

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

15 May 2015

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

KEY POINTS

- 15 newly confirmed Ebola cases have been reported in the first 3 days of this week in Guinea, mostly stemming from one outbreak of 9 cases in Dubreka.
- Sierra Leone reported its first case in 8 days yesterday.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair yesterday visited Freetown and met with the country's political leadership and Ebola response workers. Mr. Blair was visiting in his capacity as head of the Tony Blair Africa Governance Initiative, which provides support to the Ebola response. Mr. Blair also visited the National Ebola Response Centre (NERC) and was briefed by response coordinators, a briefing attended by UNMEER Acting SRSG Mr. Peter Graaff.

Response Efforts and Health

2. In total, 26,755 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of Ebola have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been 11,072 reported deaths.
3. Sierra Leone reported its first newly confirmed case in 8 days yesterday, according to the NERC. The patient was said to have left Moa Wharf in Freetown and had been missing for about two weeks. Disease Surveillance Officers (DSOs) and contact tracers from the Western Area District Ebola Response Centre (DERC) took the patient to a treatment centre. Efforts are ongoing to reach other individuals who might have come in contact with the patient. Following the incident, the NERC is planning to intensify awareness-raising efforts in the capital.
4. 15 newly confirmed Ebola cases have been reported in the first 3 days of this week in Guinea, mostly stemming from one outbreak of 9 cases in Dubreka. All 9 cases came from one sub-prefecture, Tanene. Whilst none of the 9 were registered contacts, after further investigations epidemiological links have been established to all 9 cases. According to information received by UNMEER, several contacts of one confirmed Ebola case in Kamsar (Boke), fled to Tanene using public transport whilst showing symptoms of Ebola.
5. UNMEER Acting SRSG Mr. Peter Graaff concluded a three-day visit to Sierra Leone today during which he met with key UN officials, including the Ebola Crisis Manager. Mr. Graaff also met with the NERC leadership and was briefed on the current status of the outbreak. Yesterday, Mr. Graaff addressed a press briefing at which he commended Sierra Leoneans for efforts made so far to bring down transmission rates to single digits. He warned, however, that more still needed to be done to achieve a resilient zero transmission. He also explained the WHO criteria of 42 consecutive days without any cases before a country can be declared Ebola-free. The SRSG is travelling to Kambia later today, en route to Guinea.
6. In the context of the forthcoming 17 May sensitization and Ebola case search campaign in Forécariah, UNICEF has donated 40 tents to the prefectural coordination to be used by the supervision teams during the campaign. The Communication Commission has visited 20 targeted localities to sensitize the local populations about the campaign: 98 teams will visit 18 families per day during the four days of the first phase of the campaign. It has also been decided to carry out radio broadcasting on Ebola prevention 24 hours per day during the campaign.

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 1.51 billion, which is around 67% 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.

Outreach and Education

11. Ebola response partners continue to conduct sensitization activities relating to Ebola prevention. The NGO, CECI, conducted activities in several villages of Boffa prefecture on 12 May; the Communication Commission and the Guinean Red Cross conducted training on safe burials in Coyah this week; and a delegation from the National Coordination visited Boke to participate in training organized for 200 traditional healers and other alternative health practitioners.
12. The Minister of Communication in Guinea presided over a ceremony handing over a rural radio station in Boffa on 11 May. The project was funded by UNICEF, which also recently financed rural radio stations in Youmou, Forécariah and Lola.

Essential Services

13. Results from Sierra Leone's first Maternal and Child Health Week (24-27 April) since the start of the Ebola emergency indicated 98.5 percent coverage for vitamin A and 96 percent coverage for albendazole for deworming. Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) assessments for children 6-11 months found 2.1 percent were severely malnourished, while for children 12-59 months, 0.6 percent were severely malnourished. Vaccinations for defaulting children 0-23 months were also administered, with 21,929 children receiving pentavalent injections against diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP), hepatitis B, and Haemophilus influenzae type b, and 15,020 defaulting children receiving routine measles vaccinations.
14. On 11 May, the NGO CECI, financed by USAID, distributed hand washing kits to Ebola response partners working in Boke Prefecture.
15. Around 1.8 million learning kits supplied by UNICEF will be distributed in the coming week to school children across Sierra Leone to boost the delayed academic year. The kits include 7.4 million exercise books, and 4.4 million pens and pencils. In Liberia, UNICEF supported Massaquoi Elementary and Junior High School in Montserrado with teaching and learning materials for grades I to IX in preparation for its re-opening on 11 May. This school was used as an Ebola isolation centre and is currently being rehabilitated. UNICEF has also supported the preparations for training of teachers on pedagogy aiming to improve the quality of teaching and learning outcomes.
16. WHO supervisors in Macenta visited the health centres in the sub-prefectures of N'zébela, Seredou and Watanka, where they found that the Ebola guidelines were being applied.

Upcoming Events

17. Acting UNMEER SRSG Mr. Peter Graaff is travelling to Guinea this afternoon, across the land border at Pamalap.

Attachments and resources

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