

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

26 March 2015

### KEY POINTS

- Response partners launch several social mobilization initiatives in Guinea and Sierra Leone
- Government authorities and response partners focus on cross border prevention measures  
Liberian authorities review Resilient Health System Investment Plan

### Key Political and Economic Developments

1. NSTR

### Response Efforts and Health

2. WHO reported a total of 79 new confirmed cases of EVD cases in the week to 22 March, compared to 150 in the previous week. There were 45 new confirmed cases reported from Guinea (compared to 95 in the previous week), 33 new confirmed cases in Sierra Leone (compared to 55) and a new confirmed case was reported from Liberia on 20 March, having reported no cases for 3 consecutive weeks. The 79 confirmed cases is the lowest weekly total in 2015.
3. In total, 24,927 confirmed, probable and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been 10,338 reported deaths.
4. The suspected measles/EVD case from Juarzon was located in Kapu's Town, Sinoe County (refer to UNMEER sitrep 25 March). It was clarified that the individual is a suspected measles case. A surveillance team composed by the County Health Team (CHT), UNMEER/WHO, UNICEF and Care International, visited Kapu's Town to investigate the cases. The individual had initially refused to provide samples for testing or go to the E. J. Grant Hospital for treatment but later agreed after the team explained the importance of getting tested and treated. The team also visited the neighbouring town of Samue to follow up on suspected measles cases and will be following up on Periodic Intensified Routine Immunization in the area.
5. In Ganta, Nimba County the NGO, Community Health Education and Social Services (CHESS) Liberia, WHO and UNICEF facilitated a one-day training workshop on prevention of cross border EVD transmission for 40 personnel from the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (BIN). The goal of the project is to support the BIN and local communities to prevent cross border EVD transmission between Nimba County and neighbouring Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire. The trained BIN officials will be engaged as facilitators for similar training workshops to be rolled out to the border communities.
6. Government authorities in Kambia district, Sierra Leone have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with their Guinean counterparts for the management of cases, surveillance and laboratory support in view of the cases occurring in the Guinean border town/area of Forécariah. Guinean authorities have indicated that Forécariah will also have a stay-at-home period to reinforce the efforts of Sierra Leonean authorities, which is planned for 27 to 29 March.
7. In Faranah Prefecture, Guinea, a training team from UNMEER Conakry, including WHO and AU Support to Ebola Outbreak in West Africa (ASEOWA) delivered EVD medical refresher training on 23 March to Prefectural Coordination, Prefectural Health Direction, Regional Health Direction, Prefectural Hospital staff and held meetings with the same group on 23 and 24 March.
8. IOM officially handed over the Prefectural Coordination building to the Macenta authorities on 23 March. The new building is located at the Prefectural Health Direction, and comprises several offices and a conference room.

### Logistics

9. WFP continues to work with health and non-health partners to harmonise the supply chains of essential cargo entering Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. In Liberia, the WFP-led Logistics Cluster, in support

of the Ministry of Health, is developing a mechanism to integrate the current Ebola supply chain into the regular medical supply chain, managed by the Government.

10. The WHO-WFP Joint Collaboration initiative is being implemented across the three affected countries to enhance the agility, capacity and capability of the health response. In Sierra Leone, WFP continues to provide support to 28 WHO technical staff. In addition, WFP is providing Internet connectivity, accommodation and administrative support, and is also in the process of taking on the task of fleet management for WHO in Kambia, Koidu, Makeni and Port Loko.
11. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.

### **Resource Mobilisation**

12. 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.
13. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 138.9 million in commitments. In total nearly USD 142 million has been pledged.
14. 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**

15. UNMEER and Development Education Network-Liberia (DEN-L) rolled out the first EVD outreach edition of social change at the open air theatre in Fenutoli town of Yellequelleh district bordering Grand Bassa and Bong counties. The population from 30 neighbouring communities participated in the event which included drama, music and quizzes on EVD. Messages focused on cross-border monitoring, safe and dignified burial methods, adherence to protocols for safe school environments and the stigma/discrimination experienced by EVD survivors. Existing challenges like scarcity of IPC materials, lack of supplies at schools and health facilities, community denial of EVD, dedicated community watch teams along border areas were also addressed.
16. Ahead of the month-long national campaign to bring EVD to zero, the NERC, UNMEER and partners have finalized and are implementing plans for a multi-pronged social mobilization, awareness raising and community engagement initiatives. Ongoing efforts include a national multimedia campaign utilizing public service announcements on radio stations across the country, active social media campaign to raise awareness targeting the youth as well as engaging survivors to participate in radio programmes in all the districts. In addition, local government councilors are in their communities engaging their constituents (using megaphones).
17. On 24 March in Conakry, an eight-day campaign 'Ebola ca Suffit' (Enough Ebola) funded by the Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) was launched by Government authorities, NERC, UNMEER and response partners with the objective to reinforce social mobilization efforts, listen and engage local communities, reduce the stigmatisation of EVD survivors and to strengthen community cohesion. The campaign will be concentrated in the six high priority prefectures (Conakry, Forécariah, Kindia, Coyah, Boffa and Dubréka).
18. In Guinea, the Red Cross launched a ésensitization campaign "Mots Contre Ebola" (Words Against Ebola) on 23 March to sustain local and international awareness on EVD. The launching ceremony in Guinea was presided over by the Guinean Health Minister.

### **Essential Services**

19. On 25 March, a two-day technical retreat to review the health systems assessment report and the Resilient Health System Investment Plan commenced under the auspices of the Liberian Ministry of Health. The retreat is in preparation for the National Validation Meeting to be held from 6 to 8 April. The Investment Plan will serve as a guiding document for the alignment of resources in the health sector towards articulated priorities, including critical interventions in the immediate restoration of essential services and core health system functions as well as medium and long-term developments.

### **Upcoming Events**

20. NSTR

### **Attachments and resources**

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