

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

19 March 2015

### KEY POINTS

- WHO reported a total of 150 new confirmed EVD cases in the week to 15 March, 95 of them in Guinea.
- All new cases lie in a geographically contiguous arc in and around Conakry to the north and Freetown to the south.
- In Guinea, more than half of the reported EVD deaths last week were identified post-mortem in the community. In the previous week, only 28% of confirmed cases arose from registered contacts and there were a reported 18 unsafe burials.

### Key Political and Economic Developments

1. At a press conference on 17 March, Guinean President Alpha Condé called for a national effort to permanently end the Ebola epidemic.

### Response Efforts and Health

2. In total, 24,666 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been 10,179 reported deaths.
3. WHO reported a total of 150 new confirmed EVD cases in the week to 15 March, compared with 116 in the previous week. There were 95 new confirmed cases reported in Guinea: the highest weekly total for the country in 2015. Sierra Leone reported 55 new confirmed cases over the same period: the country's lowest weekly total since late June 2014. Liberia reported no new confirmed cases for the third consecutive week. A total of 12 districts in Guinea and Sierra Leone reported a confirmed case in the week to 15 March, all of which lie in a geographically contiguous arc in and around Conakry to the north and Freetown to the south.
4. In Guinea, from a total of 41 reported EVD deaths in the week to 15 March, over half were identified post-mortem in the community. In the week to 8 March, only 28% of confirmed cases arose from registered contacts and there were a reported 18 unsafe burials. Taken together, these indicators suggest that the outbreak in Guinea is still being driven by unknown chains of transmission.
5. In Sierra Leone, in the week to 8 March over two-thirds of confirmed cases came from registered contacts and in the week to 15 March, only 6 of 62 total EVD-confirmed deaths were identified post-mortem in the community. There was 1 reported unsafe burial over the same period. However, there are still areas where most new cases arise from unknown chains of transmission. Kambia, a district north of Freetown on the border with the Guinean prefecture of Forécariah, reported 7 new cases in the week to 8 March, 5 of which came from post-mortem testing of people who had died in the community and who were not known to be contacts of a previous case.
6. 11 new health worker infections were reported in the week to 15 March: 4 in Guinea (3 in Conakry and 1 in Forécariah) and 7 in Sierra Leone (4 in Bombali, and 3 in Port Loko). This brings the total number of health worker infections reported across the three most-affected countries since the start of the outbreak to 852, with 492 deaths.
7. A meeting was held in Freetown on 14–15 March to finalise guidelines for the safe decommissioning of Ebola Treatment Centres and Community Care Centres when and where appropriate.
8. WFP continues to support the construction of the Nongo Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) in Guinea, which, once completed, will be managed by MSF-Belgium. Additionally, WFP, through its logistics coordination mechanism, is facilitating the relocation of an incinerator to the new ETU in Nongo. This incinerator was previously loaned by WFP to the Centre for the Treatment of Healthcare Workers in Conakry and will be relocated to Nongo upon the completion of all necessary decontamination procedures.

## Logistics

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

## Resource Mobilisation

10. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling USD 2.27 billion, has been funded for USD 1.42 billion, which is around 63% of the total ask.
11. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 138.9 million in commitments. In total nearly USD 142 million has been pledged.
12. 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

13. The Communications and Social Mobilization Pillar within the Sierra Leone National Ebola Response Centre (NERC) will this week finalize a communications strategy that will support the 'getting to zero' campaign. The new focus will be that communities have to lead social mobilization rather than officials of government, the UN or other NGOs. Community, youth, religious and women's leaders are expected to play key roles in the new strategy. Local celebrities, including musicians and comedians will be requested to support mobilization efforts. The strategy will include a more targeted approach, which means more attention will be paid to districts where transmission is still occurring.

## Essential Services

14. The Sierra Leone Quick Impact Projects (QIP) Board has approved two projects to support the re-opening of hospitals which had closed during the Ebola outbreak. In the town of Makeni, UNMEER has provided funds to set up an effective triage system for outpatients arriving at the Holy Spirit Hospital: this has included paying for the re-employment of Infection Prevent and Control (IPC) staff, as well as properly equipping the triage unit. In Tonkolili District, the Masanga teaching hospital, which was closed during the height of the Ebola crisis, is now planning to re-open in April. UNMEER is funding the laying of water pipes to install a running water system throughout the hospital to ensure higher standards of cleanliness.
15. UNDP is increasing its support to medical waste management at Sierra Leone's hospitals and ETUs with the installation of four autoclaves over the next few days bringing the total number of machines installed to six. The sterilization machines will improve the quality of infection control practices in Sierra Leone's hospitals. UNDP is also assisting the hospitals with infection controls through waste management protocols and where necessary, assisting the facilities develop and implement infection prevention and control (IPC) systems.
16. Over the next two weeks, UNDP and IOM are delivering Ebola awareness and prevention training of trainers in Sierra Leone within the Corrections Services. Over 100 Corrections Officers from across the country are participating in an in-depth workshop that covers basic hygiene, infection prevention and human rights in order to protect the country's 17 prisons and its thousands of inmates and officers. In addition to the training, UNDP will begin building and retrofitting Ebola observation units at four prisons outside Freetown. The new structures will be completed by the end of May and will serve as a quarantining area for new inmates prior to exposure to the general prison population. This will help to ensure the continued zero infection rate at Sierra Leone's prisons.

## Upcoming Events

17. NSTR

## Attachments and resources

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