

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

8 May 2015

(The External Situation Report is now circulated on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays)

### KEY POINTS

- Events are being planned in Liberia tomorrow in the context of the country reaching 42 consecutive days with no new confirmed Ebola cases.
- In Sierra Leone, there have been two consecutive days so far this week (6 – 7 May) when the National Ebola Response Centre reported no new confirmed Ebola cases.

### Key Political and Economic Developments

1. UNMEER Acting SRSG Mr. Peter Graaff, and UNDP Regional Director for Africa Mr. Mar Dieye, chaired a meeting with the UN Development Group for Africa in Dakar on 6 May to coordinate UNMEER transition arrangements.

### Response Efforts and Health

2. In total, 26,648 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of Ebola have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been 11,007 reported deaths.
3. As reported in the sitrep on 6 May, there were a total of 18 confirmed Ebola cases in Guinea and Sierra Leone in the week ending 3 May, 9 in each country. In Guinea, all 9 confirmed cases in Forécariah were widely dispersed throughout 6 separate sub-prefectures. 5 of the 9 cases were identified post mortem after the investigation of deaths in community settings, although 1 of those 5 was a registered contact of a previous case. In total, 4 of the 9 cases were registered contacts of a previous case. There were also 36 unsafe burials reported from 7 prefectures in the week to 3 May. The 9 cases reported from Sierra Leone were divided between 2 distinct geographical clusters. 5 of the cases were reported from the district of Kambia. Within the district, cases were concentrated in the Chiefdoms of Magbema (4 cases) and Gbinle Dixing (1 case), the latter borders the Guinean prefecture of Forécariah. The remaining 4 cases were reported from the Moa Wharf area of the East 1 Chiefdom of Freetown. Of the 9 reported cases in Sierra Leone, 3 were identified after post-mortem investigation of deaths that occurred in the community. In addition, only 2 of the 9 cases were identified registered contacts of a previous case. However, after further investigation, an additional 5 of the 9 cases were found to have an epidemiological link to a known chain of transmission.
4. In Sierra Leone, there have been two consecutive days so far this week (6 – 7 May) when the National Ebola Response Centre (NERC) reported no Ebola cases.
5. In Sierra Leone, according to UNICEF, approximately 12 secret burials were reported last week, mainly from Kambia and Western Area Urban. The Social Mobilization Pillar, together with the Safe and Dignified Burial (SDB) teams, are planning to prepare chiefdom level communication/community engagement plans for identified chiefdoms in Kambia. All of the above-referenced Ebola-positive corpses were safely buried by the SDB teams. IFRC conducted a training of trainers on Psychological First Aid training for about 32 SDB staff last week, with cascaded trainings planned for about 800 Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) volunteers in the coming weeks. *Comment:* There are still persistent challenges in several chiefdoms/wards of Kambia and Western Area Urban, including ongoing mistrust towards seeking early treatment. Improved, localized and concrete efforts are required through systematic community engagement to overcome the remaining challenges. Support to implementing partners in continuous review/analysis and developing strategies will be critical in the coming months.
6. Reflecting national epidemiological trends, UNMEER Sierra Leone is deploying 5 more staff in each of the high-risk districts of Kambia and Western Area, and 3 extra staff each in Port Loko and Bombali, whilst reducing staff in low risk districts. A Field Crisis Manager (FCM) will be focusing on facilitating cross-border coordination and other related issues in Kambia.

## Logistics

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

## Resource Mobilisation

8. The OCHA Ebola Virus Outbreak Overview of Needs and Requirements, now totaling USD 2.27 billion, has been funded for USD 1.5 billion, which is around 66% of the total ask.
9. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 140 million in commitments. In total USD 142 million has been pledged.
10. 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

11. A number of sensitization activities were held this week in Guinea: in Forécariah, sensitization activities against stigmatization of Ebola survivors was organized by UNICEF and the *Association des Personnes Guéries d'Ebola* (APGES); the Communication Commission sensitized students from Kindia University in Ebola prevention; Community Agents, under the supervision of the partner CECL, with funds from USAID, have started a door to door sensitization campaign on Ebola prevention in the Sub-Prefecture of Dabiss, in Boke; In Fria, sensitization sessions on Ebola prevention continue to be provided to fishermen and persons working on fluvial transportation; and 158 Imams and persons working in burials are being trained on Ebola prevention in Dubreka.

## Essential Services

12. On 8 May, the Liberian Ministry of Health (MoH) launched a national measles, polio and deworming immunization campaign for children aged 0 - 59 months. The campaign is targeting approximately 683,000 children across all counties and will continue until 14 May. A range of partners including WHO, UNICEF, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and national and international NGOs have supported MoH planning and will be actively participating in the campaign. Approximately 500 measles cases have been reported since September 2014, a significant increase compared to recent years, partially due to disruptions to routine immunization programmes during the Ebola outbreak.
13. In collaboration with the World Bank and UNICEF, Sierra Leone President Koroma launched the new Social Safety Net program on 4 May. This program will provide regular cash transfers (approximately \$30/month) to 21,000 extremely poor households, benefiting 126,000 vulnerable people including children affected by Ebola and Ebola survivors, among others. These cash transfers should enable families to buy food, send children to school and protect assets such as livestock.
14. On 6 May, UNDP, in collaboration with the county health team (CHT) in Lofa County (Liberia), began the verification of Ebola workers who missed the last remuneration and hazard benefits payment. In January 2015, hazard payments were made to an estimated 197 Ebola response health workers in Lofa County but many did not receive the payments. This verification exercise will seek to ensure all health workers are paid.
15. During the inter-cluster meeting held on 29 April it was informed that 4,800 schools in Guinea lack soap to implement their Ebola prevention measures and only 28% of the Guinean schools have latrines.

## Upcoming Events

16. Events are being planned in Liberia tomorrow in the context of the country reaching 42 consecutive days with no new confirmed Ebola cases.

## Attachments and resources

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