

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

26 November 2014

KEY POINTS

- Burial workers in Kenema, Sierra Leone, have dumped bodies in public after going on strike, reportedly leaving two bodies at the main entrance of the city's main hospital.
- UNMEER in Sierra Leone has transported blood samples by helicopter for the first time. Three flights per week are planned, transporting blood samples from remote locations to laboratories.
- A total of 15,351 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) have been reported in 8 countries. There have been 5,459 reported deaths.

Key Political and Economic Developments

1. Burial workers in the Sierra Leonean city of Kenema have dumped bodies in public after going on strike. The workers reportedly left 15 bodies abandoned at the city's main hospital, including two at the main entrance. The workers have now been sacked for treating the corpses in a "very, very inhumane" way, an official said.
2. On 24 November, the Liberian finance minister announced a recovery package to tackle the wider impact of EVD in Liberia. The package includes US\$ 60 million for the restoration of essential health services, \$ 30 million for education, and \$ 35 million for food security.

Human Rights

3. NSTR

Response Efforts and Health

4. China opened a 100-bed EVD treatment center in Monrovia on Tuesday, which will be staffed by Chinese army medics. Liberian president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf toured the treatment center, saying "We want to commend China for this exceptional response". The facility will start accepting patients next week.
5. Traditional practices remain a significant obstacle in countering the epidemic, especially in relation to burial practices. UNMEER Field Crisis Managers (FCMs) in Liberia reported several instances of non-compliance related to burial permits, as well as violent reactions towards burial teams. Despite the intensification of social awareness campaigns in Bomi and Grand Capemount counties, contact tracing and reporting remain problematic.
6. A total of 15,351 confirmed, probable, and suspected cases of EVD have been reported in 8 countries. There have been 5,459 reported deaths.

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 US\$ 1.5 billion, has been funded for \$ 815 million, which is around 54 percent of the total ask.
9. The Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund currently has US\$ 71.9 million in commitments. In total \$ 121 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 contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org.

Outreach and Education

11. According to WHO, in Kourémalé (Siguiri prefecture), a village on the Guinea-Mali border, the population abandoned its initial resistance to EVD response efforts following negotiations and sensitization conducted by EVD responders. This also led to the conduct of a safe burial.
12. Over the past weekend, UNICEF deployed 50 district coordinators to the field in Guinea for social mobilization and community engagement activities. The district coordinators will manage more than 800 social mobilizers who are being deployed in the prefectures affected by the epidemic.
13. UNICEF and its partners in the education cluster have trained thousands of teachers in Guinea on EVD prevention, safe and protected learning, and psycho-social support. This training aims to sensitize teachers on how to prevent stigmatization of school children orphaned by the epidemic. Because of the epidemic, the opening of the school year has been postponed indefinitely.

Essential Services

14. Research by WFP into food security in the three most affected countries suggests that the impact on food security of EVD in Liberia and Sierra Leone has been more severe in rural areas than in urban areas, where there appears to be better market access. The most common strategies reported by households to deal with the rising food insecurity are consuming less expensive and less preferred food, and limiting portion size at mealtimes.
15. At a meeting of the Food Crises Prevention and Management Network (PREGEC), held in Dakar from 18 to 20 November 2014, a special session was dedicated to the impact of EVD on food and nutrition security. FAO, WFP, UNICEF and partners presented a study of the three most affected countries, which showed a decrease of agricultural production and demand, disruption of the functioning of markets, a deterioration of livelihoods, a decline in the purchasing power of households, and a risk of degradation of the nutrition situation due to more difficult access to food and basic social services.

Upcoming Events

- 11 December - Global Compact CEO-level Action Pledge Event at the UN.

Attachments and resources

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