

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

31 March 2015

### KEY POINTS

- Response partners enhance cross-border coordination
- UNICEF continues support to safe re-opening of schools in Sierra Leone
- UN Women Executive Director underscores impact of EVD on women

### Key Political and Economic Developments

1. Two side events, “The Impact of Ebola on Women in Sierra Leone” and “Bending the Curve: the impact of Ebola of Women and girls in the Mano River Union (MRU) Countries”, were held on the sidelines of the recently concluded 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women at UN Headquarters in New York from 9 – 21 March. The two sessions brought together over 180 participants from different countries to discuss the multi-dimensional impact of Ebola on men, women boys and girls and how to support strategies for early phase recovery. At the Sierra Leone session, UN Women Executive Director Ms. Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka, underscored the impact of EVD on women and the imperative of ‘Getting to Zero’ as soon as possible. The highlight of the event was a Sierra Leonean EVD Survivor sharing her experience and coping strategies with the participants. The MRU session panelist included the Ministers of Gender from Guinea, the Hon. Sanaba Kaba, Liberia, the Hon. Julia Duncan Cassell and Sierra Leone, the Hon. Moijue Kaikai, who shared the efforts of their governments in ending EVD. UNMEER and the NERC provided technical support to the Sierra Leone and MRU delegations.

### Response Efforts and Health

2. In total, 25,030 confirmed, probable and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been 10,398 reported deaths.
3. In Liberia, the County Health Team (CHT) and Global Communities carried out training on enhanced surveillance in Grand Kru County for 39 participants including the county’s clinical supervisor, District Health Officers (DHOs) and health facility focal persons.
4. WHO, UNMEER and UNFPA met with the CHT in Nimba County, Liberia to discuss how best UN Agencies could coordinate their activities at the field level. The agencies agreed to hold separate weekly meetings after the regular CHT meetings to share information on their activities, challenges and ways to address these challenges effectively.
5. In Guinea, the UNMEER office in Forecariah reported that, since January, seven EVD cases in Kambia, Sierra Leone, had confirmed chains of transmission from Guinean contact chains. This highlights the need to improve cross border coordination and communication between Guinea and Sierra Leone. In this regard, over the weekend, UNMEER and WHO organized a meeting with the Kambia EVD coordinator and representatives of the Defense Ministry of Sierra Leone to discuss ways to enhance coordination.

### 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. In Liberia, UNMEER participated in on-going outreach for social change implemented by DEN-L (IP) in Jorwah town, Pantakpaai district, in Bong County bordering Guinea. UNICEF and Global Communities organized a one-day social mobilization campaign along the borders of Bong county and Guinea at Jorwah Radio Station with 37 community members from the two border areas attending the programme.
11. The General Director of Faranah Regional Hospital in Guinea informed UNMEER of an increase of patients in the hospital for non-Ebola medical services, which he observed is a positive development and attributed to a decrease in rumours and greater awareness that the prefectural has had no EVD cases for the last two months.

## **Essential Services**

12. On 26 March WFP launched the transition response in former Ebola hot spots of Liberia. The activity targets communities cleared of Ebola but where access to food and resumption of markets and livelihoods remains a significant challenge. Under the activity, WFP provides a reduced ration to households in Grand Gedeh, Sinoe, Maryland and Grand Kru. The transfer modality includes food and cash. In the last days of March, cash was provided to more than 1,000 persons.
13. Last week, WFP reached over 220,200 people throughout Sierra Leone. Beneficiaries include Ebola patients in treatment and holding centres, quarantined families and vulnerable Ebola-affected households. At the request of the Government of Sierra Leone, WFP along with UNMEER and NGO partners provided food assistance to meet the basic food needs of vulnerable groups during the three-day "Getting to Zero Ebola" campaign organised from 27 to 29 March. In partnership with the Ministry of Welfare, WFP also provided food to community kitchens in 150 sites across the country for Ebola-orphaned and socially marginalized children, widows, elderly and the disabled children.
14. Over the last week, UNICEF Sierra Leone distributed 7,000 hygiene kits (hand washing kits, soap and cleaning materials) to all 1,020 Junior Secondary Schools (JSS), reaching out to more than 275,234 learners across the country. School preparation kits have also been distributed to all JSS to cover any eventuality of suspected Ebola cases in schools. JSSs resumed schooling on 24 March for the Basic Education Certificate Examinations (BECE).
15. In Sierra Leone, UNICEF continued to provide support towards the safe re-opening of schools. From 20 to 25 March, UNICEF supported the training of 2,000 teachers on EVD prevention, social mobilization, psychosocial support and protocol implementation, bringing the total number of trained teachers 9,000. Distribution of hygiene kits, school preparation kits and other supplies for the remaining schools commenced this week in preparation for all schools that will reopen on 14 April.

## **Upcoming Events**

16. NSTR

## **Attachments and resources**

17. Reliefweb: Maps on the EVD response.