



Liberia Ebola Situation Report no. 55

8 October 2014

unicef 

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- Since the UNICEF SitRep of 3 October 2014, an additional 41 probable cases and 7 new confirmed cases of Ebola as well as 83 new deaths were added to the official totals for Liberia.
- Montserrado remains the epicenter of the epidemic, with 64 new cases recorded this week. While still the county of second-highest incidence, Lofa County recorded just 3 new cases, indicating the epidemic curve may be steadying in the county. Bong County continued to report a rise, adding an additional 12 cases and Nimba 1 additional case. Margibi, however, recorded 87 fewer cases.
- The first dedicated children's Interim Care Center has opened in Monrovia for children who have lost one or both parents to Ebola, which will serve as a safe place for children during the 21-day quarantine period after the child last had contact with someone infected with Ebola.
- UNICEF is working with the MoHSW and key partners on developing specifications, standard operating procedures and training material in order to roll out Community Care Centres in the worst-affected counties.
- UNICEF has so far airlifted 19,635 Household Protection Kits and 7,081 kg of chlorine to Liberia. The kits, which contain protective gear and sanitation supplies, will be distributed to the five counties with the highest rates of EVD. A total of 50,000 kits have been procured and will be airlifted in the coming weeks.
- The Nutrition Sector comprising various governmental and non-governmental actors was officially reactivated. The sector has agreed to come up with Ebola-related nutrition guidelines and protocols.

Ebola statistics as of 4 October:

3,921 cases including:

- 1,190 suspected
- 1,796 probable
- 935 confirmed

2,199 deaths including:

- 488 suspected
- 699 probable
- 1,012 confirmed

190 cases and 92 deaths among health care workers

Counties of highest incidence:

- Montserrado: 1,635
- Lofa: 793
- Margibi: 562
- Bong: 369
- Nimba: 246

UNICEF funding needs for the next six months: USD 64.77 million

UNICEF funding gap: USD 54.70 million

*All Ebola statistics in this report are drawn from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW) Ebola SitRep #142, which reports cumulative cases as of 4 October 2014.

Situation Overview

During the reporting period, the number of cases continued to rise in all counties except Margibi. Montserrado County remains the current epicentre of the outbreak, recording 64 new cases during the current reporting period.

Meanwhile, despite improvements in capacities for laboratory testing and dead body management, a number of areas of concern have been identified related to food security, WASH, early recovery and social mobilisation. These included: inadequate funding to address food security challenges, WASH activities and social mobilisation activities; heavy rain disrupting food distribution; delays in data collection from the Government County teams and a requirement for age and gender disaggregated data; the need to scale up solid infection waste management; low capacity of local authorities as a consequence of governance centralisation; and the absence of a nationwide monitoring mechanism for verifying figures in the EVD outbreak. Additionally, there is still a need for more than 200 social workers and mental health clinicians in Liberia. Data on Ebola-affected children remains limited.

The latest situation report from the Liberian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW) indicates that staff at Bong County Ebola Treatment Unit have ended their boycott and returned to work.

General health services also remain overwhelmed. Given the need for rapid expansion of the response to arrest the spread of the epidemic, UNICEF is examining its funding requirements expecting them to increase.

Health and Nutrition

- As part of the restoration of basic health services, in particular the resumption of the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) in the context of Ebola, the MoHSW together with UNICEF and key partners agreed on a 5 point plan, namely: 1) Analyze the Routine Immunization Performance (January to August 2014); 2) Social mobilisation working group to work on messaging; 3) Train vaccinators on Infection Prevention and Control; 4) Provide thermal guns to vaccinator; 5) Visit health facilities in selected counties to verify immunization activities.
- In addition to providing technical support to the restoration of routine health services strategy, partnerships with major national and international NGOs are being developed to complement these efforts, thereby ensuring the availability of essential supplies, training, monitoring and supervision to enable the rapid adoption of revised protocols.
- UNICEF continued discussions with the MoHSW's National Malaria Control Program on the distribution of long-lasting treated nets nationwide during the EVD crisis, in light of increased malaria incidence during the rainy season. UNICEF will add Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLIN) to the already-planned distribution of hygiene kits in selected communities in the five worst-affected EVD counties (Montserrado, Marghibi, Bong, Lofa and Nimba), following the national guidelines. The initial target is 50,000 households, with potential for an additional 100,000.

WASH

- UNICEF released 6,000 Kg of chlorine to the MoHSW that will be used to disinfect Ebola Treatment Units and health facilities as well as be utilised in the process of managing dead bodies.
- A cumulative number of 494 families (out of 3,000 planned) received hygiene kits in communities residing near the SDK stadium, Monrovia.
- UNICEF provided water and sanitation supplies and continued to supervise the construction and installation of WASH facilities at the Ministry of Defence and SKD Stadium ETUs. The ETUs have now been connected to Monrovia's water supply system. Borehole drilling is in its final stage and excavation works for septic tanks is now underway.
- In order to address the need to better manage hazardous liquid waste from ETUs, UNICEF and WHO conducted a joint technical inspection of the Old Monrovia Waste Water Treatment Plant at Fiamah. UNICEF in collaboration

with WHO and CDC will develop safety protocols to ensure appropriate treatment of wastewater from ETUs using existing facilities.

- UNICEF, along with key partners, reviewed the Environmental and Social Screening and Assessment Framework (ESSAF) that provides guidelines and procedures to ensure that all Ebola response activities are in compliance with the Liberian national environmental legislations.
- UNICEF continued to host the regular technical forum on ETU design and construction of WASH components.

Communication for Development (C4D)

- UNICEF's cohort of 30 field-based Community Mobilization Coordinators met in Monrovia for a general briefing and discussion on the rollout of a formalized reporting and monitoring system to continually assess the impact of social mobilization efforts across all 15 counties.

Child Protection

- UNICEF supported discussions amongst the Child Protection sub-Cluster focusing on building consensus on the guidelines and protocol for interim care for children affected by Ebola. The ICC responds to the very unique care needs of children who have had contact with infected persons, often their parents, and require observation for 21 days during the quarantine period for Ebola. The majority of these children are supported during this period by their families but a growing number of children require interim care in a centre or with foster parents because their parents are dead or their extended families and communities reject them for fear of contracting the virus.
- In partnership with the MoHSW and the Ebola National Task Force, UNICEF is organizing a two-day Strategic Planning Workshop for the Child Protection sub-Cluster, aiming at building consensus on priority interventions for child protection in the overall National Ebola Operational Plan, mapping the partnerships across the six highly-affected counties and developing a rapid response mechanism for children who require immediate assistance.
- The Swiss National Committee delegation visited the only existing Transit Centre for child survivors of Ebola, which is being supported by UNICEF. A total of 39 children (24 girls and 15 boys) have been accommodated in the Transit Centre during the last weeks, of which 37 have been reunified with their families.

Education

As part of the Ministry of Education's Ebola Response Plan, UNICEF supported the Ministry in the design and rollout of a rapid-scale teacher training across 15 counties. This plan has been developed to ensure house-to-house visits and interactions aimed at educating families on Ebola prevention and home protection over the course of one month. The cascade training of County Education officers and Districts officers has been delivered during the past two weeks with a total of 403 education workers now effectively oriented on Ebola awareness.

Programme Results

UNICEF is currently refining its programme results framework and indicators, while also developing methods and sources for data collection, monitoring and evaluation. Revised or additional indicators for all programmes will be developed and reported in future situation reports.

	UNICEF TARGET	UNICEF RESULT	% TARGET COVERED
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)			
Estimated # of people reached with hygiene kits	250,000	66,470	27%
Estimated # of people reached by hygiene promotion messages and awareness	275,000	187,502	68%
CHILD PROTECTION			
# of children participating in psycho-social activities	300	60	20%
# of orphaned and abandoned children (survivors or contacts) reintegrated into their families or placed into appropriate alternative care	300	52	17%
EDUCATION			
# of education workers effectively trained as Ebola awareness social mobilizers	11,165	403	3.6%
COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (C4D)			
# of master trainers trained on social mobilization and community awareness	120	40	33%
# of general Community Health Volunteers trained in social mobilization	2,371	400	17%

Media and External Communications

- Spokespersons for UNICEF have been featured in global news programming highlighting UNICEF's role in the response, while field visits for international journalists have also been arranged. Samples of resulting coverage include:
 - o [On the need for a heightened international response](#) (The Globe and Mail)
 - o [On the rollout of mobile technology to streamline information flow during the epidemic](#) (Politico)
 - o [On UNICEF's social mobilization work with adolescents in West Point](#) (AFP)

Funding

UNICEF's funding needs for the next six months have increased exponentially. The need for the next six months is estimated to be USD 64.77 million. The current funding gap is USD 54.70 million. International support is urgently needed to rapidly scale up activities to reverse the trajectory of the outbreak.

Next SitRep: 15/10/2014

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