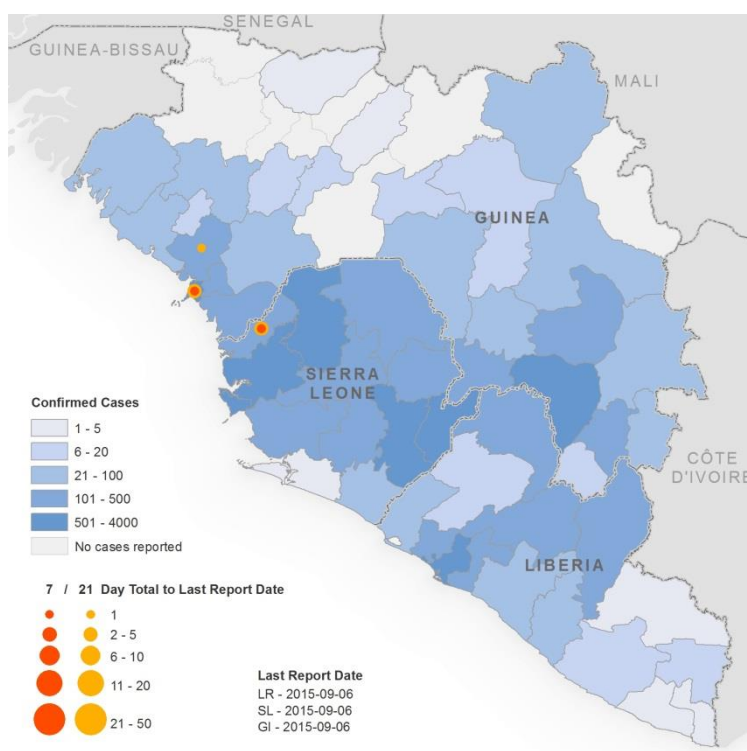


This is a situation report by the Interagency Collaboration on Ebola replacing situation reports previously produced by UNMEER. The report is produced by OCHA Regional Office for West and Central Africa in collaboration with WHO and humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 31 August to 6 September 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 22 September.

Highlights

- For the week of 31 August – 6 September, two confirmed cases have been reported: one in Conakry, Guinea, and the other in Kambia, Sierra Leone.
- On 3 September the Ministry of Health and WHO declared Liberia free of Ebola transmission again following 42 days without a new confirmed case.
- Follow-up of more than 900 contacts is underway in Kambia district, Sierra Leone, following the community death of a 67-year-old, confirmed post-mortem, and the Ebola-positive confirmation of her daughter on 5 September. More than 50 of the contacts are considered high risk, and surveillance teams are on alert for additional cases.
- IFRC and the Sierra Leone Red Cross are coordinating with UNDP on a Multi-Party Trust Fund financed project to support the reintegration of 800 safe and dignified burials and IPC volunteers through vocational training, educational support and other streams.



Epidemiological status and response efforts

- For the week ending 6 September, two cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) have been reported. One case from Ratoma, Conakry, in Guinea, is a 13-year-old girl who is a known contact of an earlier case. The new case from Tonko Limba, Kambia in Sierra Leone, is a 48 year-old-woman, the daughter of the Ebola community death reported the previous week.
- The new case in Sierra Leone had been identified as a high risk contact and was being monitored by contact tracing teams. More than 900 contacts continue to be monitored in Kambia in relation to the two cases. Community engagement and social mobilization teams are working closely with authorities in the affected area to ensure proper messaging and application of infection prevention and safe burial guidelines.
- The prefecture of Forecariah in Guinea, once the geographical location of widespread transmission, has now been classified as an inactive prefecture, after marking the end of the 21-day period of monitoring the final contacts on 4 September.
- No new cases were reported in Liberia. On 3 September, the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization issued statements declaring the outbreak over. Liberia now enters a period of 90 days of heightened surveillance.

- In all three countries, whole blood samples from suspect cases and swabs from dead bodies continue to be tested for EVD. WHO and partners continue with active case searching, supervision and mentoring of contact tracers and contact tracing activities.

Cross-border collaboration

- A cross-border meeting took place on 4 September in Grand Cape Mount County in Liberia, aimed at reviewing the status of cooperation between Sierra Leone and Liberia as well as supporting cross-border surveillance efforts. The meeting was hosted by the Grand Cape Mount County Superintendent, County Health Team and county-based partners in implementation of the county's cross-border operational plan.
- In Sierra Leone, a training was conducted to strengthen community engagement along the border. 90 Community Volunteers received training and are now carrying out activities in 21 crossing points out of 54 in 3 chiefdoms. The Red Cross is leading the Community Engagement through the use of its 17 information kiosks in Kambia district.

Emergency Telecommunications

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) is supporting WHO's operations by providing internet connectivity to approximately 20x WHO offices and operational areas across Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. The ETC is also providing WHO personnel with laptops, smartphones, satellite phones, printers and many WHO vehicles were equipped with VHF radio equipment.
- The ETC cluster is providing ongoing support for data and security telecoms services with ongoing support to Main and Forward Logistics Bases. Fifteen VHF radios were programmed for IOM and radio training was conducted for Save the Children drivers.
- In line with the phase-out plan, the ETC is working on a comprehensive Transition Strategy, aimed at ensuring a smooth transition of the services to commercial solutions, avoiding any possible interruptions in the service.

Guinea

One new case has been reported in Conakry. The 13 year-old girl is a known contact of an earlier case. One of the hotspots in recent months, Forecariah has now been classified as an inactive prefecture, after 21 days without a new case.

Contact tracing / surveillance

- UNFPA is supporting innovative contact tracing in Dubreka, Conakry and Forecariah through the use of CommCare, an open source mobile platform designed for data collection, client management, decision support, and behavior change communication.
- In view of reinforcing surveillance activities, ACF distributed 230 bicycles to community workers in Forecariah.
- Since late August, the FAO through a Technical Cooperation Programme has deployed two missions in Guinea. The first is assessing the risks of EVD transmission in human-wildlife-ecosystem in protected areas, and the second deals with the qualitative and quantitative assessment of the impact of Ebola on the value chain of bush meat.



Food distribution conducted by WFP in Conakry, Guinea, in the context of the active research campaign. Credit: WFP / Mamadoudian Diallo.

Community Engagement

- The Ministry of Youth and Youth Employment joined the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Interior and Security's campaign to prevent drivers from transporting corpses or sick people. For the fourth consecutive week, those involved in the campaign checked passengers' temperature and asked them to wash their hands at Conakry's major transport hubs and thoroughfares.
- ACF's social mobilization teams in Conakry have been monitoring health activity management committees set up in the districts of Lambangni, Simenbosia, Sonfonia, Kobaya, Tanerie, Kissosso, Plateau and Tombolia and donated materials to these committees.

Education

- In preparation for schools re-opening in October, UNICEF delivered soap to 3,555 schools in the areas most affected by Ebola, including Conakry.

Food Security

- ACF organized the training of investigators for the carrying out of a rapid assessment of the needs of the population directly affected by EVD in the Forecariah prefecture.
- On 25 August, in the prefecture of Koubia, WFP distributed 723 MT of food to 8,000 households benefiting 40,000 people. The prefecture was selected based on the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) results, which indicated that 41 per cent of households in Koubia are food insecure.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- UNICEF transported 30,000 family WASH kits to the region of Nzérékoré to support preventative health and hygiene promotion activities.

Sierra Leone

A team of experts in ring vaccination has travelled from Conakry, Guinea, to join a WHO and Ministry of Health team in Kambia district, where a death in the community was reported and tested positive for Ebola virus disease. The source of the Ebola virus transmission is being investigated and contact tracing for more than 900 contacts is underway.

Health

- IOM clinicians in collaboration with the Ebola Response Consortium¹ (ERC) are currently providing Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) training support at Connaught, Princess Christian's Maternity and Ola During Children's Hospitals and have now trained 772 hospital personnel.
- Through this week, some 1,200 health workers from Peripheral Health Units (PHUs) including Port Loko, Koinadugu and Kailahun received training on Immunization in Practice (IIP) through trainings by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS), supported by UNICEF.



In Port Loko district, the Red Cross intensified community engagement activities through the UNICEF-led Social mobilisation initiative. Credit: IFRC/2015.

¹ERC partners include the International Rescue Committee, GOAL, Concern Worldwide, Save the Children, CARE, IOM, Oxfam, Solidarities, ACF, MdM, ABC, MUWODA, Welbodi Alliance, King's Sierra Leone Partnership, and e-Health.

- NGO partners of the ERC are supporting the Ministry of Health and Sanitation to provide IPC and WASH support to 22 Government Hospitals. To date, 6,075 hospital staff have been trained. In addition, the ERC supports a network of over 7,000 community health monitors implementing Community Event Based Surveillance (CEBS) across nine districts. Last week, over 500 Ebola suspicious alerts were generated through this system. All support and activities mentioned above are funded by UK aid from the British people and by the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).

Research and development

- Following the extension of the Guinea Ring Vaccination trial to Sierra Leone, a team of experts in ring vaccination has travelled from Conakry, Guinea to join a large WHO and Ministry of Health team already in the district where the new case has been reported. The source of the Ebola virus transmission is being investigated and all the people who may have been in contact with the infected person are being traced. The 'ring vaccination' strategy involves vaccinating all contacts and contacts of contacts. The Guinea Ebola vaccine trial is the coordinated effort of many international agencies.

Community engagement and social mobilization

- Following the confirmation of the new case in Kambia on 30 August, the WHO community engagement team is actively dialoguing with community members on messages to encourage early reporting, not to wash the dead, and to refrain from getting involved in burial rituals and practices.
- A total of 38 contacts were discharged on 29 August from quarantine and community monitoring in Freetown, bringing an end to the last Ebola transmission chain in the Western Area.
- In response to the new confirmed case in Kambia at the end of August, UNICEF supported the rapid mobilisation of community engagement operations in the district, including through social mobilization partners Restless Development, the Health For All Coalition and the Sierra Leone Red Cross. 1,772 social mobilizers have been deployed in Port Loko and Kambia districts. In Port Loko, 16,273 people, 2,155 community leaders, and 790 traditional healers have been reached to ensure greater vigilance at borders and wharfs.
- The Radio-in-a-box show, a mobile FM station aimed at receiving feedback from communities, was carried out in 11 communities in Port Loko, Kambia, Tonkolili, and Western Area Rural.
- WHO provided technical support to checkpoints and government hospitals in Kambia, Port Loko and Tonkolili, Sierra Leone.

Contact tracing / surveillance

- In Community Event Based Surveillance (CEBS), 801 community based volunteers and 24 volunteer supervisors in Port Loko district completed their first month of reporting on suspected cases with Ebola symptoms and triggering events for Ebola. Reporting is done via phone call from community volunteers to supervisors, who report to the District Health Management Team (DHMT) / District Emergency Response Center (DERC) to activate the response. CEBS is being rolled out in Bonthe and Koinadugu districts where 52 volunteer supervisors and 23 Community Health Officers attended training of trainers (ToT)
- In Western Area, UNFPA supported 2-day refresher trainings with 369 enhanced contact tracers and 69 supervisors focusing on existing and new roles and responsibilities in the context of having no known contacts in the district.
- The WHO Integrated Disease Surveillance and response (IDSR) team worked with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS) and partners to develop electronic community-based surveillance: e-IDSR and district training in IDSR. The IDSR 2015 recovery plan was updated in consultation with the MoHS and shared with partners.

Safe and dignified burials

- IFRC and the Sierra Leone Red Cross are coordinating with UNDP on a Multi-Party Trust Fund financed project to support the reintegration of 800 safe and dignified burials and IPC volunteers through vocational training, educational support and other streams.

Recovery

- The Comprehensive Package for EVD Survivors, which includes psychosocial, social and medical care, was outlined by President Bai Koroma and launched during a ceremony held last week to open the national campaign to prevent stigmatization of survivors. The President discouraged the stigmatization of Ebola survivors commending them as the heroes in the war against Ebola.
- The Sierra Leone Association of Ebola Survivors (SLAES) has been engaged and will take an active part in the Survivor technical working group and steering committee, and will assume the role as main driver of the Comprehensive Package.

Education

- As part of the Education Recovery Plan, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the Education Consortium and partners (Concern Worldwide, the IRC, Save the Children, IBIS, Plan Sierra Leone, World Vision, CRS, and CEFORD) completed the development of the MEST Accelerated Teaching Syllabi for Primary, Junior Secondary and Senior Secondary schools in July 2015, and printed, and distributed 26,948 copies of the syllabi to all schools in the country. The teacher training will end by 5 September. All activities were funded by DfID.
- Schools reopened nationwide on 31 August, with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology supported by UNICEF to ensure hygiene safety supplies in schools were verified, and, where necessary, replenished. Teachers have received training in psychosocial support in order to properly address the needs of children impacted by Ebola.

Protection

- Following the new case in Kambia district, UNICEF child protection teams conducted assessments and reached 365 children and 362 adults with psycho-social support, and also provided 50 kits of household items, 100 recreation kits, and 100 mattresses for children in quarantine houses.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- IOM and IMC will provide IPC and WASH support to a total of 21 private health facilities under a new 6-month project with support from DfID. IOM will support 11 facilities including 5 in Western Area Urban, 3 in Bo, 2 in Moyamba and 1 in Kenema.

Liberia

On 3 September the Ministry of Health and WHO declared Liberia free of Ebola transmission again following 42 days without a new confirmed case.

Liberia now enters a 90-day intensive surveillance period. However the current rate of county reporting on suspect cases is too low country-wide.

Health

- On 3 September the Ministry of Health and WHO declared Liberia free of Ebola transmission again following 42 days without a new confirmed case. The previous declaration took place on 8 May but was interrupted end of June with a third wave outbreak localized in Margibi and Montserrado counties.
- Liberia now enters a 90-day intensive surveillance period. However the current rate of county



South African technical consultants installing the autoclave at Redemption Hospital, Monrovia. Credit: UNDP/ Sam Zota, 2 Sept 2015.

reporting on suspect cases is too low country-wide and an accountability mechanism will be put in place to ensure a more comprehensive reporting.

- The objective of 100 per cent dead bodies being swab-tested is far from being achieved with a country-wide percentage of about 26 per cent bodies being tested and lack of laboratory capacity to sustained enhanced testing. Swab collection protocols are being reviewed with support from CDC and Global Communities to ensure a wider coverage and more decentralised collection at district level.
- In an effort to remedy the poor state of medical waste disposal in Liberia's health facilities, UNDP in conjunction with the Ministry of Health this week completed the installation of an autoclave at the Redemption Hospital in New Kru Town, Bushrod Island and Monrovia. This project is part of UNDP's support to health recovery, ensuring that clinical wastes are sterilized and disposed of in an eco-friendly manner throughout the country. The package comes complete with technical assistance for installation, staff training and management of the autoclaves in addition to generators and shredders. UNDP has invested close to US\$1million in this project so far.
- International Medical Corps (IMC) launched its Screening and Referral Units (SRUs) at G. W. Harley Hospital in Sanniquellie and Ganta Methodist Hospital in Ganta, both in Nimba County. Additional SRUs are planned for launch in September at three health facilities in Bong County along the Guinea border. Since January 2015, more than 345,000 people have been screened across 16 health facilities and 64 people referred at International Medical Corps' SRU-supported health facilities in Bong, Margibi, and Montserrado Counties.
- Concern signed MOUs with three health facilities in Brewerville, Montserrado County, in view of increasing the IPC capacity of the facilities by building semi-permanent triage and isolation units and rehabilitating / constructing WASH components. The construction will begin in the next two weeks.
- As part of its overall support to the restoration of regular health services in Liberia, UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Health (MoH) on last mile distribution of essential medicines and supplies to 657 health facilities in 15 counties.
- IMC's psychosocial support team provided supervision and technical guidance to social workers in three recently crisis-affected communities in Margibi County - Needowein, Jungle Farm and Charlesville – as the social workers facilitated community healing dialogues, in coordination with WHO and UNICEF.
- As part of efforts to support intensified surveillance efforts, WHO, in collaboration with the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and FIND, supported the expansion of EVD diagnostic capacity through training of lab technicians in the use of GeneXpert equipment and installation of the same at the ELWA ETU in Monrovia.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- WASH in Schools (WINS) programme is now considering establishing school Health Clubs and Menstrual Hygiene which will be standardized and included in the WINS Protocol. Technical guidelines for latrines construction are also being reviewed. The implementation of WNS has already started in 60 schools in three Counties of Bomi, Grand Cape Mount and Grand Bassa with IOM supporting the repair/rehabilitation of boreholes and planning the renovation of schools latrines.
- Permanent screening and safe isolation units at hospitals in Bong (C.B. Dunbar Hospital) and in Montserrado (SDA Cooper Hospital/Monrovia) are planned and construction work will begin in September with support from IMC.

Nutrition

- In Liberia, to-date 111 Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) sites have been established. As a result, there is now at least one OTP site per health district in 12 counties. UNICEF is supporting this effort.

Education

- With support from UNICEF, a six-day training of 636 county level trainers across all counties in Liberia on child-friendly pedagogy and psychosocial support commenced on 31 August. The trainers will train at least 10,000 teachers and 5,000 parents-teachers association (PTA) members in the subsequent weeks to cover all schools in the country.

Food Security

- The latest FEWS Net remote monitoring update notes that given the regularity of rice imports and prospects of average to above average 2015 harvests, food availability and income-generating opportunities through agricultural labour will likely improve, leading to minimal (IPC Phase 1) food insecurity during the October to December harvest period. The update however confirms the low purchasing power of most households.

Logistics

- The Logistics Cluster has updated its Road Access Constraints map for Liberia. Very poor road conditions have been reported between Ganta and Saniquelle (Nimba county along the Guinean border) and in Grand Gedeh county along the Ivorian border. The road between Buchanan and Tapitta is currently non practicable due to bridges washed away by heavy down pour of rains.
- The WFP-led Logistics Cluster is working with the Government of Liberia on the implementation of a transition strategy. The role of the Logistics Cluster is progressively shifting from “service provider of last resort” to coordinating body after September 2015 before final phase-out.

High level meetings

- Following a national validation meeting in Freetown, Sierra Leone on 24-25 August supported by WHO and attended by senior medical and nursing staff from all districts, the National Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines are being finalised, and will become the standard for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) adopted by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation.
- In Guinea, OCHA, UNICEF and WHO are working with the National Coordination to organize a workshop mid-September to address Ebola Survivor Assistance at the national level.

Funding

- In Guinea, UNICEF has secured 500,000 Euro in funding from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) to implement its “Children of Peace” programme. The grant will be used to support education activities as the country recovers from Ebola.
- WFP Guinea is in the process of finalizing its budget revision (BR) 6 for the EMOP, which will be circulated in the week of 7 - 13 September.
- On 2 September, WFP Guinea submitted a funding proposal to the Government of Japan's Supplementary Funding for 2016 for an amount of US\$3.4 million. Under the project proposal, WFP will provide nutrition support to people suffering from malnutrition (both chronic and acute) among children, pregnant and lactating women, and people living with HIV/tuberculosis, targeting a total of 124,100 beneficiaries over a period of one year, and taking into consideration the results from the SMART nutrition survey (conducted in July 2015).