



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

2 April 2015

KEY POINTS

- Senior response managers visit border town in Sierra Leone
- Response partners tailor social mobilization efforts in Guinea and Liberia

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. UNMEER SRSG Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, Special Envoy on Ebola David Nabarro, Sierra Leone Ebola Crisis Manager (ECM) Bintou Keita, UNICEF Regional Director Barbara Bentein and the manager of IFRC's Ebola response Birte Hald as well as the Deputy Director-General of WHO Bruce Alyward visited the Kambia DERC where they were briefed on Sierra Leone – Guinea cross-border activities, cooperation, and challenges, including in the border towns and villages. In particular, they were briefed on the renewed focus on grassroots community engagement.

Response Efforts and Health

2. In total, 25,228 confirmed, probable and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been 10,462 reported deaths.
3. WHO reported a total of 82 new confirmed cases of EVD in the week to 29 March, compared to 79 in the previous week. There were 57 new confirmed cases reported from Guinea (compared to 45 in the previous week), and 25 new confirmed cases in Sierra Leone (down from 33), representing the fourth consecutive weekly fall in case incidence in Sierra Leone. Liberia reported no confirmed cases over the same period.
4. In addition to the slight increase in case incidence in Guinea, the geographic area of transmission also increased with a total of seven Guinean prefectures reporting at least one confirmed case, compared with three the previous week. Of the seven prefectures, two (Fria and Siguiri) reported a new confirmed case for the first time in over 50 days. Siguiri, which borders Mali, is the first prefecture outside the western area of Guinea to report a confirmed case in over 30 days. In Sierra Leone, cases were reported from five northern and western districts around and including the capital Freetown, which reported 10 new confirmed cases. The neighbouring districts of Bombali (1), Kambia (5), Port Loko (6) and Western Rural (3) also reported cases. The last confirmed case in Liberia passed away on 27 March. Investigations are ongoing to establish the origin of infection. A total of 185 contacts associated with the case are being monitored and heightened vigilance is being maintained throughout the country.
5. In response to the declaration of the state of Sanitary Emergency by the Government of Guinea on 28 March, hospitals and clinics hosting EVD cases will be closed to other patients. Upon request from the NERC, WFP will distribute food rations to EVD patients who will remain in these facilities, as well as to new contact identified in the areas of Forécariah, Coyah, Dubreka, Boffa, Kindia and Conakry. Distributions to contact cases are now made directly to their home within 24 to 48 hours after receipt of the official list given by WHO and Direction Prefectural de la Santé. In addition, last week in Kankan WFP started distributions under the transition phase to orphans identified for assistance who lost family members due to EVD. A 30-day ration was distributed to 180 orphans in Siguiri, Kankan, Kouroussa and Kéraouné.
6. In Liberia, OCHA reports that nine counties are yet to share their epidemiological data in the last few days. The National IMS and partners are concerned about the growing complacency and reiterated the need to maintain robust surveillance. A draft Phase III EVD response strategy has been presented to the National IMS. It includes comprehensive surveillance, infection prevention and control measures and enhanced community engagement. As of 1 April all counties except Montserrado have passed 42 days without a confirmed case.

7. In Liberia, WHO and the CHT conducted a one-day training programme on surveillance activities for District Health Officers and focal points (DHO/DFP) in Bong County. Sixteen participants attended the training which focused on enhancing the capacity of DHO/DFP to effectively and efficiently perform surveillance in their areas of responsibility.
8. WHO is also supporting the Montserrado IMS team with facilitation of community healing dialogues in the Kamasum, Disco, Dixville and Sims communities in response to the 20 March confirmed case. 120 participants (4 groups of 15 males and 15 females each) will participate in the dialogues over a period of five weeks.
9. UNMEER in Forecariah reported, that the Kambia DERC (Sierra Leone) visited Forecariah and met with EVD response partners and local authorities in the prefecture. They agreed to organize regular meetings. Among others, they also agreed that to have a common information sharing system supported by WHO, to harmonize response efforts and a synchronize their EVD sensitization plan for local communities on both sides of the border.

Logistics

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

Resource Mobilisation

11. 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.
12. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 138.9 million in commitments. In total nearly USD 142 million has been pledged.
13. 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

14. UNMEER and DEN-L continued its outreach activity for social change on EVD issues with a visit to Yartanla, Bong County, a hard to access/reach location bordering Guinea. The need to establish community watch teams along the areas connecting Guinea and Liberia (Nimba and Bong Counties) was noted in order to check the indiscriminate movement across these border areas. The absence of a health facility at Yartanla town is a major challenge as communities have to walk long distances to access the nearest clinic located in Garmu town.
15. In Guinea, efforts continued to tailor EVD social mobilization and response efforts the local context. In Faranah locality, WHO visited the bus station to meet with the heads of transport syndicates. WHO observed that the EVD prevention measures largely being applied. However, the syndicate representatives requested additional staff, to be paid by the health authorities, to effectively check all the passengers. In N'zérékoré, the Prefectural EVD Coordinator's office has concluded arrangements for the two transport unions in the bus stations of in the prefecture to effectively implement EVD prevention measures for the passengers. In Forecariah, the DERC is targeting drivers and transporters to be trained on EVD prevention.

Essential Services

16. WHO mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) experts led a refresher training on the facilitation of community healing dialogues with mental health clinicians and social workers in Fish Town, River Gee County. Participants, supported by the WHO team, will begin a series of community healing dialogues in River Gee from 2 April.

Upcoming Events

17. NSTR

Attachments and resources

18. Reliefweb: Maps on the EVD response.
19. NERC Sierra Leone: <http://nerc.sl/>