

Overview of the situation

- The first cases of Ebola in Mali were imported from Guinea.
- The Malian President has a strong commitment to fight Ebola.
- Response of Mali with the support of partners is coordinated under the leadership of WHO and UNMEER.
- Persisting risk of imported cases from affected countries, particularly neighboring Guinea.
- Set up of active monitoring and deployment of investigation teams in the field is ongoing.
- Two patients have recovered from Ebola and the tracing of all contacts from confirmed cases was completed.

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Total cases in most affected countries Guinea (2394), Liberia (7797) and Sierra Leone (8273) <small>Source WHO, 15 Dec 2014</small>	Total deaths Guinea (1518), Liberia (3290) et Sierra Leone (2033) <small>Source WHO, 15 Dec 2014</small>	Total cases in Mali (7 confirmed and 1 probable) <small>Source WHO, 15 Dec 2014</small>	Total deaths in Mali including 2 medical agents <small>Source WHO, 15 Dec 2014</small>	Total number of identified contacts since the first registered case in Mali <small>Source WHO, 15 Dec 2014</small>

Priorities

- Budget monitoring and identification of financial gaps for effective and timely response to Ebola outbreak.
- Sufficient specialized medical personnel at the Ebola Treatment Center (ETC), and establishment of a rapid investigation teams in the regions.
- Provision of adequate equipment (medical equipment, kits, personal protective masks, gloves, etc.) to ensure safe burials and safety of ETC workers.
- Logistical capacity to safely transport suspect cases with qualified and trained personnel.
- Sensitization and engagement of local communities.

Response

- On-going coordination by UNMEER with UNCT, MINUSMA, UNDAC and partners to mobilize all necessary resources in response to Ebola. This also includes strategic planning in-line with UNMEER mandate.
- Infectiologists and other health specialists were trained by MSF Spain and WHO to treat Ebola patients.
- Epidemiologists have also been deployed by WHO to the districts bordering Guinea to strengthen capacity for active surveillance.
- MINUSMA has provided logistical support and supplies, including vehicles, communication equipment and protection kits for health staff.
- UNICEF and WHO have purchased essential medical equipment and tents and funding for public awareness across the country.
- Affected morgues and their personnel were identified, mapped and trained on secure burials.
- OCHA has supported the Ebola response by providing support in information Management and Coordination.
- UNFPA recruited 98 health professionals deployed in 7 regions and provided communication equipment in support of the Malian Center for Emergency Operations/Centre des Operations d'Urgence (COU).

UNMEER established presence in Mali

In addition to its headquarters in Ghana, UNMEER was initially established and represented in the three most affected countries: Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. UNMEER has expanded its presence in Mali to reinforce the country's operational response, strengthen the country's level of preparedness, and assist with cross-border coordination with Guinea.



M. Ousmane Koné, Minister of Health and
M. David Gressly, OIC-SRSG MINUSMA

Located in the same building as the EOC, the new UNMEER Office, formally inaugurated on 19 Dec 2014, will play a key role in strengthening the coordination of UN agencies, NGOs, and partners in the support of the GoMali's response. UNMEER will work closely with the EOC to coordinate the

fight against Ebola and facilitate the collaboration between the actors involved in the sub-region, particularly Guinea, where the existence of active outbreaks near the border strip remains a major concern. UNMEER will also assist in mobilizing financial and human resources to ensure appropriate response to Ebola in Mali.

Mali was able to quickly contain the Ebola outbreak recorded in October and November, but the battle is not over. As long as there are cases of Ebola in the sub-region, there is a need to strengthen preventive measures.



UNSG Ban Ki-moon arrival in Bamako,
Mali on 20 Dec. 2014

The formal inauguration of UNMEER Mali was superseded by the visit of UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon accompanied by UN Senior leaders involved in the fight against Ebola, including Mrs. Margaret Chan, Director of WHO; Dr. Nabarro, Special Envoy of the SG for Ebola; and Tony Banbury, SRSG UNMEER. The SG and his delegation were welcomed at the Bamako Senou Airport by UNCT under the leadership of Mr. David Gressly, OIC SRSG MINUSMA.

Dr. Ibrahima-Socé Fall was newly appointed as Head of UNMEER Mali. Dr. Fall, previously WHO representative in Mali since 2012, came to the post with extensive experience in crisis management. Under his leadership, UNMEER Mali will ensure the effective implementation of the five priorities in the fight against Ebola; namely: stop the epidemic; treat infected people; provide basic services; maintain stability; and prevent new outbreaks.



SG Ban Ki-moon greeted by Dr. Fall at
Bamako Senou Airport

Stopping the epidemic

Monitoring of migration flows and awareness

Agents from International Organization for Migration (IOM) are deployed in Kourémalé, at the border of Mali and Guinea (in the village of Nougani, Malian side, and at the police station of Kourémalé border on the Guinean side), to track migration flows as part of the response against Ebola. These agents collect travelers' information and educate them on prevention measures and controls.

If a cross-border traveler is suspected of being infected with Ebola, a database is immediately created to track and quickly identify the people who have been in contact with the traveler during his journey.

IOM officials are already working in collaboration with health workers, Malian Police and Customs officers to detect Ebola cases.



Temperature check at Kourémalé, Mali

In addition to strengthening border surveillance at Kourémalé, this will help improve cross-border communication and contacts tracing.

The investigation teams in action

On 15 December 2014, UNMEER and WHO have deployed additional 20 investigation and support teams to evaluate and assess the effectiveness of the measures in place at various locations including the border line with Guinea. The result of this assessment will be used to reinforce epidemiologic surveillance, prevention and effective control.

WHO also has trained 56 investigators deployed to six municipalities in the region of Koulikoro to follow up on

potential alerts. These teams were trained on Ebola disease prevention, control of infection and investigation procedures.

If new cases should arise, investigation teams would identify the people who would be the most at risk, i.e. those who have been in direct contact with the sick person.

Early detection: triage of patients at the hospital

Since the outbreak of Ebola in Mali, partners, with the support of the EOC, have been in the field to certify the establishment and effectiveness of the triage system in hospitals and health centers. Triage system is crucial for early detection of suspect cases.

At the hospital entrance, individuals are subject to temperature control and if temperature exceeds 38.5°C, the person then proceeds to a thorough interrogation that will determine if they meet the symptoms of Ebola.

When the triage system respects international standards, it becomes safer for users and health workers.

Frontline health workers have paid a heavy price in the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, losing their lives to save others'. Health workers are particularly vulnerable to

infections and accidental exposure to blood and other body fluids.

Trainings on triage of patients and prevention measures are organized by WHO, the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene and partners as part of a National Training Plan. Trainings have been organized in different health facilities in Bamako, including the Gabriel Touré hospital (200 health workers), the Luxembourg hospital, the International Polyclinic, the Mother Child hospital, the Hospital of Mali and The International Polyclinic of Bamako. About 250 health specialist coming from large private health facilities in the capital were also trained.

These training are being performed regionally, some have already taken place in Sikasso, Koulikoro and Kayes.

Treating infected persons

Clinical treatment

The Government of Mali, with the support of WHO and partners, has developed a care management system for suspect and confirmed Ebola cases. When a suspect case is identified in the community, anyone can call the hotline and anyone can also go directly to the nearest health center to notify the health specialists. When the patient meets the definition of a suspect case, s/he is immediately transferred to the Ebola Treatment Centers (ETC).

There is currently an ETC located at the CNAM in Bamako. The Center is jointly managed by MSF Spain and the EOC with a current capacity of 35 beds for suspect cases and 15 for confirmed. Near the border lines in Kourémalé, Sélingué and Zégoua, suspect cases are directed to small Temporary Observation Centers with 2 beds. With the support of WHO, MINUSMA, UNICEF, and UNDP, necessary medicine and individual protection kits as well as logistical support have been provided.

The Ebola virus is highly contagious when symptoms of the disease appear, contamination is essentially done by direct contact with body fluids. Consequently, the management of affected patients must be accomplished in a specialized center, by qualified personnel, equipped to prevent exposure to infected body fluids and excrement. As stated by MSF Spain Coordinator, Natalia Torrent, in the treatment center, improvisation has no place. Mrs. Torrent also stressed the need to train the teams that take care of the patients so that they perfectly master the internal procedures while taking into account the risks involved. MSF Spain trained COU and MINUSMA health specialists to treat Ebola patients. MSF Spain also provides psychological counseling to ETC



patients and their families. UNFPA also recruited 98 health specialist deployed to Bamako, Koulikoro, Kayes, Sikasso, Ségou, Mopti and Gao to reinforce the capacity of the existing health system.

Another element for the effective fight against Ebola is the establishment of a collection and disposal of waste system. Waste from the high risk zone does not leave the center and is incinerated by specialists.

The water supply of the ETC, which has not been interrupted to date, is crucial for the treatment of patients. According to WHO guidelines, per day, about 300 to 400 liters of water is needed per patient and 15 liters per caregiver.

Treatment center for UN staff in Mali

MINUSMA has built an Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) in Bamako for the UN family in Mali. Once operational, this ETU will have a capacity of 18 beds for suspect cases and 18 beds for confirmed cases.

Prevention of new outbreaks

Anthropology: An asset to win the fight against Ebola

The response to the Ebola virus disease emerges beyond the medical context. In fact, to overcome the epidemic, the communities must be mobilized to actively participate in the fight against the virus. In order to effectively reach out to the communities, the anthropologists, who specialize in the study of the humankind's past and present, taking in consideration their culture as well as their biology, have played a key role.

When Ebola cases were first declared in Mali, WHO brought in M. Niang, a socio-anthropology Professor from the University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar, to make sure all interventions would take into consideration socio-cultural aspects. This is necessary for: community awareness; contact tracing; psychosocial support for the patients and their families; trust relationship between communities and health system; and stigmatization prevention, etc.

Under the leadership of Professor Niang, investigation teams have been trained to take into account the socio-cultural aspects when visiting families to monitor contacts (rules of hospitality, courtesy, etc.). The team also provides rehabilitation for Ebola cleared patients and people that were placed under observation. "Our goal is to help them reintegrate their environment and allow them to deal with the stigmatization associated with Ebola Virus Disease" explained Pr. Niang.

Two Ebola patients have been successfully treated at the ETC in Bamako, and the last one was released on 11 December 2014. However, there are still many challenges that need to be overcome. These include the need of sufficiently trained specialists, and the establishment of adequate mechanisms to motivate and retain the trained specialists. This will only be achieved with strong coordination and collaboration with all stakeholders involved in the fight against Ebola.



The anthropologists will also make sure that voices of the communities are heard by decision makers and programme designers to ensure effective collaboration and appropriate interventions.



UNMEER-Mali, in collaboration with all partners, and religious and community leaders, continues to establish effective communication channels to mobilize the communities and enhance preventive measures.

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Or please visit our site on:

<http://www.un.org/ebolareponse/mission.shtml>.