

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

27 March 2015

KEY POINTS

- Sierra Leone commences three-day stay-at-home initiative to reinvigorate EVD response efforts
- Liberia and partners sustain cross-border efforts

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. In support of social mobilization and community engagement efforts, UNMEER Sierra Leone Ebola Crisis Manager (ECM), Ms. Bintou Keita was interviewed by the Independent Radio Network (IRN) on 27 March. The ECM provided an overview of UNMEER's and the global response efforts stressing that UNMEER, AFPs and response partners are providing support to the efforts of the national government and communities to get to and stay at zero transmission. In this regard, Ms. Keita underscored that the current response efforts, including the three-day stay-at-home, are aimed at shaking off complacency, which appears to be setting in and re-focusing the collective goal to get to zero. The ECM congratulated the districts that have achieved zero transmission and urged authorities, communities and partners in those areas to stay the course until Sierra Leone and the affected countries get to a resilient zero.
2. On 25 March, the UNMEER Guinea Ebola Crisis Manager (ECM) Mr. Abdou Dieng visited Forécariah and met local authorities and partners. The Prefectural EVD Response Coordinator informed that they forecast getting to zero EVD cases by around 15 June, two months later than the Manu River Union (MRU) declared at its Presidential Summit where the Presidents of the affected countries committed to achieving 'Zero Ebola Infection' within 60 days effective 15 February 2015.

Response Efforts and Health

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. As part of efforts to get to a resilient zero EVD cases and in support of the government led three-day initiative to stay at home from 27 to 29 March, Sierra Leonean women dressed in yellow as a demonstration of their commitment to the Ebola fight on 26 March. This initiative is part of government efforts to re-invigorate the fight against Ebola, address the issue of complacency and help communities to keep up good practices, particularly around safe burials and seeking early medical attention. Women are agents of change and champions in the Ebola fight as well as representing community hope and energy towards ending Ebola. In addition to technical and advisory support provided to the NERC, DERCs and communities, UNMEER is also enabling the exercise by providing logistical support, including 40 vehicles. In concert with the NERC, UNMEER has established monitoring indicators to capture record and data during the initiative.
5. In the context of the stay-at-home period in Sierra Leone, from 27 to 29 March, local authorities, UNMEER and response partners in Guinea are increasing vigilance and surveillance efforts along the bordering communities, particularly at 53 border crossing points between Guinea and Sierra Leone (only 3 official crossing points).
6. The Guinea Forest Region have not recorded any EVD cases since 6 March. Local authorities in Macenta informed UNMEER that no deaths have recently been reported in Bamala locality. However, case searching efforts continue in both Macenta and N'zérékoré prefectures.
7. A surveillance team composed of the County Health Team (CHT), UNMEER/WHO, UNICEF and Care International followed up on reports of three clusters of suspected measles cases reported in Samue town, Sinoe County. The three children could not be confirmed for measles as the family fled to avoid specimen collection and testing. No deaths were reported however, and all children in each of the clusters have received measles vaccination. The results of the samples collected from the other 2 clusters will determine whether the cases were measles (refer to UNMEER sitrep 25 and 26

March). The fear of EVD persists in Sinoe County making measles prevention and surveillance difficult since the communities associate every intervention with Ebola.

Logistics

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

Resource Mobilisation

9. 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.
10. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 138.9 million in commitments. In total nearly USD 142 million has been pledged.
11. 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

12. In Liberia, UNMEER and Development Education Network-Liberia (DEN-L) continued the EVD outreach for social change with a field visit to Koryah town in Pantakpaai District of Bong County bordering Yassah town in Guinea. The community members noted that a community watch team is necessary to monitor movement of people as EVD is still prevalent in Guinea. Given that there are 33 towns and more than 50 villages in the district, there is a need for more burial teams to cover the area.

Essential Services

13. On 26 March, a two-day workshop organized by the Liberian Ministry of Health & Social Welfare (MoH&SW) on EVD-specific cross border management and community-based orientation and training concluded in Voinjama, Lofa County. The workshop targeted 170 participants from the Bureau of Immigration and naturalization (BIN), community leaders and health workers from adjacent border districts/counties/chiefdoms, as well as local and international NGOs. Focused training was provided to 15 local BIN officials by BIN-Monrovia, IOM and CDC personnel on the SOPs on EVD cross-border screening and border crossing reporting procedures. The training also included the community-based surveillance component for community leaders on monitoring and reporting at the community level. The SOPs and operational protocols on strengthening cross border coordination and collaboration and the use and management of IPC materials were distributed as guiding tools. UNMEER also facilitated a visit to Koudandou crossing point (Liberia and Guinea) for the CDC and WHO to assess readiness and the availability of IPC materials. The workshop was organized in partnership and with the support of the CDC, IOM, WHO and UNMEER.
14. WHO mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) experts are currently in Maryland County, Liberia to strengthen local healthcare capacity by delivering a 5 day training course for approximately 30 mental health clinicians and social workers on a range of techniques including counselling and facilitation of community healing dialogues. Following the conclusion of the training, the WHO team will supervise the social workers to commence a series of community healing dialogues. These activities are being undertaken in partnership with a Ministry of Health MHPSS team which is currently conducting similar trainings in Sinoe and Grand Gedeh counties.

Upcoming Events

15. UNMEER SRSG Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed travelled to Guinea yesterday on a 3 day working visit during which he will hold meetings with President Alpha Condé of Guinea and UN agencies representatives in the country on response efforts.

Attachments and resources

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