

August Monthly Report: Interagency Stewardship

PROPOSAL TITLE: EBOLA RESPONSE INTERAGENCY STEWARDSHIP					
Strategic Objective to which the Proposal is contributing	Zero Ebola Cases in Guinea, Sierra Leone and across Region (including Liberia)				
Effect Indicators	Geographical Area (where proposal will directly operate)	Baseline In the exact area of operation	Target ¹	Progress August	Means of verification and Responsible Org.
Zero Ebola Cases	Guinea, Sierra Leone and Region	3,3,0	0,0,0	0,3,0	WHO situation reports; ECMs, RIECL
MCA [13]					
Output Indicators	Geographical Area	Target	Progress August	Means of verification	Responsible Org.
Stakeholders contribute to the National Ebola Response: Stakeholders contribute to the formulation of the Ebola Response Country Operational Plans	Guinea Sierra Leone	70% stakeholders attend and participate	70%	Reported by Government and UNSGE office	ECMs, RIECL
Cross-border, regional and international coordination maintained: Ebola Response Coordination Board functioning successfully	Guinea and Sierra Leone	70% stakeholders attend meetings	70%	Notes of weekly stakeholder meetings; board meetings	ECMs, RIECL

Highlights

- Follow up to last UNMEER Coordination Board meeting of July 30. At that meeting the major directions of the 'Phase 3 Plan' were agreed, along with a timeline and next steps for translating the framework into an overall plan and budget through March 2016.
- Preparation and holding of Coordination Board meeting August 30. The Coordination Board agreed that the Phase 3 Strategy needed to be nationally owned and decided to immediately to continue national consultations and begin adaptations according to national/local needs. This would be followed by in-country agreement on responsibilities.

^{1 1} Number of cases and deaths last week of the month

- H.E. the President of Sierra Leone was briefed on the latest developments and future planning regarding the Ebola response.
- ECM Sierra Leone is now involved in helping organise a National Day of Remembrance.
- ECM Guinea, supported by RIECL, continued work to persuade all political parties not to politicise the issue of Ebola in the run up to the election.
- RIECL acted for Guinea ECM during his absence and also worked to implement transfer from UNMEER to WHO/ICE.

Regional and International Coordination

Follow up to July 30 UNMEER Coordination Board²: this final meeting of the Board was chaired by Acting SRSG (P Graaff) with SESG (Dr Nabarro) and the Ebola leads of UNICEF, IFRC and WFP, the OCHA Ebola lead and the Ebola Crisis Managers of SL and GUI. The agenda included a review of all major agency activities, a detailed presentation/discussion on the epidemiology and response and impact, the transition of the overall response coordination from UNMEER to WHO, the Phase 3 Framework, and acute financing needs. The major directions of the 'Phase 3 Plan' were agreed, along with a timeline and next steps for translating the framework into an overall plan and budget through March 2016. Regarding information management transition from UNMEER to ICE, it was agreed that the following would be produced: 1) weekly WHO report; 2) weekly interagency report (led by OCHA); monthly report to the SG by the WHO DG.

During August, the RIECL had several meetings with Jorge Goncalves (UNMEER CMS) and the liquidation team and intervened with several UN agencies (especially regarding donations) to help ensure that the Mission remains on track to close by the end of August³. He also worked with WHO to plan the weekly coordination calls that were initiated between WHO/HQ, WHO/RO and the ECMs, focused on operations and political context.

The ICE Coordination Board meeting was held on August 30⁴. The Coordination Board agreed that the Phase 3 Strategy needed to be nationally owned and decided to immediately to continue consultations and begin adaptations. This would be followed by in-country agreement on responsibilities. Note on staffing: By end of August 2015 most ICE posts had been filled, but the Special Advisor post for ECM Guinea and the admin assistant posts for ECM Sierra Leone and RIECL still needed recruiting.

Guinea

RIECL acted for Guinea ECM during his absence⁵. He had meetings were held with WHO/Security , OCHA, the National Authorities as well as the US, French and UK Ambassadors to review the planning for the elections in terms of general state and risks, especially vis-à-vis the ability to continue with the Ebola response during a period of tension and possible violence. He also had meetings with WHO and the National Authorities to review the epidemiology of the outbreak as well as response focus and capacity

² Source: Coordination Board minutes, August 30, 2015

³ Source: P.Graaff travel report eTR111375

⁴ Source: Coordination Board Minutes, August 30, 2015

⁵ Source: P.Graaff travel report eTR111375

in the priority areas (focus on Ratoma); and meetings with WHO, OCHA and UNICEF regarding phase 3 planning (and in particular the need to articulate rapid response requirements and capacity).

Sierra Leone

ECM reported⁶ response structures in Sierra Leone were transitioning to the Office of National Security and that in a Disaster Management Agency would be established as part of the “Agenda for Prosperity”. Sierra Leone’s countdown to zero began on Tuesday 25 August (so could conclude on 5 October). They were working with silent districts to ensure readiness to address any future problems.

In Sierra Leone⁷, ICE is supporting the NERC to develop a concept note for the National Day of Remembrance (both for people who had died from Ebola and for people whose death had been treated as an Ebola death). ICE was also supporting NERC to capture Sierra Leone lessons learnt. ECM Sierra Leone said hand-over of work from ICE, to the government and also to the RC system should be planned.

ECM Sierra Leone briefed ADG Aylward ahead of his meeting with H.E. the President of Sierra Leone⁸. H.E. asked a number of questions, expressed his own confidence that the outbreak can be stopped in the near term, and reaffirmed the importance of risk management through 2016 per Phase 3 timelines.

ECM Sierra Leone briefed partners on the background of the yellow wrist band initiative⁹. The band is worn as a show of affirmation and commitment to help the Sierra Leone people fight the Ebola Virus. The yellow color was selected by Sierra Leone Association of Journalists as a sign of hope for ending Ebola and to recovery; it is also to acknowledge that women share the burden of the outbreak. It was supported financially through UNICEF, UNWomen and UNMEER to affirm the international commitment. Symbolically, the ECM has requested that staff wear yellow on Fridays.

During the Ebola Development Partners meeting on August 25¹⁰, ECM Sierra Leone explained that the current coordination structure must remain in place. There is need to have a predictable rapid response mechanism at national level, and a linked mechanism if needed at district level. Discussion on vigilance maintenance and preparedness planning for the silent districts are ongoing.

ENDS

⁶ Source: Ebola Development Partners Meeting August 11, 2015

⁷ Source: Coordination Board Minutes, August 30, 2015

⁸ Source: ADG Aylward Travel Report

⁹ Source: Ebola Development Partners Meeting August 11, 2015

¹⁰ Source: Ebola Development Partners Meeting August 25, 2015