



Interagency Collaboration on Ebola Situation Report

Geneva – 5 August 2015

This is the first situation report from the Interagency Collaboration on Ebola.
This report replaces situation reports previously produced by UNMEER.

KEY POINTS

- **In week ending 2 August, two confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease have been reported: one in Guinea and one in Sierra Leone. This is the second week in a row that new case numbers have been in single digits.**
- **On 31 July, the UN Secretary-General announced the completion of UNMEER's mission and commencement of WHO's responsibility for oversight of the UN system's Ebola emergency response in West Africa as of 1 August.**
- **WHO and partners have reported that they are on the verge of an effective vaccine against EVD.**

Operations developments

- On 31 July, UNMEER closed having achieved its core objective of scaling up the response and establishing unity of purpose among responders in support of nationally-led efforts. As of 1 August, WHO is responsible for oversight of the UN system's Ebola emergency response under the direct authority of the WHO Director-General. To maintain the high-level, dedicated UN leadership needed to get to and sustain zero cases, the UNMEER Ebola Crisis Managers will remain in the countries under the oversight of WHO and with the support of the UN Resident Coordinators and UN country teams. David Nabarro, the Secretary General's Special Envoy on Ebola will continue to provide strategic guidance for the response. UN agencies, funds and programmes, OCHA, the UN Mission in Liberia and national and international partners have undertaken the necessary steps to enable a seamless transition.
- The High Level Panel on Global Response to Health Crises arrived in Conakry on 2 August. While in Guinea, they met with the Prime Minister and key partners. The Panel will be in the region till 6 August and will also travel to Sierra Leone and Liberia. The High Level Panel, appointed by the UN Secretary-General, is expected to make recommendations on how to strengthen national and international systems to prevent and manage future health crises. These recommendations will take into account lessons learned from the response to the outbreak of Ebola virus disease.

Epidemic status and response efforts

- In the week ending 2 August, two confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease were reported: one in Guinea and one in Sierra Leone. This is the second week in a row that weekly case incidence has been in single digits.
- Refinements to the response continue to yield results, with a higher percentage of cases now arising amongst those people already on contact lists (100% in Guinea, 67% in Sierra Leone in the week to 26 July). This represents the lowest percentage of cases being identified after death since the peak of the epidemic.

- In Tonkolili, Sierra Leone, a new confirmed case was reported on 24 July, and over 500 contacts are currently under follow-up. One of these contacts was reported as a confirmed case in Tonkolili on 1 August.
- No new cases were reported in Liberia during the week to August 2. Of the cluster of six confirmed cases reported since 29 June, two have died and the remaining four have now all been discharged after treatment. All contacts linked to these cases completed their 21-day follow-up period on 2 August. Further information at: <http://bit.ly/1laluMU>
- According to the Ministry of Health in Liberia, regular coordination meetings continue at the county level. All cases have been discharged from ETUs, but follow-up of contacts continues. Discharge packages have been provided to patients released and psychosocial support for health workers is ongoing. Messages about prevention of EVD are being broadcast by radio. Further information at: <http://bit.ly/1IOQOYA>

Research and development

- An interim analysis of results from the Phase III trial of the VSV-EBOV candidate Ebola vaccine (Merck, Sharp & Dohme) has found this vaccine is highly effective against Ebola.
- While the vaccine has, up to now, shown 100% efficacy in individuals, more conclusive evidence is needed. To that end, the Guinean national regulatory authority and ethics review committee have approved continuation of the trial and inclusion of participants under the age of 18. The trial will now include 13- to 17-year-old and possibly 6- to 12-year-old children on the basis of new evidence of the vaccine's safety.
- Partners: The Guinea Ebola vaccine trial is the coordinated effort of many international agencies. WHO is the regulatory sponsor of the study, which is implemented by the Ministry of Health of Guinea, WHO, MSF, EPICENTRE and the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. The trial is funded by WHO, with support from the Wellcome Trust, the United Kingdom, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Norwegian Institute of Public Health through the Research Council of Norway, the Canadian Government through the Public Health Agency of Canada, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, International Development Research Centre and Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development and MSF. The trial team includes experts from The University of Bern, the University of Florida, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Public Health England, and the European Mobile Laboratories among others. Further information at: <http://bit.ly/1OSFny0> and <http://on.fb.me/1DngvwZ>

Logistics

- UNICEF continues to dispatch supplies to address the most urgent infection prevention and control (IPC) needs in the affected communities in Liberia (schools, health facilities and holding centres, households and checkpoints). This includes tents for isolation, hand-washing buckets, chlorine and gloves. Hygiene kits are currently being delivered to every household in the catchment area. UNICEF also sent teams to decontaminate two health facilities in the area and provided packaged drinking water to health workers and households under voluntary precautionary observation, as well as to the ETU where patients are being treated.

Maternal and child health

- UNICEF is supporting a drive by the Liberian Government to register more than 70 000 children whose births were not recorded during the Ebola crisis. Birth registrations dropped sharply in 2014 and 2015, according to data from the Ministry of Health.
- A similar registration campaign took place in early July in Sierra Leone led by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, supported by WHO, UNICEF, Plan Sierra Leone and other partners. More than 250 000 children were registered and 1.4 million children were vaccinated against polio.
- In Sierra Leone, multiple partners are contributing to child health and EVD prevention through education-related operations including the implementation of WASH in schools, food/nutrition programmes and teacher training on EVD protocols. Further information at: <http://bit.ly/1SoqlA9> and <http://on.fb.me/1eNK4B>

Preparedness

- On 30 July, IOM launched training to build the capacity of border officials in Ghana to conduct EVD-related screening and infection control procedures at points of entry. This training will continue until the beginning of October 2015 and aims to reach 800 border officials. Further information at: <http://bit.ly/1DW2mll> and <http://bit.ly/1SC8mLZ>

Upcoming events

- *3 – 7 August 2015, Freetown, Sierra Leone. WHO Meeting on survivors of Ebola virus disease: Clinical care, research and biobanking*
The meeting will assemble stakeholders engaged in or seeking to provide care and/or conduct scientific research regarding EVD survivors.
The meeting will also address the important issue of biobanking: the systematic collection and storage of biological samples, together with associated clinical and laboratory samples, for future analysis by qualified researchers. This is key to future scientific discovery and improved patient care.