

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

20 March 2015

KEY POINTS

- Interview with Dr. David Nabarro, broadcast by the Independent Radio Network, a consortium of 41 radio stations present in all 15 districts in Sierra Leone.
- Further work to support Mandingo community leaders as advocates in their community for safe and dignified burials.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. NSTR.

Response Efforts and Health

2. In total, 24,743 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been 10,216 reported deaths.
3. There were 6 new confirmed EVD cases in Sierra Leone on 19 March: 5 in Western Area Urban and 1 in Bombali.
4. Last week in Sierra Leone, to ensure maximum levels of preparedness to conduct medical evacuations of non- and EVD-symptomatic humanitarian staff, the WFP managed Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), via the specially equipped UNHAS helicopter, facilitated the transport of Ebola bio-bag medical isolation units from Lungi Airport to Cockerill in Freetown.
5. An assessment and feasibility mission of the French civil protection (*sécurité civile*), which is funded by France and the EU, named ERARE (*Equipe Régionale d'Alerte de Riposte à l'Epidémie*) arrived in N'zérékoré, Guinea, on 19 March. Their objective is to establish an epidemiological early warning system, which will be staffed by medical, laboratory and hygiene personnel to respond to diseases.
6. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is working with UNMEER and the prefectural coordination committees of Lola, Guinea Forestiere, on the preparation of cross-border meetings in those prefectures. The Lola cross border meeting will take place on 24 March. The dates for the Yomou cross-border meeting are yet to be decided. DRC will provide funding for both. UNMEER will coordinate the meetings and will also provide a professional French-English interpreter, which was lacking in earlier cross-border meetings.
7. In Guinea, following the closure of the N'zérékoré ETU laboratory, concerns over sending samples to Macenta for analysis are growing. Not only are results delayed, but they are more expensive. The Lola Coordination Committee is seeking assistance to cover additional fuel costs.
8. EVD supplies are being distributed in the schools and colleges in N'zérékoré, Guinea with the support of WFP.

Logistics

9. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.
10. The WFP-led Emergency Telecommunications (ET) Cluster is providing support to the WHO technical field teams in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, as part of the WFP-WHO Joint Collaboration initiative. Last week in Guinea, the ET Cluster deployed three generators to WFP sub-offices in Labe, Boke and Kankan: WFP aims to capitalise on its existing infrastructure, in order to provide a platform from which the WHO teams can launch deep field operations.

Resource Mobilisation

11. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling USD 2.27 billion, has been funded for USD 1.42 billion, which is around 63% of the total ask.
12. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 138.9 million in commitments. In total nearly USD 142 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. UNMEER Sierra Leone arranged a radio interview on 19 March for the UN Secretary-General Special Envoy on Ebola, Dr. David Nabarro, who spoke on the need to get to zero transmission. Dr. Nabarro's interview was broadcast by the Independent Radio Network, a consortium of 41 radio stations located in various communities in all 15 districts in Sierra Leone. All 41 stations simultaneously broadcasted the interview. Dr. Nabarro congratulated Sierra Leoneans on progress made so far in the fight against Ebola but stressed that if the virus was anywhere in the country, Sierra Leoneans everywhere should be concerned. The interview was conducted just before the commencement of a national campaign to mobilize Sierra Leoneans to help bring transmission to zero.
15. Unité Conjointe organised a sensitization event in Tokpananta, Guinea Forestiere, this week with an emphasis on the use of hand washing kits and thermo flashes. A total of 221 people participated in the event.
16. On 19 March, the Montserrado sector 4 and WHO community engagement teams undertook a familiarization visit to Disco Hill National Cemetery in Montserrado, Liberia, with religious leaders from the Mandingo community, to support the leaders as advocates in their community for safe and dignified burials. The visit complements training provided by Global Communities on 18 March to a newly established burial team from the Mandingo community.

Essential Services

17. UNMEER Liberia, together with UNICEF, visited St. Mark's Lutheran, Alexandra Andrews Academy and St. Peter's high schools in Bong County to assess if they adhere to the safe schools' protocols mandated by the government. The schools were supplied with EVD prevention tool kits by UNICEF, which were being used. All 3 schools had an isolation room and some of the staff members were trained as safety health committee members. St. Mark Lutheran and Alexandra Andrews Academy were encouraged to erect perimeter fences to better monitor entry and exit within the premises. Alexandra and St. Peter's were requested to follow procedures followed by St. Mark's school which marks students on the thumb nail after their temperatures are taken so that it is easy to identify any student whose temperature was not recorded upon entry into the school.
18. UNICEF reported that measles vaccines are expected imminently in Conakry, Guinea.

Upcoming Events

19. NSTR

Attachments and resources

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