



Liberia officially declared EVD transmission-free 42 days after the last case was discharged

Liberia Situation Report on EVD

2 September 2015



HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 2 September 2015, Liberia has gone 42 days without a new Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) case and is now transmission-free. There are no remaining contacts under follow up.
- As part of its overall support to the restoration of regular health services, 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, thereby addressing issues of non-availability/stock outs.
- UNICEF is supporting the MoH to establish a community health worker scheme in Liberia, which is a key component of the early recovery efforts in the country. To this end, the revision of the national policy, mapping of general community health volunteers (gCHVs) across the country and baseline assessments are underway.
- UNICEF in Liberia met with CDC to discuss and agree on UNICEF's technical input and assistance to a Harvard Opinion Research program that should provide information on community perspectives on dimensions of vaccination efforts in Liberia. Some strategic recommendations were made to inform the goals, methodology and approach to the proposed research study. All parties agree that the exercise must help establish knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) baselines for several antigens for all counties.
- 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.
- 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.
- Ahead of the reopening of schools in the new calendar year scheduled for 7 September 2015, a teacher training on child-friendly pedagogy and psychosocial support is underway across the country.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

As of 2 September 2015¹

51

Days since the last confirmed case

42

Days since last case discharged

0

Laboratory confirmed cases over the past 21 days

0

Contacts under follow up

5,927

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.*

are based on official information reported by the Liberian health ministry up to 2 September 2015. These numbers are subject to change due to on-going reclassification, retrospective investigation and availability of laboratory results.

As of 2 September 2015, Liberia has gone 42 days without a new Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) case and is now officially transmission-free. There are no remaining contacts under follow up.

Social Mobilisation

- UNICEF is supporting the MoH to prepare Standard Operating Procedures to respond to future Ebola outbreaks.
- UNICEF in Liberia met with CDC to discuss and agree on UNICEF's technical input and assistance to a Harvard Opinion Research program that should provide information on community perspectives on dimensions of vaccination efforts in Liberia. Some strategic recommendations were made to inform the goals, methodology and approach to the proposed research study. All parties agree that the exercise must help establish KAP baselines for several antigens for all counties.
- Across all counties, community engagement activities are being conducted on maintaining vigilance against Ebola, encouraging early reporting of all deaths, and promoting early healthcare seeking behaviour. To that end, 366,233 households were reached through door-to-door visits and 911 group discussions were conducted reaching 64,783 women, 45,365 children, 63,912 men and 1,902 community elders.
- A set of focus group discussion tools were pre-tested in Montserrado County for accuracy and appropriateness of key questions to establish opportunities as well as barriers to the introduction of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination in Liberia. The pre-testing confirmed extremely low levels of knowledge of HPV among the communities consulted.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- WASH in Schools: As part of Ebola response/recovery activities, UNICEF is supporting 80 schools that have been identified for the implementation of WASH in Schools package.
- WASH in health facilities: UNICEF continues to support the rehabilitation and improvement of WASH systems in healthcare facilities across Liberia, which aims to ensure Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) compliance.
- Hygiene kits: All 90,000 hygiene kits that were procured at the beginning of the Ebola crisis have been distributed across the country as of last week.

Education

- Ahead of the reopening of schools in the new calendar year scheduled for 7 September 2015, and with support from UNICEF, a six-day training of 636 county level trainers across all counties on child-friendly pedagogy and psychosocial support commenced on 31 August 2015. These 636 trainers will further train at least 10,000 teachers and 5,000 Parent Teacher Association (PTA) members (or two teachers and one PTA member from every school) in the subsequent weeks to cover all schools in the country.

Child Protection

- The Government of Liberia has identified 5,927 children (2,817 boys and 3,110 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 Ebola. An additional 1,275 received psychosocial support services (PSS) bringing the total number of children provided with care and support, including PSS, to 7,202.
- To date, the total number of children registered by social workers as having lost one or both parents/primary caregivers due to Ebola is 4,688 (1,409 having lost both parents/caregivers and 3,279 having lost one parent/caregiver). Of these, 4,436 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. Children orphaned due to Ebola who were previously placed in orphanages by relatives and with next of kin are being brought back to their families and registration of these new, more appropriate placements, is ongoing.
- 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 as registration of children is underway, it appears that the number of children affected by Ebola may surpass the number originally projected (7,500). UNICEF is closely monitoring the data.
- Findings from the independent accreditation committee (IAC) assessment of orphanages shows that six orphanages

have been recommended for immediate closure due to failure to meet the minimum standards of the Alternative guidelines for children institution. In one of the orphanages, the administrator and the proprietor have been arrested by the police for allegations of rape of two of the children at the orphanage. The children were taken for services, including health care following the discovery. Safety measures have been put in place as the MoGCSP plan for the appropriate placement of the children and the closure of the orphanage.

Health and Nutrition

- As part of its overall support to the restoration of regular health services 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, thereby addressing issues of non-availability/stock outs.
- UNICEF is supporting the MoH to establish a community health worker scheme in Liberia, which is a key component of the early recovery efforts in the country. To this end, the revision of the national policy, mapping of general Community Health Volunteers (gCHVs) across the country and baseline assessments are underway.
- Preparations are underway for the next polio campaign – which will be combined with vitamin A and deworming – that is scheduled to take place during 16-19 October 2015.
- 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.
- In order to improve nutrition treatment coverage and reach severely malnourished residing in communities beyond 5 kilometers of the nearest OTP site in Margibi, 15 community nutrition and Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) outreach sites were selected across the five districts in Margibi County. Outreach activities will commence in September 2015.
- 30 children 6-24 months residing in Putupo District in River Gee received three-week supply of micronutrient powder supplements as part of the Micronutrient Powder Supplementation Pilot in the country.

Media Coverage

UNICEF released a [news note](#) welcoming the announcement that Liberia has been declared free of Ebola transmission, but highlighting the need for better services for children.

Programme Results

UNICEF and Pillar/Sector Results for EVD Response						
Liberia, 2 September 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	753,683	75%	750,000	661,005	88%
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	

¹ KAP Survey, December 2014

² KAP Survey, December 2014

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	450,000	100%
CHILD PROTECTION						
Ebola-affected children provided with minimum package of psychosocial support (PSS) services	189,630	7,069	4%	189,630	7,069	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	6,215	45%
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: 16 September 2015

**Who to
contact for
further
information:**

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³ 25 CCCs, 4 transit centres/holding centres

⁴ 12 CCCs, 2 transit centres/holding centres

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.