers to the prefectural EVD coordination cell and a new community radio, supported by UNICEF, commenced operations this week.

Logistics

10. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

Resource Mobilisation

11. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling USD 2.27 billion, has been funded for USD 1.36 billion, which is around 60% of the total ask.
12. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 136.8 million in commitments. In total USD 140 million has been pledged.
13. 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

14. On 12 March, UNMEER, UNICEF and Save the Children visited 5 schools in Bong County, Liberia. Attendance was above 90% and basic Infection Prevent and Control (IPC) measures (temperature recording and hand washing etc.) is taking place. It was noted that some schools not registered with the Ministry of Education had not received hygiene kits. Save the Children and local authorities will follow up.

Essential Services

15. UNMEER Liberia and the CHT in Nimba County visited Ganta border post. The construction of two triage facilities by Global Communities is expected to be completed in the next 4 days. The team and the Ganta BIN officials visited the Guinean side of the border and observed that UNICEF is funding the construction of a triage facility due to be completed within a week.
16. In Liberia, WHO and Global Communities provided WASH expertise to sanitize and disinfect Massaquoi Elementary School in West Point, Monsterrado on 11 and 12 March, as part of a larger project led by UNMEER, on behalf of the Government, to prepare the school for re-opening and provide safe water to the school and the community. A preparatory town hall meeting with community leaders, including the mayor's office, was held on 10 March. The school was previously used as a holding centre for patients awaiting transfer to an ETU.

Upcoming Events

17. NSTR

Attachments and resources

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