

Liberia Situation Report on EVD

5 August 2015



UNICEF installed additional handwashing stations in key hotspot locations during the recent flare-up of EVD cases

HIGHLIGHTS

- There are no new cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Liberia. As of 4 August 2015, 12 days have passed since the last case was discharged. There are no remaining contacts under follow up.
- UNICEF remains a key player in Liberia's Ebola response efforts and is co-leading the WASH, psychosocial support services (PSS) and social mobilization pillars of the response.
- UNICEF's PSS team continues to be a key member on the emergency response teams in Margibi and Montserrado counties. UNICEF co-facilitated the coordination to provide PSS to the families under precautionary observation, as well as communities affected. The PSS response supported families experiencing fear and loss to better cope, and has been instrumental in supporting families follow safe protocols, such as going to the Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) when symptomatic.
- In response to the recent outbreak, UNICEF has provided 4,962 household hygiene kits to every household in the hotspot and surrounding communities. Through these kits, households will be able to practise safe hand washing and have access to safe drinking water through use of a Water Guard that is provided as part of the kit. Safe drinking water has also been provided to households under precautionary observation. In order to enable hand washing, temperature checks and isolation during the rainy season, and with support from UNICEF, shelters at three checkpoints in Margibi County were set up and handed over to the County Health Team (CHT).
- The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on how to respond to future EVD outbreaks were drafted and shared with Education Cluster members for review. These are steps to be taken in the event of an outbreak.
- UNICEF participated in county consultative meetings in Montserrado, Sinoe and Grand Cape Mount counties regarding reporting of deaths and safe and dignified burials. Similar meetings will be facilitated in other counties. 455 general Community Health Volunteers (gCHVs) have received refresher training in the last week on the provision of integrated community case management (iCCM) services in the three counties. Additional materials on recognition of Ebola signs/symptoms and the revised management protocols have been incorporated in all trainings for health workers.
- The closure of health facilities and limited health services due to the Ebola outbreak disrupted birth registrations in Liberia, leaving thousands of children without citizenship and in danger of being trafficked or illegally adopted. UNICEF is supporting the government to clear this backlog by providing the necessary resources for mobile teams to go from county to county to register these children and issue them birth certificates. So far, over 12,000 certificates have been issued to children previously missed.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

As of 4 August 2015¹

23

Days since the last confirmed case

12

Days since last case discharged

0

Laboratory confirmed cases over the past 21 days

0

Contacts under follow up

5,716

Children registered as directly affected by EVD*

2 million+

Children living in affected areas

**Government of Liberia has defined the number of children 'affected' as quarantined, orphaned, unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), in treatment and discharged.*

1 Data are based on official information reported by the Liberian health ministry up to 4 August 2015. These numbers are subject to change due to on-going reclassification, retrospective investigation and availability of laboratory results.

Situation Overview

There are no new cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Liberia. As of 4 August 2015, 12 days have passed since the last case was discharged. There are no remaining contacts under follow up nor households under precautionary observation.

Education

- The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on how to respond to future EVD outbreaks were drafted and shared with Education Cluster members for review. These are steps to be taken in the event of an outbreak.
- As part of the Cluster transition plan, Terms of Reference for the Education in Emergency Working Group (EiEWG), which will replace the Education Cluster and established under the leadership of the Ministry of Education (MoE), were presented to the Education Sector Development Committee for consideration. MoE staff who have been identified as members of the EiEWG were oriented on the SOPs as they will take the lead in ensuring that it is finalised and endorsed by the MoE and Cluster partners. Training of 10,000 teachers and 5,000 Parent Teacher Association members on pedagogy and psychosocial support will begin this week (the planning process having concluded last week). The training of 48 master trainers will be followed by county Training of Trainers and cascade at school cluster level by 636 county trainers.

Child Protection

- To date, the total number of children registered by social workers as having lost one or both parents/primary caregivers due to EVD is 4,477 (1,361 having lost both parents/caregivers and 3,116 having lost one parent/caregiver). Of the 4,477 registered children who have lost one or both parents/primary caregivers due to Ebola, 4,391 children have received a one-off financial cash grant of USD 150 through the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGSCP) representing 98 per cent of registered orphans.
- The closure of health facilities and limited health services due to the Ebola outbreak disrupted birth registrations in Liberia, leaving thousands of children without citizenship and in danger of being trafficked or illegally adopted. UNICEF is supporting the government to clear this backlog by providing the necessary resources for mobile teams to go from county to county to register these children and issue them birth certificates. So far, over 12,000 certificates have been issued to children previously missed in Lofa, Bong, Nimba, Sinoe and River Gee counties.
- UNICEF and MoGSCP continue efforts to register Ebola-affected children in all counties. The process has been constrained due to the rainy season, making it difficult to reach the various communities across the country.
- UNICEF's PSS team continues to be a key member on the emergency response teams in Margibi and Montserrado counties. UNICEF co-facilitated the coordination between MoGSCP and MoH staff and NGO partners to provide PSS to the families under precautionary observation, as well as communities affected. The PSS response supported families experiencing fear and loss to better cope, and has been instrumental in supporting families follow safe protocols, such as going to the Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) when symptomatic.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- In response to the recent outbreak, UNICEF has provided 4,962 household hygiene kits to every household in the hotspot and surrounding communities. Through these kits, households will be able to practise safe hand washing and have access to safe drinking water through use of a Water Guard that is provided as part of the kit. In addition, UNICEF supported the construction of latrines for 23 households under precautionary observation in Margibi. Working through the social mobilizers, these households have been sensitised on the use and maintenance of these facilities. To ensure public and environmental safety, UNICEF has supported the final desludging, decontamination and demobilization of the mobile latrines that were installed at Charlesville clinic, Needowein Isolation Centre and Unification Health Centre/Operations Centre. In response to the water supply needs (laundry and hygiene), UNICEF continued to support water trucking to both the Isolation Centre and Operations Center. Safe drinking water has also been provided to households under precautionary observation, and separately, to teams manning both the Isolation Centre and Operation Centre. In order to enable hand washing, temperature checks and isolation during the rainy season, and with support from UNICEF, shelters at three checkpoints in Margibi County (namely Bong Mines Road, BWI and 26th gate) were set up and handed over to the County Health Team (CHT). At the request of the CHT, and in response to the Montserrado EVD case, WASH supplies (household hygiene kits, chlorine, bottled drinking water, etc.) were provided to two households that were under precautionary observation.
- *WASH in schools.* As part of the UNICEF/Government of Netherlands-supported WASH in Schools Ebola Response/Restoration activities, 80 schools have been identified for the implementation of WASH in Schools activities. These schools are selected from five underserved counties in south eastern Liberia as well as rural Montserrado.
- *WASH in health facilities.* As part of the rehabilitation and improvement of WASH systems in healthcare facilities which aims to ensure Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) compliance, and with support from UNICEF, WASH facilities at F.J. Grante Hospital (Sinoe County) and Rally Time Hospital (Grand Kru County) are being rehabilitated and solar-powered water pumping and treatment units are being installed. UNICEF is in the process of inviting bids from prospective civil/mechanical engineering contractors for an additional 10 health facilities, with implementation scheduled to start during the third week of August 2015.

Social Mobilisation

- The four-week social mobilization rapid response for the EVD outbreak in Margibi ended on 31 July 2015. Community engagement activities were paired with active case finding in the hotspot and surrounding communities. An exit strategy and costed action plan to sustain community engagement until December 2015 has also been developed. A rapid post-intervention assessment will be conducted to assess the effects of the interventions and audience reception of the messages disseminated. Moving forward, regular social mobilization efforts on EVD prevention and vigilance will continue countrywide.
- UNICEF participated in county consultative meetings in Montserrado, Sinoe and Grand Cape Mount counties regarding reporting of deaths and safe and dignified burials. Similar meetings will be facilitated in other counties.
- Across the country, Ebola recovery activities are being held: monitoring of safe school protocols, monitoring of cross-border EVD prevention protocols, and restoring trust in health workers and systems. To this end, door-to-door visits reached 37,951 households and 915 community discussions reached 62,540 men, 56,906 women, 2,845 elders and 31,469 children.
- UNICEF continues to support County Health Teams involved in the response to meet logistical challenges in the field through the provision of rain gear.

Health and Nutrition

- 455 general Community Health Volunteers (gCHVs) have received refresher training in the last week on the provision of integrated community case management (iCCM) services in the Maryland, River Gee and Sinoe counties, with Grand Gedeh and Grand Kru to follow in August 2015. Since the beginning of the Ebola outbreak in 2014, additional materials on recognition of Ebola signs/symptoms and the revised management protocols in Ebola have been incorporated in all trainings for health workers.
- The post-measles campaign survey has been concluded by the MoH with support of UNICEF and WHO, and it shows a national average of 90.4 per cent (history only) and 73.1 per cent (card). The survey also showed that about 94.5 per cent of parents were aware of the campaign, with a strong correlation with vaccination of the children (93 per cent for children whose parents who were informed and 42 per cent for children whose parents were not informed before the campaign).
- As part of the implementation of the health worker training on Helping Babies Survive, UNICEF is supporting the training of 30 professional health workers in Grand Gedeh County, with the staff drawn from all 22 health facilities in the county. Training in Sinoe County is scheduled for the first week of August 2015.
- 43 health workers, social workers, and observers from five health facilities and one hospital in River Cess County were trained on Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) from 6 to 16 July 2015. Four Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) sites were established immediately after the training and 16 hospital staff were mentored on IMAM. At the newly established OTP sites, 57 children were screened, eight (14 per cent) had Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), which is alarmingly high while two (3.5 per cent) had Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). All children with SAM were admitted in the OTP and given a ration of therapeutic nutritional products together with a medical treatment. The caretakers/mothers of all children with MAM received basic education on nutrition.
- 41 health staff, social workers, and District Health Officers in Gbarpolu County were trained on IMAM from 6 to 17 July 2015. Three OTP sites were set up after the training. Of the 38 children screened, one (2.6 per cent) child had SAM and was enrolled in the OTP.
- The Essential Nutrition Actions Training in Rivercess County was implemented from 13-24 July 2015. 25 County Health Team supervisors and field coordinators, and 163 gCHVs in six districts were trained amongst others. UNICEF provided technical and financial support for the entire exercise.

Media Coverage

Extensive media coverage was seen following UNICEF News Note [More than 70,000 children born during the Ebola outbreak in Liberia at risk of exclusion if not registered, warns UNICEF](#) with more than 100 articles, amongst which:

- UNICEF Senior Emergency Coordinator, Deirdre Kiernan in an article on [Life after Ebola: Liberia's invisible babies](#) (Al Jazeera)
- UNICEF Liberia Representative, Sheldon Yett in
 - [70,000 Liberian births unrecorded in Ebola crisis-Unicef](#) (AFP via NDTV – India)
 - [Ebola stalls birth registrations](#) (New York Times)
 - [Ebola disrupts Liberia birth records, poses trafficking threat-UN](#) (Thomson Reuters Foundation)
 - [70,000 Liberian births unrecorded in Ebola crisis-Unicef](#) (AFP via Business Standard)
 - [70,000 Liberian births unrecorded in Ebola crisis](#) (VK News – Sweden)
- UNICEF Liberia video used in article on [Liberia to register children whose births not recorded during the ebola crisis](#) (CIHAN News)
- UNICEF Deputy Representative, Dr Fazlul Haque, on [ongoing work on registering children in Liberia](#) (RFI France)
- UNICEF Representative Sheldon Yett quoted in article on thousands of children in Liberia who [are unregistered and at risk of exploitation](#) (UN News Center)
- Mention of 70,000 children not being registered due to Ebola outbreak in [article about Ebola vaccine trial](#) (NGR Guardian news) and in the <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-3181287/Is-world-verge-Ebola-vaccine->

Programme Results

UNICEF and Pillar/Sector Results for EVD Response						
Liberia, 5 August 2015						
Indicators	Pillar / Sector			UNICEF		
	Target	Actual	% Achieved	Target	Actual	% Achieved
EPIDEMIOLOGY						
Registered Ebola children who lost one or both parents/primary caregivers		4,477			4,477	
COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT						
Households reached with interpersonal communication on Ebola prevention	1,000,000	716,234	72%	750,000	643,587	86%
Sub-prefectures Chiefdoms and/or counties reporting resistance/reticence to cooperating with front line workers in the past week				0	1/15	
Households reached with Inter-Personal Communication for National health campaigns (Integrated Measles, Polio, and Deworming campaign)				350,000	360,744	103%
Proportion of population surveyed who indicated discriminatory attitude towards Ebola survivors				<3%	37% ¹ (435/1,165)	
Proportion of population surveyed who rejected alternatives to traditional burials/funerals				<3%	17% ² (194/1,155)	
COMMUNITY CARE CENTRES/RITES						
CCCs established		25			12	
CCCs functional		14			8	
CCCs decommissioned		4			4	
CCCs converted/transformed into Alternate Care Centres		4			2	
RITES pre-positioned for Rapid Response					16	
RITES utilized in hot spot communities					3	
WASH						
Ebola community, treatment and holding centres with essential WASH services	29 ³	24	83%	14 ⁴	14	100%
Non-Ebola health centres in Ebola-affected areas provided with hand washing station and/or WASH support				270	270	100%

¹ KAP Survey, December 2014

² KAP Survey, December 2014

³ 25 CCCs, 4 transit centres/holding centres

⁴ 12 CCCs, 2 transit centres /holding centres

People benefiting from household WASH kits in Ebola-affected areas				450,000	422,520	94%
CHILD PROTECTION						
Ebola-affected children provided with minimum package of psychosocial support (PSS) services	189,630	6,991	4%	189,630	6,991	4%
Registered children who lost one or both parents/primary caregivers due to Ebola and child survivors of Ebola who received a minimum package of support/nationally agreed package, including family tracing and reunification or placement in alternative family based care	3,691	4,391	121%	3,691	4,391	121%
HEALTH						
Health structures in Ebola-affected areas provided with Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) supplies				470	270	57%
Community Health Workers trained in Ebola prevention and case management				650	591	91%
NUTRITION						
Ebola patients receiving nutrition support				1,088	988	91%
Children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) admitted for treatment				13,925	5,352	38%
Infants 0-6 months who cannot be breast fed, receiving ready to use infant formula				35	33	94%
EDUCATION						
Teachers trained in Ebola prevention	12,114	11,082	91%	6,000	5,995	100%
Schools equipped with minimum hygiene package for Ebola prevention compliant with protocols ⁵	4,400	4,619	105%	4,400	4,619	105%
Children enrolled in schools equipped with minimum hygiene package	1,153,316	1,196,010	104%	1,153,316	1,196,010	104%
Children enrolled in schools benefiting from the distribution of learning kits ⁶	1,196,010	143,222	12%	1,196,010	143,222	12%

Next SitRep: 19 August 2015

Web: [UNICEF Liberia](#)
 Twitter: [@UNICEF_Liberia](#)
 Facebook: [Liberia.Unicef](#)
 Soundcloud: [Unicef-liberia](#)
 YouTube: [UNICEFLiberia](#)

**Who to
 contact for
 further
 information:**

Sheldon Yett
 Representative
 UNICEF Liberia
 Cell: +231-770-26-7100
 Email: syett@unicef.org

Deirdre Kiernan
 Sr. Emergency Coordinator
 UNICEF Liberia
 Cell: +231-770-26-7926
 Email: dkiernan@unicef.org

⁵ The higher number of accomplishment is due to the inclusion of schools that were not included in the original validated list, and schools that were not officially registered with the MoE but have enrolled students for this school year.

⁶ The distribution of TLM has been suspended until schools re-open on 7 September due to concerns that materials might be sold during vacation.