



Thousands of children have returned to schools across Liberia since 7 September, when they reopened after a month long break

Liberia Situation Report on Ebola

30 September 2015



HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 30 September 2015, Liberia has gone 84 days since the last confirmed Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) case, and officially remains Ebola transmission free. As of 3 September 2015, the country is observing 90 days of active surveillance.
- Refresher training on integrated community case management (iCCM) has been conducted for officers in charge of 15 health facilities in Grand Kru County, while training for 130 community health volunteers, also in Grand Kru County, begins on 5 October 2015. Close to 11,400 under-five children will be served by the trained health workers and volunteers.
- Close to 945,400 children between 0-59 months will receive polio vaccinations, while 851,750 children between 6-59 months will receive vitamin A, and 738,184 children between 12-59 months will receive mebendazole tablets for deworming during a nationwide campaign scheduled to be conducted 23-26 October 2015. UNICEF is supporting the planning and implementation of this campaign.
- Following the reopening of schools in Liberia this month, UNICEF resumed the distribution of teaching and learning materials, reaching 179 schools in Montserrado County and benefitting 53,000 students and 3,800 teachers. The distribution of these materials to schools in the remaining 14 counties will begin in the second week of October and is expected to end in December 2015.
- Over 3,000 children from heavily Ebola affected communities – some of them having lost one or both parents or survivors of Ebola - are participating in ongoing 'recreation for resilience' activities in schools and communities in Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Bong, Bomi, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado and Nimba counties. This is part of a UNICEF supported programme run in partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSPP) and the Ministry of Health (MoH).
- Across all counties, community engagement activities are being conducted on: maintaining vigilance against Ebola, encouraging reporting of all deaths, hygiene and breastfeeding. To that end, 6,061 households were reached through door to door visits and 276 community and/or group meetings were conducted reaching 13,488 men, 12,126 women, 560 community leaders, and 12,486 children.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

As of 30 September 2015¹

84

Days since last confirmed case

70

days since last case discharged

0

laboratory confirmed cases over past 21 days

0

contacts under follow up

5,978

children registered as directly affected by Ebola²

2 million+

children living in affected areas

USD 149 million

UNICEF funding needs until December 2015

USD 13 million

UNICEF funding gap (9%)

¹Data based on official information reported by Liberia's Ministry of Health. These details are subject to change due to ongoing reclassification, retrospective investigation and availability of laboratory tests.

²Government of Liberia has defined the number of children 'affected' as quarantined, orphaned, unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), in treatment and discharged.

Situation Overview

As of 14 September 2015, Liberia has gone 54 days without a new confirmed Ebola Virus Disease case and officially remains Ebola transmission-free. As of 3 September 2015, the country is observing 90 days of active surveillance.

Health and Nutrition

- In Grand Kru County, refresher training on integrated community case management (iCCM) has been conducted for officers in charge of 15 health facilities, while training for 130 community health volunteers begins on 5 October 2015. Close to 11,400 under-five children will be served by the health workers and volunteers against the three major child killer diseases - malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea.
- UNICEF has supported the development and finalization of decentralized and integrated plans for the elimination of mother to child transmission (eMTCT) of HIV, as well as improving maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) in nine priority counties. It is expected that these interventions will avert 900 infants from being infected by HIV.
- In Margibi County, UNICEF has supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) Nutrition Division in conducting a refresher training for 20 health workers to improve the quality of treatment services in the county hospital, and trained 100 general community health volunteers (gCHV) to integrate nutrition screening and treatment in communities that are outside the 15 kilometer radius of a nutrition treatment facility.
- To ensure early detection and timely treatment of malnutrition, some 4,190 children between the ages of 6-59 months were screened for malnutrition in Margibi County. 101 out of 4,190 (2.4 per cent) were found to be malnourished and referred to the nearest nutrition facility for further screening and treatment.
- To ensure the adoption of exclusive breastfeeding practices upon birth of infants, pregnant women were identified through household visits by trained community health volunteers. 50 pregnant women in four communities in Lofa County benefitted from nutrition promotion activities.

Education

- Following the reopening of schools in Liberia this month, UNICEF resumed the distribution of teaching and learning materials, reaching 179 schools in Montserrado County and benefitting 53,000 students and 3,800 teachers. The distribution of these materials to schools in the remaining 14 counties will begin in the second week of October and is expected to end in December 2015.

Child Protection

- 450 community members participated in nine UNICEF supported community dialogues in Margibi and Gbarpolu Counties to strengthen social connections and resolve any conflicts that arose during the Ebola outbreak.
- Over 3,000 children from heavily Ebola affected communities - some having lost one or both parents and survivors of Ebola - are participating in ongoing 'recreation for resilience' activities in schools and communities in Margibi, Montserrado, Grand Cape Mount, Bong, Bomi, Lofa, Nimba, and Grand Bassa. This is part of a UNICEF supported programme run in partnership with the MGCSP and the MoH.
- 100 Ebola survivors (a segment of the 1,200 survivors hired as child protection advocates) conducted a two-day UNICEF sponsored campaign to raise awareness on prevention strategies towards stigma and discrimination which have been reported in the wake of the epidemic in Bomi and Gbarpolu Counties.
- 45 data clerks and birth registrars have undergone a two-day refresher training on birth registration tools and forms, as well as on verification and data entry processes ahead of a registration campaign scheduled to be held in 2015. The campaign aims to reduce the gap in registration that occurred during the Ebola outbreak.

Social Mobilization

- On 17-18 September 2015, UNICEF joined the Margibi County Health Team and partners in conducting exit meetings with traditional leaders, traditional healers, women leaders, and youth leaders. The objectives of the meetings were to formally inform the leaders of the end of the intensive social mobilization and active case searching activities that were conducted in their communities following the Ebola outbreak in July 2015, and to cultivate their support to maintain vigilance, including reporting of all dead bodies. Following the meetings, five focus group discussions were held with the key groups to explore the leaders' views on maintaining vigilance against Ebola. Particular enquiry was made on their attitudes towards reporting of all deaths that occur in their communities.

- In preparation for the integrated polio, vitamin A and deworming campaign scheduled for 23-26 October 2015, UNICEF has supported the MoH Health Promotion Unit in preparing communication materials (banners, leaflets and T-shirts) and in conducting a pre-test research study to gauge the materials' appropriateness and relevance. UNICEF is also purchasing and pre-positioning all of the required supplies. Close to 945,400 children between 0-59 months will receive polio vaccination, 851,750 children between 6-59 months will receive vitamin A and 738,184 children between 12-59 months will receive mebendazole tablets for deworming.
- Across all counties, community engagement activities are being conducted on maintaining vigilance against Ebola, encouraging reporting of all deaths, hygiene and breastfeeding. To that end, 6,061 households were reached through door to door visit and 276 community and/or group meetings were conducted reaching 13,488 men, 12,126 women, 560 community leaders, and 12,486 children.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Under a UNICEF supported Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) programme, 343 communities have been declared Open Defecation-Free (ODF) in seven counties. Assessments have shown that ODF communities were less impacted by Ebola than those that were not ODF.
- As part of UNICEF's support to improving access to water in communities, 37 machine drilled boreholes (fitted with hand pumps) and 15 water wells have been rehabilitated or constructed in Maryland and Nimba Counties. Through these interventions, communities not only have access to drinking water, but also to water for handwashing (a key pre-emptive strategy for infection prevention and control).
- With support from UNICEF, preparations are underway for conducting an assessment of all schools in Liberia. The main objective is to provide WASH data that will be used to inform WASH-in-Schools programming, with a view to reducing the huge disparities in WASH services across the 15 counties, and more importantly, contribute to improved schools attendance and reduction of prevalent childhood illnesses. Noting the low rural sanitation coverage (approx. 72 per cent of households practicing open defecation), improved WASH programming in schools will also have wider benefits as children will be enabled to be effective agents of change to promote improved health and hygiene practices within their families and communities.

Programme Results

UNICEF and Pillar/Sector Results for EVD Response						
Liberia, 30 September 2015						
Indicators	Pillar / Sector			UNICEF		
	Target	Actual	% Achieved	Target	Actual	% Achieved
EPIDEMIOLOGY						
Registered Ebola children who lost one or both parents/primary caregivers		4,706			4,706	
COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT						
Households reached with interpersonal communication on Ebola prevention	1,000,000	772,008	77%	750,000	697,330	91%
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	

¹ KAP Survey, December 2014

² KAP Survey, December 2014

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	8,902	5%	189,630	8,902	5%
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	4,436	120%	3,691	4,436	120%
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	7,296 ⁵	52%
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	1,196,010	196,287	16%	1,196,010	196,287	16%
Teachers trained in providing psycho social support				10,000	6,163	62%

Next SitRep: 14 October 2015

**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

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

³ 25 CCCs, 4 transit centres/holding centres

⁴ 12 CCCs, 2 transit centres /holding centres

⁵ Reports received were from 3 counties (642 new admissions from Bomi, Lofa and Montserrado counties for August 2015)

⁶ 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.