UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER)
External Situation Report
22 May 2015
(The External Situation Report is now circulated on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays)

KEY POINTS

- Over the first four days of the early detection and sensitization campaign in Forécariah (Guinea), 73 alerts, of which 29 were community deaths and 39 were suspected cases, were reported. Of the suspected cases, 7 tested positive for Ebola.
- Most of the doctors and nurses who were part of the African Union Support to Ebola in West Africa (ASEOWA) will leave Sierra Leone next week.

Key hand Economic Developments

1. NSTR.

Response Efforts and Health

2. In total, 26,971 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of Ebola have been reported in the three most affected countries. There have been 11,122 reported deaths.

3. The National Ebola Response Centre (NERC) in Sierra Leone has reported a single newly confirmed case in each of the last three days (19 – 21 May) with two cases in Western Area (Urban) and one case in Port Loko (Kaffu Bullon). One of the new cases in Western Area has resulted in 16 persons in 6 households being quarantined in the community of Wellington, eastern Freetown, where the case was discovered. Contact tracers are trying to determine if the case is linked to Moa Wharf, where there have been several cases recently.

4. Over the first four days (16 – 19 May) of the early detection and sensitization campaign in Forécariah (Guinea), WHO reported 73 alerts, of which 29 were community deaths and 39 were suspected cases. Of the suspected cases, 7 tested positive for Ebola. According to data provided by UNICEF on 20 May, 8,023 households, representing 38,557 individuals were visited during the four-day door-to-door phase of the campaign. Only three families refused to receive early Ebola detection and sensitization teams. UNICEF provided medicine worth $200,000 and supplied 40 tents that were used as forward operating bases by local authorities.

5. In relation to the Forécariah campaign, it was reported during the National Coordination Cell’s meeting on 20 May that Coyah and Forécariah Ebola treatment centres (ETCs) were still overcrowded. As of 19 May, Coyah ETC has 20 operational beds and 18 patients hospitalized; Forécariah ETC has 14 operational beds and 13 patients hospitalized. A proposal was made to increase Coyah ETC bed capacity from 20 operational beds to 50. Final decisions were expected to be taken during a strategy group meeting later the same day.

6. During the Guinea National Coordination meeting on 20 May, WHO reiterated the need to establish a transit centre in Kamsar (Boké prefecture).

7. About 209 Ebola response workers under the auspices of the African Union support to Ebola in West Africa (ASEOWA) will leave Sierra Leone next week, ending their tour of duty. The workers, including doctors and nurses, arrived in December 2014 as part of the AU response team. They were mostly deployed in the Northern region towns of Port Loko, Makeni and Koinadugu. None of the members of the AU intervention team contracted Ebola. Those departing include 111 Nigerians and 98 Ethiopians. The NERC leadership has praised the AU officials for their dedication to duty. The AU is expected to leave behind a residual team over the coming months.

Logistics

Resource Mobilisation

9. 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.

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

11. 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

12. A variety of training modules has been provided by partners in Guinea this week. In Fria, two training sessions on active surveillance for 25 health workers took place on 18 and 19 May. This training was organised by the prefectoral public health department in Fria with WHO, AU and UNICEF trainers’ support. On 19 May, awareness training on safe and dignified burials was given by the Guinean Red Cross in Manéah, Wonkifong and Coyah localities. On 19 May, WHO reported that Coyah’s prefectoral coordination cell trained 91 Comités Villageois de Veille (CVV) members and 15 community agents in Maneah locality on community surveillance and reporting. In Gbenemou locality (Lola prefecture), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) organised a workshop on 19 May with 25 people, on the conceptualisation and implementation of a strategic plan to eliminate community stigmatisation of Ebola survivors returning to their villages.

13. UNICEF and partners facilitated a variety of social mobilisation activities in Guinea this week, including in Conakry, Macenta, Dubréka, Bohra and Fria.

Essential Services

14. On 18 May, UNFPA announced in N’Zérékoré (Guinea) that it has received funds to implement a project designed to improve services offered to women during pregnancy, baby delivery and post-pregnancy in order to reduce pregnancy complications, stillbirths and deaths in childbirth. Through this project, UNFPA aims at staffing each health centre with at least one midwife.

15. On 18 May, N’Zérékoré’s Regional Health Surveillance Department called upon all partners to participate in updating the region’s health database, prefecture by prefecture. A related meeting with WHO, UNICEF and the Alliance for International Medical Action (ALIMA), is expected to take place today.

Upcoming Events

16. NSTR.

Attachments and resources