

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

18 May 2015

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

KEY POINTS

- Actions in response to the outbreak of Ebola cases in Boké prefecture (Guinea).
- Sensitization and early Ebola case detection campaign in Forécariah prefecture (Guinea) gets underway.
- Reported resistance in Dubréka prefecture (Guinea) following a spate of new cases.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. NSTR.

Response Efforts and Health

2. In total, 26,763 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of Ebola have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been 11,074 reported deaths.
3. Following 8 consecutive days with no newly confirmed cases (6 – 13 May), there has been a daily trickle of newly confirmed cases in Sierra Leone for the past 4 days, with 2 newly confirmed cases in Port Loko (Kaffu Bullom), 3 in Western Area (Urban) and 1 in Kambia (Magbema).
4. In response to newly confirmed Ebola cases in Boké prefecture, an UNMEER Guinea delegation visited the prefecture on 14 May to discuss the prevailing situation with national partners. The UNMEER Ebola Crisis Manager assured local authorities that Ebola response partners will continue to provide support. The UNMEER delegation discussed the idea of establishing a laboratory in Boké due to concerns over the length of time required to obtain laboratory results from samples which are currently sent to Conakry. The National Coordinator has since decided that such a facility will be established in Boké.
5. WHO and the African Union have deployed 4 and 3 additional staff respectively to Boké prefecture. On 14 May, WHO installed a prefabricated office to support Boké's prefectural coordination. On 13 May, Community Agents (ACs) and Comités Villageois de Veille (CVVs) in Kamsar were trained on contact tracing by WHO and are now actively participating in this activity.
6. One suspected Ebola case, a contact of a confirmed Ebola patient in Kamsar, is a national from neighbouring Guinea-Bissau. The individual is currently hospitalized in Donka Ebola treatment facility.
7. In relation to the newly identified cases in Dubréka and Boké, the National Coordinator of the Ebola response in Guinea stated that all prefectures should be alerted whenever a contact is reported missing by tracing teams. The National Coordinator also proposed to enforce sanctions against contacts whose movements impede tracing activities, and suggested establishing a Rapid Intervention Team, deployable to areas wherever a new Ebola outbreak occurs.
8. The official launch of the sensitization and early case detection campaign in Forécariah prefecture, Guinea, took place at Pamelap on 16 May, with Acting UNMEER SRSG Mr. Peter Graaff in attendance. The 4-day door-to-door phase of the campaign has commenced with a focus on 20 localities with a targeted population of 35,686 individuals from 7,137 families.
9. Several cases of community resistance were reported in Dubréka Prefecture, Guinea this week. On 14 May, locals from Bambaya and Gangatah communities (Dembayah sub-prefecture) refused access to Ebola surveillance and contact tracing teams. On 15 May, a Red Cross team was beaten in Konfé community (Faléssadé sub-prefecture) and a joint WHO-African Union team was prevented from moving and threatened by locals in Kawonso (Tanéné sub-prefecture).
10. Due to community resistance an unsecured burial took place on 15 May in Kassa, an area located in Conakry's commune of Kaloum.

11. The Ebola Response Anthropology Platform has published a paper entitled 'Understanding social resistance to Ebola response in Guinea' authored by Professor of Social Anthropology, James Fairhead. The paper seeks to understand the fear many Guineans feel towards Ebola response initiatives and why Ebola response staff have sometimes encountered resistance, which has occasionally turned violent. The paper considers how resistance emerges as cultural sensitivities play into divisive ethnic and related party-political tensions. Professor Fairhead argues that resistance is not simply associated with the social distance between the institutions of the response and the communities affected but also with the politicization of health delivery.

Logistics

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

Resource Mobilisation

13. 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.
14. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 140 million in commitments. In total USD 142 million has been pledged.
15. 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

16. In Guinea, the Communication Commission of Coyah Prefecture provided 30 mobile phones to CVVs in Wonkifong sub-prefecture in an effort to resume their activities; in Dubréka prefecture, CVVs in Ouassou and Tanéné localities received Ebola-related training on 15 May; and in the Guinea Forest Region, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) announced that they were reinforcing the capacities of 70 CVVs and 141 ACs.
17. On 15 May, 168 members of the Child Protection Committees were trained in Boffa on psychosocial support to children.

Essential Services

18. WHO reported that, as of 13 May, 1,802 suspected measles cases and 7 deaths from measles in eastern Guinea have been recorded since the beginning of this year.
19. On 15 May, WHO published a first synthesis on the national vaccine and vitamin A supplementation campaign, organized in response to the decrease of routine visits to Guinean health centres due to Ebola. Launched on 18 March and covering 15 prefectures (Télimélé, Mali, Dinguiray, Kankan, Kouroussa, Mandiana, Siguiry, Beyla, Guéckedou, Lola, Macenta, N'zérékoré, Gaoual, Koundara and Yomou), the campaign's objective is either already met or close to being met in all prefectures. Based on preliminary results from all 15 prefectures, more than 90% of children aged 6 months to 9 years were vaccinated against measles and received vitamin A supplementation.
20. On 13 May, the Groupe Organisé des Hommes d'Affaires (GOHA), with UNICEF funding, renovated the Commune Coordination Team's meeting room in Matam, Conakry (Guinea). In Ratoma, a commune of Conakry City, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) donated a new laboratory to the Centre Medical Communal of Flamboyant.

Upcoming Events

21. UNMEER Acting SRSG Mr. Peter Graaff has been in Guinea since Saturday and is returning to Liberia this evening.

Attachments and resources

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