

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

24 March 2015

### KEY POINTS

- Only two new confirmed EVD cases in Sierra Leone on 23 March
- WFP continuing to provide food assistance to quarantined communities and Ebola orphans in Sierra Leone

### Key Political and Economic Developments

1. According to an Executive Mansion release on 23 March, during a visit to the John F. Kennedy Medical Center, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf commended the chief administrator, chief medical officer, doctors and staff for the service they are rendering the Liberian people and said that she was very impressed with the improvements being made at the referral and teaching hospital. The Liberian leader made the statement following a guided tour of the medical center to see, first hand, reconstruction and upgrading of the facility.

### Response Efforts and Health

2. In total, 24,872 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been 10,311 reported deaths.
3. According to the National Ebola Response Centre (NERC), there were only two new confirmed EVD cases in Sierra Leone on 23 March, one in Port Loko and one in Western Area Urban.
4. The NERC in Sierra Leone has resolved to ensure that closure of isolation and treatment facilities is related to the ongoing Hazard Pay policy coming to an end on 31 March. However, it hopes to consider the extension of operations of some facilities beyond 31 March in view of the fact that some centres might need more time to terminate activities. There are also plans to strengthen triage in non-Ebola health facilities to prevent health worker EVD infections and transmission within these facilities. The NERC is also recommending that response partners should be fully engaged in developing an effective and workable method of scaling down Ebola Treatment Centres (ETCs). MSF and IFRC will be consulted in order to finalize a list of facilities to be maintained, which will need final endorsement by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and State House.
5. The Forestiere Region of Guinea has not reported a single confirmed EVD case since 6 March.

### Logistics

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

### Resource Mobilisation

7. 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.
8. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 138.9 million in commitments. In total nearly USD 142 million has been pledged.
9. 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

10. As part of the rollout of the national Cross Border Strategy and to empower border check point staff to work safely, WHO are supporting the County Health Team (CHT) in Lofa County to deliver two single day training courses to strengthen local capacity at Lofa's border check points. Training includes the

practical aspects of primary and secondary screening, use of the thermo flash, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), chlorine preparation, hand washing and timely reporting, notification and referral. The most recent training took place on 21 March.

11. PRIDE-Guinée, an implementing partner for UNICEF, has been conducting sensitization activities followed by the distribution of hand washing kits in the Sub-Prefecture of Bossou, Lola Prefecture, Guinea. 200 households have been assisted so far.
12. In Guinea Forestiere, the Centre Africain de Formation pour le Developpement (CENAFOD) and Centre d'Études de Recherches et d'Aide au Développement (CERAD), local implementing partners for UNICEF, held a sensitization event at the prefectural stadium where 550 people were gathered to mark the final of a contest on the theme 'Together we can defeat Ebola.'

### **Essential Services**

13. In Sierra Leone, in the week to 21 March, WFP provided 100 quarantined households in Port Loko and Kambia Districts and 142 quarantined households in the Western Area with one month's food assistance to ensure that their basic food and nutritional needs are met during the quarantine period. WFP is providing food rations in hot spot communities in Kafu Bullom Chiefdom (Port Loko District), which will also promote a reduction in unnecessary movements, in an effort to contain the virus.
14. Last week, WFP provided food assistance to Ebola orphans at the Observational Interim Care Centre in Kumala, Sierra Leone, to cover basic food prior to re-integration into their communities.

### **Upcoming Events**

15. NSTR

### **Attachments and resources**

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