



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

20 May 2015

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

KEY POINTS

- Preliminary data indicates that there were a total of 35 newly confirmed Ebola cases in the 2 most affected countries during the week to 17 May, compared to a total of 9 during the previous week.
- The door-to-door sensitization and early Ebola case detection campaign in Forécariah (Guinea) elicits 137 alerts during the first two days of the campaign, with good cooperation noted.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. NSTR.

Response Efforts and Health

2. In total, 26,933 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of Ebola have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been 11,120 reported deaths.
3. Preliminary data indicates that there were a total of 35 newly confirmed cases in the 2 most affected countries during the week to 17 May, compared to a total of 9 during the previous week. The vast majority of cases, 27, were in Guinea – 11 cases each in the prefectures of Dubréka and Forécariah, and 5 in Boké. 8 newly confirmed cases were reported in Sierra Leone, with 4 in Western Area Urban, 3 in Port Loko and 1 in Kambia.
4. During the Guinea National Coordination Cell's meeting on 18 May, it was reported that 30 and 107 alerts were recorded on the first and second days respectively of the sensitization and early case detection campaign in Forécariah. Concerns were also expressed over the number of newly suspected cases arriving at Forécariah and Coyah Ebola treatment facilities. Existing bed capacities, particularly those of Coyah's, were reported as insufficient and overcrowded.
5. According to UNICEF on 18 May, out of the targeted 7,137 households, 3,832 (53.7%) were visited during the first two days of the door-to-door campaign in Forécariah. Only two families refused to receive early Ebola detection and sensitization teams. In total, 18,957 individuals were visited. On 18 May, in support of the campaign, WFP and partners started food distributions to 136 households in the villages of Sedouya, Saliah, Tintignan and Kouliyire. The food ration includes rice, oil and pulses to ensure the food needs of all the families targeted in the campaign for a period of 21 days. As requested by the National Coordination, food is being distributed after the door-to-door sensitization is complete.
6. In Sierra Leone, a number of high risk contacts are believed to have absconded from quarantined homes in Kambia recently. The District Ebola Response Centre (DERC) has engaged the community and Paramount Chiefs to assist in locating them. The National Ebola Response Centre (NERC) is currently discussing the possibility of announcing the names of those having absconded from quarantine. Meanwhile, the NERC has decided to intensify messaging surrounding quarantine so that it is seen as a means to ending Ebola.
7. On 18 May, two African-Union epidemiologists and a WHO socio-anthropologist who were carrying out a door-to-door active identification campaign were forced to leave Kasso village (Dubréka prefecture/Tanéné sub-prefecture) after being threatened by a crowd of young people. On the same day, in Boké prefecture, community resistance was reported in Kamsar (Filima neighbourhood). A police vehicle was stoned by elements from the community whilst attempting to escort a female contact of a confirmed Ebola case who had agreed to be hospitalized at Kindia Ebola treatment facility after showing symptoms of Ebola. Three other WHO vehicles which were in the vicinity for other purposes (vaccinations) were also attacked and stoned.

8. In Boké prefecture (Guinea), a WHO investigation established that a traditional healer who was a known contact, died at the Boke Regional Hospital on 15 May, and that his body was handed over to his family without following the appropriate protocols. Since his clinical data shows a high probability of Ebola, Boké's Prefectural coordinator has since decided to register those who were in contact with him as contacts to be traced. In relation to this death, 13 health workers of the regional hospital in Boké are reported to have been registered as contacts.
9. Cross-border meetings between response officials in Forécariah (Guinea) and Kambia (Sierra Leone) are ongoing. The aim is to strengthen partnerships and information sharing in order to prevent transmission in the area.

Logistics

10. For regular logistics operational information please visit <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14>.
11. WFP is providing logistics support for humanitarian staff involved in the sensitization and early case detection campaign in Forécariah: 4 Trignano tents donated by Rio Tinto, for a total capacity of 36 beds, were set up close to the WFP base (consisting of a Sub Office and two warehouses). In addition, WFP is also providing trucks and drivers for the transportation of necessary equipment.

Resource Mobilisation

12. 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.
13. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has USD 140 million in commitments. In total USD 142 million has been pledged.
14. 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

15. On 17 May, the Guinean Red Cross carried out a door-to-door campaign on Ebola prevention and safe burial in 34 boroughs of Ratoma commune (Conakry).
16. The UN System in Sierra Leone is finalizing arrangements for a video production to document and capture the UN Ebola response and create awareness about the mandate and work of UNMEER and the UN agencies in Sierra Leone. The production also aims to raise the UN's visibility. The production will convey the UN Ebola response in the areas of case management, contact tracing, social mobilization, logistic support, food provision and cash transfer.

Essential Services

17. As part of the support that WFP provides to Ebola survivors, about 3,600 survivors in Sierra Leone are being targeted to receive two monthly cash transfers for purchasing food in local markets. A single cash transfer is equivalent to WFP's standard monthly household food basket, which survivors receive when discharged from treatment units. Another supporting activity implemented by WFP is the provision of food to more than 5,000 volunteers who participated in the school clean-up exercise in over 1,600 schools in Western Area.
18. So far in May, WFP has collected 70 metric tons of rice and pigeon peas from farmers supported by its Purchase for Progress (P4P) programme in Kambia, Kailahun, Bo, Port Loko and Kenema districts of Sierra Leone. Throughout 2015, WFP plans to purchase about 253 metric tons of rice and pigeon peas from local smallholder farmers' organizations and Agricultural Business Centres (ABCs) for distribution to beneficiaries targeted under WFP's operations.
19. At Anaim Hospital in Kamsar, a triage centre was installed by Women and Health Alliance International (WAHA) and is reported functional as of 18 May. WAHA envisages installing a similar triage centre at Boké's regional hospital.

Upcoming Events

20. NSTR.

Attachments and resources

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