

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

23 March 2015

KEY POINTS

- A new confirmed case of EVD in Montserrado (Liberia) on 20 March.
- MSF report warns that the EVD outbreak is not yet over.
- Specific border management and community-based orientation training in Nimba county, Liberia

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) released a report entitled 'Pushed to the Limit and Beyond' which provides a critical analysis of the Ebola epidemic over the past year, revealing shortcomings in the global response to the crisis and warning that the outbreak, despite an overall decline in cases, is not yet over. MSF reported that in addition to the deaths, Ebola had destroyed lives and families, left deep scars, and ripped at the social and economic fabric of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Response Efforts and Health

2. In total, 24,842 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been 10,299 reported deaths.
3. Over the weekend (21 – 22 March), there were 10 new confirmed EVD cases in Sierra Leone, according to the National Ebola Response Centre (NERC). By district, the cases were in Western Area Urban (3), Port Loko (4) and Western Area Rural (3).
4. The Liberian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoH&SW) reported a new confirmed case of EVD in Montserrado on 20 March. The individual sought treatment at Redemption Hospital in New Kru town on 19 March and was transferred to ELWA 3 Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) after testing positive on 20 March. This is the first confirmed EVD case reported in the country since 3 March. WHO, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and partners are actively supporting the Montserrado sector 2 team with case investigation, contact tracing, infection prevention and control (IPC) assessments and community engagement activities. Public health personnel are working to rapidly identify the source of the infection and follow up all contacts, although most of them appear to be family members. The CDC is deployed in the community to carry out active case investigation. Community engagement and social mobilization have also been initiated by respective pillar leads. Visits to healthcare clinics in the area and to two local schools to assess IPC practices, including triage, are ongoing.
5. On 21 March, UNMEER Liberia visited Solumba and Mendekoma, two border points in Lofa County along Sierra Leone and Guinea respectively, to monitor their EVD screening procedures. Both border points were following proper IPC procedures, recording details of each person crossing the border, hand washing and temperature checking. UNMEER also visited the Sierra Leone side to meet with the border officials at Bedu check point. They too were following proper procedures, however they needed more IPC materials.

Logistics

6. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.
7. WFP continues to support the transportation needs of partners across the three affected countries. In Sierra Leone, the 13 German-donated Mercedes trucks are now officially operational, bringing the total number of WFP vehicles in country to 46. WFP is working with partners to determine at which Forward Logistics Bases (FLBs) these trucks should be positioned to ensure adequate coverage for the rainy season.

Resource Mobilisation

8. 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.
9. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 138.9 million in commitments. In total nearly USD 142 million has been pledged.
10. 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

11. On March 19-20, UNMEER Liberia, along with the CDC, Global Communities, IOM and UNICEF supported the EVD specific border management and community-based orientation training in Ganta, Nimba County, led by Liberia's MoH&SW. The delegation headed by the Head of County Operations for the Incident Management System held a briefing session with the County Health Team (CHT) in Sanniquellie on March 18 to introduce the 2-day cross border training and garner local support for the process and the implementation of the SOPs. Over 100 participants from the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (BIN), administrative and district officials as well as community leaders from Nimba County, locally active NGOs and represented AFPs attended the training. Officials from the national BIN in Monrovia also participated. Similar trainings are planned in Lofa, Gbarpolu and Bong counties over the next few weeks.

Essential Services

12. WFP remains operationally ready to adjust to the requirements of health partners in the region. In coordination with UNICEF and WHO, WFP is building ten holding centres close to existing health facilities in Conakry, in order to isolate patients with suspected EVD. WFP is working with UNICEF and WHO to compose Isolation Unit Kits, which include a 45m2 tent, emergency sanitary solution and disinfection materials.
13. An ECOWAS Commission delegation from the Directorate of Social and Humanitarian Affairs visited the three EVD affected countries, ending with a visit to Liberia from 21-23 March. The purpose of the ECOWAS mission was to ascertain the EVD status in the region and assess the socio-economic impact of the disease. The social and humanitarian needs were also assessed in order to establish effective linkages with governments, regional partners and other stakeholders and as part of the way forward. The delegation met with UNMEER and the Resident Coordinator on March 21 for a briefing from the UN system and partners.

Upcoming Events

14. NSTR

Attachments and resources

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