

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

17 April 2015

KEY POINTS

- 37 confirmed EVD cases were reported in the week to 12 April, compared with 30 the previous week.
- The first stage of the sensitisation and early detection of EVD cases campaign in Guinea ended on 15 April without major problems.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. NSTR.

Response Efforts and Health

2. In total, 25,831 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been 10,699 reported deaths.
3. According to WHO, 37 confirmed EVD cases were reported in the week to 12 April, compared with 30 the previous week. Case incidence in Guinea increased to 28, compared with 21 confirmed cases the previous week. Sierra Leone reported 9 confirmed cases, the same total as in the previous week. Liberia reported no confirmed cases. A total of 5 Guinean prefectures reported at least one confirmed case in the week to 12 April, compared with 6 the previous week. Transmission remains confined to the western area, and is primarily focused on the prefecture of Forécariah, which borders Sierra Leone. In total, 8 prefectures/districts in Guinea and Sierra Leone reported a confirmed case in the week to 12 April, compared with 10 the previous week. This is the lowest number of districts to report a confirmed case since the end of May 2014. Of 55 districts in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone that have reported at least one confirmed EVD case since the start of the outbreak, 39 have not reported a case for over 6 weeks.
4. The first stage of the sensitisation and early detection of EVD cases campaign in Guinea ended on 15 April without major problems or resistance. Between 12 and 14 April there have been 54 alerts from which there were 31 suspected cases. The following challenges in the campaign have been identified: a) parallel chains of information dissemination from the local centres; b) lack of transport for the supervisors of the sensitization teams; c) lack of hygiene staff in some of the teams performing the EVD tests; d) mistakes in the system that monitors the houses already visited; and e) lack of feedback about the evolution of the EVD confirmed cases to relatives. As of 13 April, more than 26,000 houses had been visited in Forécariah. Conakry is now preparing for the campaign, which should begin on 23 April.
5. On 15 April, an integrated team of UNMEER and partners conducted a field trip to Foya city, Lofa County, Liberia with the aim of assessing the post EVD recovery and re-integration situation in the district. The team met with the district administrative officials, traditional leaders, civil society groups, district health team and the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (BIN). Among the many issues discussed were UN and partners' support to Ebola orphans, Ebola affected women, Ebola survivors, socio-economic recovery, agriculture and livelihoods recovery and improvement in the health sector.
6. Operational Ebola Treatment Centres (ETCs) in Sierra Leone have been scaled down from 23 to 16 with approximately 500 beds currently available. Discussions are ongoing among partners and the government to further scale down the number of beds across the country.
7. On 9 April during a meeting of the information management group of the National Coordination, Guinea, OCHA presented a new web platform with interactive maps illustrating EVD cases, contacts and EVD response coordination mechanisms in the different prefectures of Guinea. WHO also presented a new web platform allowing monitoring of EVD trends per day, week, locality etc. The National Coordination presented a new IT tool to follow up the recommendations of the different commissions.

8. WHO in Coyah, Guinea, reported resistance in Kounsita, Coyah prefecture, regarding the burial of a community death. Reportedly, the health team was attacked and the security forces had to intervene. No more details have been provided.

Logistics

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

Resource Mobilisation

10. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling USD 2.27 billion, has been funded for USD 1.45 billion, which is around 64% of the total ask.
11. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 140 million in commitments. In total USD 142 million has been pledged.
12. 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

13. In Liberia, in recognition of the role that radio media can play in providing important public health messages as well as notifying health authorities of rumours of unusual health events in communities, the County Health Office, WHO, the broadcasting community and Cuttington University hosted a one-day orientation and training session on disease surveillance and response for 24 producers and presenters from 11 radio stations in Bong County on 15 April. Participants discussed the principles and challenges of radio health messaging, reviewed lessons learnt from the Ebola response and participated in group exercises on communications about surveillance and response. UNICEF, Global Communities and CDC also attended the session. UNICEF-donated community radios in Lola and Yomou (Guinea) are now fully operational and contributing significantly to the sensitization of residents on EVD related matters.
14. UNMEER with Development Education network - Liberia (DEN-L) ended a two day Survivors' Stigmatization and Reintegration training in Gbarnga, Bong County, focusing on dealing with dependency syndrome among survivors, survivor-community relationships and the need to set up a county-level Survivors' Network. About 49 survivors were also involved in a group discussion on how to deal with stigmatization, self-denial, anger, depression, acceptance and maintaining hygienic environments.
15. A training session on EVD prevention in Kindia, Guinea, financed by UNICEF and WHO, was provided to traditional healers on 14 April.

Essential Services

16. On 15 April, UNDP, the Government of Liberia (GoL) and the World Bank (WB), commenced a 3-day discussion on the harmonization of the UNDP, WB supported Social Cash Transfer (SCT) programme in Monrovia, which provides cash to labour-constrained and EVD affected households, including survivors, in 11 of Liberia's 15 counties. The objective of the discussion was to harmonize a rollout plan for the implementation of the programme; identify areas of harmonization and collaboration with partners/organizations planning to implement cash transfers; and explore options for agreement on minimum standards for the plan.
17. In Sierra Leone, in response to a request from the National Ebola Response Centre (NERC) to UNMEER, work commenced on renovating two abandoned classrooms at Police Training School 1 in Hastings (Western Area) as an off-site quarantined location for high risk contacts. Along with the renovation, the buildings were fitted with new water tanks, showers and toilets. Doors, windows, floors were repaired and 31 beds and mattresses were provided.

Upcoming Events

18. NSTR

Attachments and resources

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