



PROPOSAL MONTHLY PROGRESS UPDATE
as of 31 December 2014

Recipient UN Organization(s):	UNMEER & UNOPS		SOs	SO: 05			
			Strategic Objective(s)				
			MCAs	MCA13: Multi-faceted preparedness			
			Mission Critical Action(s)				
Implementing Partner(s):	National Ebola Response Centre Secretariat (NERC); UNOPS.						
Project Number:	00092907 (UNMEER) and 00093033 (UNOPS)						
Proposal Title:	Establishing Rapid Response and Stabilization Teams (RRSTs) in the National Ebola Response Centre Secretariat (NERC).						
Total Approved Proposal Budget:	Proposal Amount: US\$ 7,145,037.00 Approved initial amount: US\$ 5,000,000.00 Pending balance allocation of US\$ 2,145,037.00						
Total Approved Project Budget:	MCA13: Multifaceted preparedness		Project	Budget Approved			
			00092907 - UNMEER	US\$ 2,500,000.00			
			00093033 - UNOPS	US\$ 2,500,000.00			
	Total		US\$ 5,000,000.00				
Geographical Focus Area	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sierra Leone		Geographical Local Area (Counties-Districts-Prefectures) ▪ Freetown; National Coverage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Border			
Outbreak Hot Zones	Please select one from the following <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (Y) <input type="checkbox"/> No (N)						
# Direct Beneficiaries <i>(Ensure the information below indicates both the total number of beneficiaries ensure inclusive participation and non-discrimination of the vulnerable and at-risk groups)</i>	Total Beneficiaries		# Not Applicable (N/A)				
	Women:		# N/A				
	Girls:		# N/A				
	Men:		# N/A				
Boys:		# N/A					
Project Duration (months):	3	Starting Date:	04 Dec 14	Completion Date:	04 Mar 15	Delay (months)	N/A
Proposal Title: Establishing Rapid Response and Stabilization Teams (RRSTs) in the National Ebola Response Centre Secretariat (NERC).							
Funds Committed:	UNMER: US\$ 2,500,000.00		% of Approved:	98 %			
	UNOPSL US\$ 2,500,000.00		% of Approved:	73%			
Funds Disbursed:	UNMEER: US\$17,040		% of Approved:	0.6%			
	UNOPS: 1,065,380.17		% of Approved:	31 %			

PROPOSAL – MONTHLY PROGRESS UPDATE RESULT MATRIX

Strategic Objective to which the Proposal is contributing¹					
MCA (13): Multi-faceted preparedness SO 5 Prevent Further Spread	MCA Description : Strengthened NERC Secretariat successfully halts outbreak/spread of EVD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveillance triggers set up based on epidemiological criteria for RRST deployment; • Reconnaissance and assessment conducted; • Surge requirements determined in terms of for scope and scale of interventions; • Surge capacity deployed to augment DERCs. 				
Output Indicators	Geographical Focus Area	Target (as per Proposal Matrix)	Quantitative Results achieved at Month 1	Planned % Delivery Rate	Effective % Delivery Rate at Month 1
MCA 13-1: # of Surveillance Triggers leading to RRST deployment.	Freetown; National Coverage	2 deployment per RRST/ 6 per month	2 RRST deployment (Kono and Western Area).	33%	100%
MCA 13-2: # of Small, Medium and Full Surge interventions implemented as a result of RRST deployment.	Freetown; National Coverage	5 No surges 5 Small 3 Medium 2 Full	2 Full Surges 1 Medium Surge	100% Full 30% Medium	50% as the surge responses are still on-going
Supply of vehicles to support the Rapid Response and Stabilization Teams					
23 Ford vehicles procured	National and priority districts, Sierra Leone	The 23 Ford vehicles procured to fill critical gaps in Rapid response sub-districts (e.g., Kono) and aid in Surveillance Pillar activity (contact tracing).	23 Ford vehicles procured.	100%	100%
Contracting of NERC Personnel					
12 NERC Personnel contracted and salaries paid by UNOPS.	National, Sierra Leone	12 NERC personnel salaries paid by UNOPS.	12 NERC personnel salaries paid.	100 %	100%
Supply and installation of tents for Camps					
30 tents provided and installed in two camps	National, Sierra Leone	30 tents to be procured and installed in new outbreak Districts to support multi-faceted preparedness.	Supplier of tents identified and purchase order placed.	0%	0%

¹ Proposal can only contribute to one Strategic Objective

Supply and installation of tents for Camps					
Ground and platforms for 30 tents to be prepared in two camps	National, Sierra Leone	15-20 tents to be procured and installed in one of new Outbreak. Districts to support rapid response forward teams.	None. Awaiting site verification from NERC and subsequent scoping visit arranged by UNMEER.	0%	0%
Supply and provision of furnishings for the tents in the Camps					
Sets of furnishings to be procured to equip the tents of the two camps	National, Sierra Leone	Sets of furnishing to be procured to equip the tents of the two camps.	Market research and subsequent preparation of detailed specifications for the supply of furnishings to equipment the tents in the 2 camps.	0%	0%

Qualitative achievements against outcomes and results:

Please, describe the achievements including documents, reports, evaluations. Please include pictures if possible

Section1: Results and Outcomes expected

Section2: Impact on Gender Results

Section 3: Environmental Impact Assessment in reference to the proposal

Section 4: Describe the conditions based on which the proposal might have change its destination (even partially)

Section: 1 - Expected Results

MCA [13-1]: # of Surveillance Triggers leading to RRST deployment.

MCA [13-2]: # of Small, Medium and Full Surge interventions implemented as a result of RRST deployment.

- **Results:** RRST are engaged in the Western Area Surge for the duration of two weeks and beyond - activities are still ongoing. Support to assessment in Kono is underway. Two surges are planned based on the rapid assessments that have been deployed.
- The main support is to the teams of Medical and NERC personnel in the new outbreak sub-districts/Chiefdoms. A complement of support is offered that involves contracting of team leaders, providing them with work equipments, vehicles, and tent camps for team members. The vehicles are to be distributed and used to fill critical gaps in Rapid response sub-districts/Chiefdoms (e.g., Kono) and assist surveillance activities, especially contact tracing. With the support provided, assessments of hot spots are conducted efficiently and infection prevention and control activities are identified for the surge.

Outcome expected:

- Assessments leading to planning and operationalization of surges in the target locations.
- Decline in the transmission of the EVD cases in the surge locations; EVD surge and transmission is stopped in locations identified by the assessments.

Section: 2 – Deviation of the Proposal from the Original Plan

- When the proposal was submitted, the NERC was still being established and identified the key actions to mount rapid response to actively anticipate the EVD transmission and contain it totally at the epicenter. By the time the proposal was approved, preparation for one of the rapid assessments in Western Area (where Freetown, the capital is located) already indicated the benefit of deploying assessment teams and propose surge actions. Additionally, daily EVD data from different districts indicated the need for stepping up different Ebola response actions based on the core cause for EVD

transmission. Many partners also joined the response and resources for NERC and the DERCs increased.

- Due to the intensification of the Ebola response and the resource flow to the National Ebola Response Centre (NERC), couple of budgeted items were no longer needed to be procured from this budget. The planned procurement of 80 motorbikes and 50 mobile phones were provided to the NERC from other donors. While no budget was indicated in the original proposal for Satellite phones, NERC identified urgent requirement for them and 24 Satellite Phones were included in the procurement plan.
- The project implementation also had a slow start due to resources being made available by other partners responding to the Ebola cases in the country and the launch of district to district planning process. In a way, this slow start supported this project as both UNMEER and UNOPS could consult all stakeholders before confirming the quantities of equipment and supplies required for procurement actions.

Section: 3 - Gender Impact

- Nothing specific to report.

Section: 4 - Environmental Impact

- Nothing specific to report.

Visual Documentation:

Vehicles for rapid response teams and surveillance activities



With Canopies Fitted



Rapid Response Team upon return to Freetown (missing few are in the field)



REPORT FROM RAPID RESPONSE TEAM

FUNDER: UNMEER

DURATION OF REPORT: 1ST December – 31ST December 2014

**NATIONAL EBOLA RESPONSE CENTRE FIELD MONITORS FOR OPERATION WESTERN
AREA SURGE DECEMBER 2014**

INTRODUCTION

The Ebola epidemic is deteriorating in the western area creating hotspots in some major parts of the city in the last six weeks to the planning phase of the western Area Surge operation.

The western area has been classified as an Ebola hotspot in the last six weeks identifiable through higher than national levels of the high transmission of the EVD cases. This abnormality has triggered the government of Sierra Leone through the NERC to take a better and stronger action in breaking the transmission chain of the deadly EVD virus.

As the Epidemic gets deteriorated in the Western Area, the living and or the authorities needed to take more robust measures to mitigate and or eradicate the spread using a strategy of a house to house search and administer a mass malaria drug (MDA) to eliminate one of Africa's deadliest killer diseases called malaria by health workers. At this level which is approximately about 7 days , surveillance officers and contact tracers that were hired in the communities will undergo a house to house exercise in order to identify and locate any member of the community that has any of the **WHO** four symptoms of EVD. It is anticipated that this operation will help eradicate EVD in the Western Area (Urban and Rural) through active Case Search, robust surveillance and Contact tracing; backed-up by a well-coordinated community engagement.

SCOPE

In an effort to ensure that the intended proactive approach was properly implemented on the ground, Rapid Response Coordinators (RRCs) and other members of staff of NERC were deployed to liaise with the Western Area DERC officials to monitor the exercise. The exercise involved the movement of RRCs from NERC headquarters to different locations around the urban and rural districts of the Western Area to see what was happening on the ground. Two teams were created amongst the RRCs and Staff of NERC to monitor the rural and urban districts of the Western Area.

GENERAL SITUATION

The months of October, November and early December 2014 experienced an escalation in the transmission of EVD cases above the national average in the Western Area and some districts. Accordingly, NERC decided to conduct an operation code named “Operation Western Area Surge” (Operation WAS) which was aimed at taking proactive measures to actively seek out and identify infected persons within the communities.

CONDUCT OF EXERCISE

The exercise involved the movement of RRCs from NERC headquarters to different locations around the urban and rural districts of the Western Area to see what was happening on the ground. Two teams were created amongst the RRCs and Staff of NERC to monitor the rural and urban districts of the Western Area.

Since vehicles were insufficient, RRCs had to break up in groups of up to six in a vehicle to move around checking what was going on. The exercise was rolled out on the 17th December 2014 and went on to the end of the month. The following pointers were what the operation intended to achieve thus:

- Required to secure enduring community ownership of the Ebola response
- Working at Ward Level with appropriate NGOs/ Civil Society Groups/ anthropologists and engaging with
 - Ward Municipal Structures
 - Traditional and Tribal Leaders
 - Religious Leaders
 - Women’s Leaders (Mammy Queen)
 - Youth Leaders
- Technical input for development of specific proposals sought from Social Mobilisation Pillar
- Psychosocial Pillar to be consulted re survivor abstinence and re-integration

KEY OBSERVATIONS

The objectives of the Western Area Surge were:

- Reduce the transmission rate in Western Area over the period Dec 17 to Jan 15, and to ultimately stop new transmissions of Ebola.
- Restore faith in healthcare services.
- Influence the public to self-identify when sick.

FINDINGS DURING THE SURGE MONITORING:

- No Ebola sanitation material found in most of the visited location – Eg. Old wharf which was also tagged as a hot spot.
- Some residents prevented us from entering their premises or left before we visited their premises- Eg. Old wharf
- Evidence indicates that some residents kept their sick loved ones in the toilet to prevent us from identifying them.
- Councilor and Honorable of Ward **365** were unaware or had no linkage with the DSO and contact tracers working in the respective ward.
- Lack of relationship between the councilor and the honorable in the fight against the deadly EVD in the WARD 365.
- Some EVD suspected cases were identified in ward 364 but contact with 117 and or vehicle to take them to holding center was not possible.
- Some houses in the WARD 360 had positive EVD cases but no quarantine officer was found manning the premise as it was very bushy with poor or no visibility from 10 meters away.
- General delay in the response and return time of 117 had the propensity to dampen confidence in WARD 365
- Evidence from Mustapha lane – Mamba Ridge indicates that the quarantined homes lack adequate food supply.
- No provision in the quarantined package for babies and under fives
- No decontamination facility was evidence in the quarantined homes as stated by the inmates.
- Supplied food invoice indicates some items that were physical missing or not delivered.
- Metal hospital has very bed capacity as illustrated by the medical superintendent as all beds are occupied. He reiterated that the hospital lack food for patients, no electricity for the hospital, vehicle and money to pay hazards staff.

ASSESSMENT

- Quarantine homes lack adequate or no security personnel presence
- Food items for babies and water not adequate
- Decontamination not evident.
- Quarantine homes not properly kept as most have more filth than it were before the outbreak.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- We recommend more security for the quarantine homes
- Generally we feel the WAS is a success but its benefits can only be enhance by an extension of the surge
- We also recommend that surveillance officer and contact tracers be recruited from the communities.
- We also recommend that the surge strategy be conducted in all districts of the republic of sierra Leone to discontinue and create awareness in all districts
- Districts sharing borders with other affected countries must have a full scale secretariat to respond in all emergency situations.
- The use of the PPE kit must be closely looked into for all surveillance, quarantines and contact tracers in the communities.
- We strongly recommend the first aid clearing water be provided to al quarantine homes
- Food must be adequately provided for all inmates and security officers to ensure they stay at their duty posts always.
- The Ministry of Health to make separate arrangement to pick up sick people that do not meet the WHO criteria and take them where they will receive appropriate attention and medication. This will increase the confidence of people to report promptly of any sick within the community.