



UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education to train teachers across Liberia on psychosocial support and pedagogy

Liberia Situation Report on EVD

19 August 2015



HIGHLIGHTS

- There are no new cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Liberia. As of 19 August 2015, 26 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.
- The Ebola outbreak disrupted birth registrations in Liberia, leaving thousands of children without citizenship and in danger of being trafficked or illegally adopted. The closure of health facilities and limited health services due to the Ebola outbreak halted Liberia's progress in registering births. 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.
- UNICEF supported the Health Promotion Unit of the Ministry of Health, in organizing a communication stakeholders meeting regarding the possible post-trial deployment of the Ebola vaccine. Workshop participants agreed that an Ebola vaccine will be a game changer but they noted that community attitudes are not currently favourable for such. Active and periodic research, early planning and robust community engagement were recommended as crucial to the success of the Ebola vaccine introduction.
- Recent data shows that 585 severely malnourished children were discharged from the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) program by the end of July 2015, 95 per cent of whom were cured while one per cent died, two per cent defaulted, and two per cent did not respond to treatment. Last month, 771 severely malnourished children were admitted to the IMAM program in the six counties worst affected by Ebola.
- Ahead of the reopening of schools in the new calendar year scheduled for 7 September 2015, the training of 10,000 teachers and 5,000 Parent Teacher Association members on pedagogy and psychosocial support began with the training of National Level Master Trainers.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

As of 19 August 2015¹

36

Days since the last confirmed case

26

Days since last case discharged

0

Laboratory confirmed cases over the past 21 days

0

Contacts under follow up

5,794

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.*

¹Data are based on official information reported by the Liberian health ministry up to 19 August 2015.

Situation Overview

There are no new cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Liberia. As of 19 August 2015, 26 days have passed since the last case was discharged. There are no remaining contacts under follow up or households under precautionary observation.

Social Mobilization

Health

The social mobilization and community engagement support to the Ministry of Health includes planning for the:

- Integrated Polio and vitamin A campaign that will be held from 16-19 October 2015. A costed action plan has been developed. Messages and Information-Education-Communication (IEC) materials are already drafted, in collaboration with the Message and Material Development working group.
- Focus group discussions to guide strategy development and message concepts for the introduction of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign. In addition, UNICEF supported the Health Promotion Unit of the Ministry of Health, in organizing a communication stakeholders meeting regarding the possible post-trial deployment of the Ebola vaccine. Workshop participants agreed that an Ebola vaccine will be a game changer but they noted that community attitudes are not currently favorable for such. Active and periodic research, early planning and robust community engagement were recommended as crucial to the success of the Ebola vaccine introduction.

Routine EVD prevention

Across all counties, community engagement activities are underway focusing on maintaining vigilance against Ebola through continued handwashing, encouraging reporting of all deaths, and promoting early healthcare seeking behaviour. To that end, 22,977 houses were reached through door-to-door visits, and 991 community group discussions reached 43,655 men, 41,141 women, 949 children and 6,971 community leaders.

Education

Regional, county and district mobilization coordinators will provide monitoring and coordination support to the Ministry of Education for the training of teachers and Parent-Teacher Associations in all the counties from 16 to 31 August 2015 at county and district levels.

Nutrition

Liberian breastfeeding week that will begin on 25 August 2015.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- 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 in the process of being rehabilitated.
- WASH in communities: 10 boreholes have been completed and hand pumps installed in Boe Quilla, Garr Bain and Doe districts of Nimba County. These boreholes/water pumps are now serving as the primary source of water supply within these communities.
- As part of UNICEF's ongoing support to maintaining IPC standards across the country, 1,548 hygiene kits were delivered to Grand Cape Mount County and 2,400 in Grand Bassa County last week.

Education

- Ahead of the reopening of schools in the new calendar year scheduled for 7 September 2015, training of 10,000 teachers and 5,000 Parent Teacher Association (PTA) members on pedagogy and psychosocial support began with the training of National Level Master Trainers. 48 national level master trainers have been trained last week during a six-day training. These 48 national trainers will train 636 county-level trainers next week, who will subsequently train the 10,000 teachers and 5,000 PTA members at the district/cluster level.

Child Protection

- The Government of Liberia has identified 5,794 (2,758 boys and 3,036 girls) as affected by Ebola. The Government has defined the number of children 'affected' as quarantined, orphaned, unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), in treatment and discharged. Orphans are children who have lost one or both parents/primary caregivers due to the Ebola Virus Disease. An additional 1,275 received psychosocial support services (PSS) bringing the total number of children provided with care and support, including PSS, to 7,069.
- To date, the total number of children registered by social workers as having lost one or both parents/primary caregivers due to Ebola is 4,555 (1,376 having lost both parents/caregivers and 3,179 having lost one parent/caregiver). Of these, 4,391 children have received a one-off financial cash grant of US\$150 through the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGSCP) representing 98 per cent of registered orphans.

- The Ebola outbreak disrupted birth registrations in Liberia, leaving thousands of children without citizenship and in danger of being trafficked or illegally adopted. The closure of health facilities and limited health services due to the Ebola outbreak halted Liberia's progress in registering births. 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. The collection of data is ongoing but it is estimated that at least 12,000 certificates have been issued to children previously missed in Lofa, Bong, Nimba, Sinoe and River Gee counties.
- MoGCSP, with support from UNICEF, will commence the process of the closure of five sub-standard orphanages that failed to adhere to the National Alternative Care guidelines. 92 children will be reunified with their extended families from the five orphanages.

Health and Nutrition

- As part of the implementation of the health worker training on Helping Babies Survive, UNICEF is supporting the training of health workers in Sinoe County. The training benefitted 37 participants from all clinics in Sinoe and FJ Grante Hospital in Greenville and 35 Newborn Resuscitation Kits have been distributed to all health facilities, in addition to the Essential Care for Every Baby Provider guide, flipbook, and action plan.
- In order to develop decentralized response and robust implementation strategies, UNICEF supported the training on conducting bottleneck analysis in health systems specific to Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) and Paediatric HIV. 47 mid-level professionals from nine counties (Clinicians, Monitoring and Evaluation Officers, Surveillance Officers, Reproductive Health Supervisors, PMTCT and Paediatric Officers) participated in the training. (Maryland, River Gee, Grand Kru, Grand Gedeh, Sinoe, Rivercess, Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu, and Montserrado counties are completing the plan with strategies for submission through the County Health Officers.
- While the community health policy review is underway, preparations for the community health assessment, including mapping of Community Health Volunteers (gCHVs) began last week.
- 94 general gCHVs in Grand Gedeh County completed refresher training last week on integrated Community Case Management (iCCM).
- Recent data shows that 585 severely malnourished children were discharged from the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) program by the end of July 2015, 95 per cent of whom were cured while one per cent died, two per cent defaulted, and two per cent did not respond to treatment. Last month, 771 severely malnourished children were admitted to the IMAM program in the six counties worst affected by EVD.
- Nine infants below 12 months who cannot be breastfed were identified in Bong and Rivercess counties by trained Social Workers and provided with alternative feeding support.
- 33 County Health Team members, 21 health workers, and eight data enumerators from River Gee County were oriented and trained on Micronutrient powder pilot protocols and tools.

Media Coverage

There was considerable media coverage on WASH in Schools, amongst which:

- UNICEF Representative, Sheldon Yett, speaks about [the need to think of the future, and increase investments in WASH in schools](#) (Huffington Post)
- UNICEF Representative, Sheldon Yett, is quoted in an article on WASH helping ensure no child was infected by Ebola in schools, and [on investments needed in WASH in schools](#) (Reuters)
- UNICEF Representative, on [WASH in schools](#) (El Mundo)

Programme Results

UNICEF and Pillar/Sector Results for EVD Response						
Liberia, 19 August 2015						
Indicators	Pillar / Sector			UNICEF		
	Target	Actual	% Achieved	Target	Actual	% Achieved
EPIDEMIOLOGY						
Registered Ebola children who lost one or both parents/primary caregivers		4,555			4,555	
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%
People benefiting from household WASH kits in Ebola-affected areas				450,000	443,360	99%
CHILD PROTECTION						
Ebola-affected children provided with minimum package of psychosocial support (PSS) services	189,630	7,069	4%	189,630	7,069	4%

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

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	6,061	43.5%
Infants 0-6 months who cannot be breast fed, receiving ready to use infant formula				40	38	95%
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: 2 September 2015

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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.