



UNICEF Child Protection Officer discusses Ebola prevention measures with students in Port Loko District

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# Sierra Leone Ebola Situation Report

16 September 2015



## HIGHLIGHTS

- The week to 16 September 2015 saw the reporting of two new cases – one on 13 September 2015 in the village of Rubaya, Bombali district, and one on 8 September 2015 in Kambia district. The new case in Bombali district is that of a 16-year old girl. The source of the infection is unknown.
- 761 contacts are under quarantine in the village of Rubaya in Bombali district, including 162 children under five and 18 pregnant women. In Kambia, 824 contacts are still under quarantine in the in the two villages of Sella-Kafta, four in the neighboring villages and 13 in the village of Kagboto.
- In response to the new case in Bombali district, UNICEF fast-tracked the deployment of essential WASH services and supplies and child protection officers, and intensified community engagement efforts in the affected area and surrounding villages.
- Seven joint rapid response teams were operationalized in the village of Rubaya (Bombali district). These integrated teams are comprised of social mobilizers, psychosocial support officers, surveillance officers and contact tracers. A total of 800 persons have already been engaged by the rapid response team.

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

As of 15 September 2015

**8,704**<sup>1</sup>

Confirmed cases of Ebola

**3,588**<sup>1</sup>

Confirmed deaths from Ebola

**1,459**<sup>2</sup>

Confirmed cases of infected children under age 18 registered by MSWGCA

**8,624**<sup>2</sup>

Registered children who lost one or both parents due to Ebola

**UNICEF funding needs to June 2015**

USD 178 million

**UNICEF funding gap**

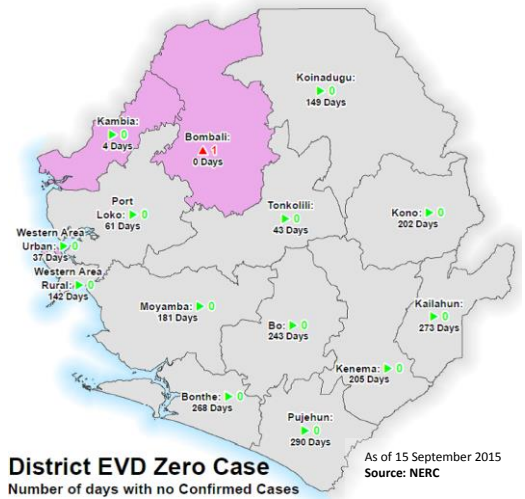
USD 54.7 million<sup>3</sup>

1. Source: Ministry of Health and Sanitation

2. Source: Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA)

## Operation Northern Push (ONP), Western Area Urban and Tonkolili Surge

The surge in efforts to get to a resilient zero Ebola cases in the north-western active transmission districts of Port Loko, Kambia and Western Area Urban continued. Operation Northern Push was scheduled to end on 13 September 2015 however, one new case was reported in the village of Rubaya in the district of Bombali. UNICEF provided support to the response in that district as detailed below.



### Communication for Development (C4D) and Social Mobilization (SM)<sup>1</sup>

#### Bombali

- Based on guidance by epidemiologists, 12 vulnerable communities were identified for intensified social mobilization and community engagement activities, including one-to-one engagements with high risk populations, community dialogues and community engagement meetings to reinforce key Ebola messaging.
- In the village of Rubaya, social mobilizers have been assigned to the integrated rapid response team addressing social mobilization, psychosocial support, surveillance and contact tracing.
- The paramount and section chiefs have been mobilized to take the lead on the community engagement efforts.

#### Kambia

- UNICEF supported social mobilizers from partner organizations -Restless Development and others- visited 400 communities, reaching 2,252 households across the district.
- 400 community leaders and 218 traditional healers were engaged by social mobilizers on Ebola messages and early identification of the sick.
- In Sella-Kafta, 42 dedicated social mobilizers engaged quarantined households twice daily to ensure persistent messaging, and address or relay concerns to the various response teams.
- 49 schools across the district were visited by social mobilizers and education experts. Over 3,318 students were reached in personal hygiene messaging and environmental sanitation.
- 150 community stakeholders, including security officers, were engaged in the border communities of Makomray, Funkdeh and Tagani. Discussions focused on the movement of people, intensification of screening at check points and Red Cross Kiosks, early referral for the sick and death alerts.

#### Tonkolili

- Five communities developed Ebola response Community Action Plans with the Village Development Committee. The plans aim at ensuring ownership for the response at the community level. The plans were reviewed and endorsed by section and paramount chiefs.
- Sixteen ambulance exhibitions have been organized throughout the district, reaching more than 3,000 people. The exhibitions are aimed at reducing the fear of ambulances in the communities.
- During the reporting period, 312 communities have been engaged by UNICEF partners - Restless Development, Sierra Leone Red Cross, Real Women, Future in Our Hands and Focus 1000 - on maintaining vigilance in the communities, early identification of Ebola symptoms and calling the emergency 117 number. 6,400 people participated in community dialogues on Ebola prevention, hand washing, use of the Peripheral Health Units (PHU) and safe and dignified burials.
- 432 religious leaders were engaged on Ebola and back-to-school messaging, and more than 10,000 people were sensitized through mosque and church during Friday and Sunday prayers by Focus 1000.
- 110 traditional healers participated in chieftdom, section and community level engagements to ensure that the sick are reported immediately and prompt action is initiated.

#### Port Loko

- 32,680 individuals were engaged across the district on key Ebola messaging and sustaining positive behaviors.
- In Kaffu Bullom chieftdom, 30 wharf communities were identified as high-risk, due to the porous river route. Local authorities and harbor masters met to discuss corrective actions that need to be implemented.

<sup>1</sup> UNICEF is the lead agency for the UN for social mobilization and community engagement and co-chairs the Social Mobilization pillar with the Health Education Division (HED) of the MoHS.

- The Theatre for Development Project reached approximately 100 communities in 10 of the 11 chiefdoms, reaching 15,000 people.

#### *Western Area*

- Four ambulance exhibits, four tours to encourage calls to the 117 number and community engagement meetings were held, reaching 3,200 people in high-risk wards.
- 69 wards have been oriented on developing Community Action Plans, with the support of the ward level committees. Out of these 69 wards, 30 of them have developed their Community Action Plan and regular monitoring and support is being provided by the zonal coordinators.
- On a daily basis, wharf monitors have been assigned to ensure that no sick person arrives in the wharfs unnoticed, with a special focus on monitoring the high-risk wharfs. 20,000 passengers have been screened in the Western Rural Area since the inception of the project.
- Nine survivor engagement meetings were held in the reporting period, reaching 77 survivors, on safe sex and correct and consistent condom use.
- UNICEF in collaboration with key social mobilization partners - International Security and Advisory Team and Cap Anamur - organized a well-attended fundraising football match at the Sierra Leone Football Academy in King Tom. During the event, 1,000 bars of soap and 500 posters on Ebola prevention were distributed. A drama performance was also held to reinforce messages around hand washing, the washing of the dead and calling the emergency 117 number.

### **WASH**

#### *Bombali*

In support to the response to the new case, UNICEF fast-tracked the delivery of essential WASH services to Rubaya village as follow:

- Delivered 36,000 litres of water through the Sierra Leone Water Company (SALWACO).
- Installed two additional water storage tanks of 5,000 litres each, bringing the total available storage capacity to 13,000 litres.
- Distributed 74 veronica buckets and laundry soap to 74 quarantined households and two checkpoints in the village.
- Distributed WASH supplies including home protection kits, 120-litre buckets and 20-litre jerry cans.
- Completed the assessment for latrine needs for the quarantined households. 36 houses have been confirmed as having no latrines. The construction of the first two latrines for the high-risk households will start on 16 September 2015. All the necessary materials for the construction has been mobilized on site.

#### *Kambia*

In the reporting period, UNICEF through its implementing partners, SALWACO and CAWEC, continued to support the response through the following:

- Provided 205,000 litres of water to 227 households with 824 quarantined people in Sella-Kafta, Kassirie Mathatoi, Mile 14, and Kalangba villages.
- Installed two additional 3,000 litres water storage tanks in Sella-Kafta, giving a total water storage capacity of 15,000 litres for the village.
- Constructed one latrine for one quarantined household in Kassirie Mathatoi village. All 227 households, with 824 people, in Sella-Kafta, Kassirie Mathatoi, Mile 14, and Kalangba have access to household latrines.
- Continued to provide house-to-house sensitization on good hygiene practices and distributed WASH and hygiene supplies, including laundry soap, water storage containers and home protection kits for all the quarantined households.
- Disposed and incinerated household waste and waste bags along the main road in Sella-Kafta.

#### *Tonkolili*

During the last week, UNICEF through its implementing partner PACT, rehabilitated two wells to benefit 500 formerly quarantined people in Massesebe village.

#### *Porto Loko*

- UNICEF, through SALWACO, provided 40,000 litres of water to 11 health check points.

## **Child Protection**

### *Port Loko*

- A three-day training on case management for government social workers and psychosocial pillar members was completed. The training, jointly facilitated by UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender, and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA), brought together 30 participants. Trained staff will be deployed in different chiefdoms to monitor, identify, register and refer cases of child right and child protection abuses to the appropriate services.
- UNICEF child protection team worked with Child Fund to reinstate the Lunsar Observational Interim Care Centre (OICC) to support the Ebola response in Kambia. The facility has been reinstated and is fully equipped. It has the capacity to receive 24 children and 13 pregnant women.

### *Kambia*

- UNICEF, in partnership with pillar organizations, provided psychosocial support and psychological first aid sessions to 842 contacts including 424 children in quarantine homes. 165 children received family tracing and reunification (FTR) kits and 430 children received recreational and learning kits. An additional 118 children in the quarantined homes received mattresses provided by UNICEF.
- A five-year old boy has been reintegrated with his family in Sella-Kafta after two negative test results and one two-year old girl from the village was transferred to the Ebola Treatment Unit after presenting signs of Ebola.
- Psychological first aid was provided to five pregnant women (four of which are high-risk contacts), one lactating mother and six children staying at the OICC. All the contacts under monitoring appear to be stable and healthy and two of the pregnant women have given birth. The NGO Goal has been providing medical assistance to the persons staying at the OICC and medical emergency referred to the International Medical Corps facility.

### *Western area*

- The Cap Anamur OICC, renamed "MSWGCA OICC", is functional as of 10 September 2015. It has a 14-bed capacity and can now admit children into care. UNICEF and the Centers for Disease Control trained the staff on basic infection prevention and control, nutrition and child protection.

### *Bombali*

- UNICEF, in partnership with the MSWGCA, trained Child Welfare Committees in Masuba, Yalisanda and Kamalo communities from 7-10 September 2015 on child protection, including identifying and referring the most vulnerable children for appropriate services. 40 people (24 men and 16 women) participated in the training.
- In light of the new Ebola case in Bombali district, UNICEF, the MSWGCA and other protection partners conducted an assessment of needs for the response.

### *Tonkolili*

- The Protection Desk reported two cases during the reporting period. UNICEF supported the management of the cases by providing guidance on the facilitation.
- UNICEF and the focal point from the MSWGCA Protection Desk followed-up with a victim of sexual and gender-based violence living in the Interim Care Centre on the status of the cross examination in the district magistrate court. The case has been committed to the High Court and the perpetrator has been remanded. The survivor has been reintegrated with family and is being supported with educational materials.

## **Education**

### *Bombali*

- UNICEF is conducting an assessment to identify the number of school-going children that are in quarantined homes, the schools these children were attending, and the availability of hygiene materials and their utilization in the schools. Lesson notes will be prepared for all class levels and distributed to the children in quarantined homes to be able to catch up on missed classes.

### *Kambia*

- UNICEF and the District Education Office provided education technical and material support to the children in the quarantined villages of Sella-Kafta. Lesson notes were distributed to 64 primary school children (37 boys and 27 girls) in quarantined homes. Additionally, nine pupils in class 6 were provided with National Primary School Examination questions to facilitate their preparations for the exams.

## Summary Analysis of Other Programme Responses

### Child Protection

- 1,354 children from 13 districts received psychosocial support (PSS) in the reporting period including counselling, recreational activities and mental health services.
- The UNICEF child protection section, through implementing partners, registered 107 children, conducted family tracing and reunification (FTR) for three children, followed up on 205 reunified children, distributed six FTR kits, engaged 175 children in activity planning and monitoring at community level, provided 123 children with individual and/or group counselling, enabled 300 children to participate in spiritual and traditional healing ceremonies while 848 children participated in recreational activities<sup>2</sup>. Three children were referred for specialised mental health services. 103 volunteers were engaged in PSS community activities.
- Currently, all 13 protection desks are operational, staffed by the MSWGCA and supported by UNICEF.

### Health

During the reporting week, UNICEF

- Supported and participated in the GAVI joint appraisal, which ended on 11 September 2015. The joint appraisal is an annual, in-country multi-stakeholder review of the implementation progress and performance of Gavi support to the country, and of its contribution to improved immunization outcomes
- Provided technical support for the distribution of free health care commodities from the central level to district medical stores and hospitals in 12 districts. The distribution will continue in the Peripheral Health Units (PHU) in the coming weeks.
- Supported the distribution of Ebola infection and prevention control supplies to Kailahun, Kenema, Bonthe, Kambia and Port Loko districts.
- Supported the Ministry of Health and Sanitation and the Directorate of Public Health in a three-day training of trainers in geo mapping. District-level training for data collectors is expected to be completed in the week of 14 September 2015 and will be followed by data collection in Kambia, Kailahun, Bombali and Tonkolili.

### WASH

- UNICEF continued to monitor and support the 17 Community Care Centers with essential WASH packages including sanitation facilities, waste management and water supply for drinking, personal hygiene and disinfection.
- During the reporting period, 441,000 litres of water were delivered to 3,150 people in water stressed communities affected by Ebola, Ebola Treatment Units and other health facilities.

### Nutrition

- The nutrition section continued to focus on ensuring critical nutrition supplies to all districts for infants who lost one or both parents, Ebola survivors and severe acute malnourished (SAM) children (6-59 months), with a special attention to Kambia, Port Loko, Tonkolili and Western Area. This is a coordinated response with other pillars and nutrition partners. Weekly updates of stock and consumption status are being reviewed with District Logistic Officers (DLOs), District Nutritionists (DN) and quality assurance unit of UNICEF.
- In the last week, nutrition supplies<sup>3</sup> have been provided for 6,102 Ebola cases at ten Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs), 22 Ebola Holding Centres (EHCs), two ETU/EHCs, six interim care centres (ICCs) and six OICCs, as well as 18 Community Care Centres (CCCs)<sup>4</sup>.
- Since November 2014, 695 infants (0-5 months) of Ebola-affected mothers and infant who lost one or both parents (0-5 months) of non-Ebola affected mothers from 12 districts<sup>5</sup> are receiving bi-weekly supplies of Ready to Use Infant Formula (RUIF).
- In the last week, 54,369 children under five were screened at the community level in 85 out of 149 chiefdoms (covering 881 communities). 1,252 (2.30 per cent) SAM children were identified, of whom 367<sup>6</sup> were admitted for

<sup>2</sup> PSS includes the counselling, recreational activities, receipt of FTR kits and participation in cleansing ceremonies. The likelihood of the same children having participated in more than one of the PSS activities is high.

<sup>3</sup> Supplies include Ready-to-use Therapeutic Food (BP100), Ready-to-Use Infant Formula (RUIF) and Ultra High Temperature (UHT) whole/full cream milk for Ebola patients and survivors – including Infants

<sup>4</sup> UNICEF as well as other agencies CCCs.

<sup>5</sup> Port Loko, Kambia, Tonkolili, Koinadugu, Western Area (Urban and Rural), Moyamba, Kenema, Pujehun, Bonthe, Bo and Kono

<sup>6</sup> This represents 29.3 per cent of the cases that attended after referral from the community. The low proportion of SAM cases admitted in the OTP program was due to the fact that few caretakers attend the OTP PHUs during the rainy season. Efforts are made to encourage mothers whose children have been identified with malnutrition to attend OTP for admission and treatment

treatment at the Out Patient Therapeutic Programme (OTP), while 14 children<sup>7</sup> who had SAM with medical complications were referred to an In-Patient-Facility (IPF) to receive paediatric and nutrition care. The total number of children receiving treatment in the programme were 2,391 by end of the week. 372 boxes of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) were consumed. This report was analysed from the seven<sup>8</sup> districts (all chiefdoms).

## Community Care Centres (CCCs)

Since 17 November 2014, UNICEF-supported CCCs have triaged 32,356 patients and have detected 1,090 Ebola suspects across five districts. 891 of the Ebola suspects received supportive care at the CCCs and 199 were immediately transferred by ambulance to the nearest ETU.

In the past week, 822 patients were triaged at UNICEF-supported CCCs, representing a daily average of 117 patients, and a 20 per cent increase from the previous week (684 patients triaged). Two patients triaged met the Ebola case definition and were admitted for care.

### Seven-day status update of operational CCCs

District	Number/ Type of CCC	Implementing Partner	Triaged	Admitted	Transferred	% Ebola Suspects	Reporting Completeness
Kambia	8 x 8 beds	Marie-Stopes	822	2	0	0.2%	100%
Kono	2 x 8 beds	Partners in Health	0	0	0	0%	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>80 beds</b>		<b>822</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>77%</b>

All data received through RapidPro, an SMS-based data collection platform, is cleaned continuously and adjusted, including for those previously reported.

## Education

- As part of UNICEF support to strengthening data gathering and reporting processes within the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST), 1,176 ward-based community monitors from 392 wards across all districts were trained on the use of the RapidPro SMS based platform. They were selected from Back-to-School Committees, School Management Committees and other community structures that already have a responsibility of monitoring activities within the schools.
- Preparations for the Annual School Census (ASC) were concluded this week and the questionnaires have been distributed to districts. Data collection trainings were conducted at regional level on 8-12 September 2015.
- UNICEF provided technical support for the ten-day National Early Childhood Development (ECD) Policy workshop, which was attended by more than 30 participants. The workshop concluded on 8 September 2015. Participants included national and district level MEST officials, representatives from other ministries and district councils, university ECD researchers, and ECD practitioners such as nursery head teachers and representative from Nursery School Association and Catholic Preschools. The preliminary draft of the National ECD Policy, ECD Minimum Standards, and ECD Curriculum generated from the workshop will be further developed and validated. The National ECD Policy will lay out the road map for promoting ECD services for Sierra Leone. The ECD Minimum Standards and Curriculum will be piloted and serve as guidance for quality improvement in the ECD services.

## Human Resources

UNICEF Personnel in Sierra Leone	Freetown	In the field	Total Staff Strength
International Staff	47	15	62
National Staff	70	96	166
Staff on Surge and SBP	3	2	5
Total Staff	120	113	233
Oversourced third party / government staff for CCCs	140		

## Media and External Communication

An [Al-Jazeera](#) story highlighted UNICEF support to quarantined communities in Sierra Leone. UNICEF support to training of peer educators was mentioned in a story on [Awoko](#). UNICEF also received coverage in the national press, on UNICEF role in the Ebola response in areas with active transmission (AYV TV), and the support provided to a child from Sierra Leone who was invited to attend the UN General Assembly for Children this month (New Citizen). The external relations

<sup>7</sup> Those referred to IPF includes cases identified in the community every week, cases coming spontaneously to the OTP HF's and finally non-respondent cases who have been attending OTP for a while and the Health Worker referred them to IPF within the reporting week.

<sup>8</sup> Kono, Kenema, Moyamba, Kambia, Port Loko, Bombali et Tonkolili

team also supported journalists covering UNICEF-supported Ebola sensitization drama performances. Posts on the UNICEF Facebook page reached 18,929 accounts and the Twitter account received 728 mentions.

## Funding

In line with the UN inter-agency response strategy for the Ebola outbreak, [UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children \(HAC\)](#) is appealing for USD 178 million for Sierra Leone to support the needs of children and communities affected by the Ebola crisis until the end of July 2015. Currently, UNICEF is revising its HAC appeal in order to establish the funding needs until the end of 2015. As of 1 September 2015, USD 123.2 million (69.3 per cent of the total funding needs) has been received. UNICEF greatly appreciates the contributions that have been received to date including from DFID/UKAID, OFDA/USAID, ECHO/European Union, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, SIDA, the Governments of Canada, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, and the United Arab Emirates, OCHA, and the Danish, Japan, Swedish, Swiss and UK Committees for UNICEF, as well as the US Fund for UNICEF, and the private sector.

## Programme Results

UNICEF and Pillar/Sector Results for Ebola Response						
Sierra Leone, 16 September 2015						
Indicators	Pillar / Sector			UNICEF		
	Target	Actual	% Achieved	Target	Actual	% Achieved
<b>EPIDEMIOLOGY</b>						
Children 0-17 years living in Ebola affected areas		Not Available				
Registered Ebola children who lost one or both parents/primary caregivers		8,624				
<b>COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT</b>						
Households reached with interpersonal communication on Ebola prevention	886,480	1,955,648	221%	532,000	1,036,230	195%
Hotspot communities reached by social mobilizers/rapid response teams within 24 hours of detection of Ebola cases in the past week	100%	11/11	100%	100%	11/11	100%
Chieftdoms reporting resistance/reticence to cooperating with frontline workers in the past week	0	14	8% (14/182)	0	14	8% (14/182)
Ebola-related resistance/reticence incidents reported in the past week	0	20		0	20	
Proportion of population surveyed who indicated discriminatory attitude towards Ebola survivors	<3%	38% 1,286/3,415		<3%	38% <sup>9</sup> 1,286/3,415	
Proportion of population surveyed who rejected alternatives to traditional burials/funerals	<3%	12% 437/3,540		<3%	12% 437/3,540	
<b>COMMUNITY CARE CENTRES</b>						
CCCs established		58			46	
CCCs functional		10			10	
CCCs decommissioned		48			36	
<b>WASH</b>						
Ebola community, treatment and holding centres with essential WASH services	94	69	72%	52	36	69%
CCCs provided with essential WASH services	58	58	100%	46	46	100%
Non-Ebola health centres in Ebola-affected areas provided with hand washing station and/or WASH support	1,162	1,162	100%	1,162	1,162 <sup>10</sup>	100%
People benefiting from household WASH kits in Ebola-affected areas	420,000	251,386	60%	420,000	251,386	60%

<sup>9</sup> KAP Survey, December 2014

<sup>10</sup> This was a one off activity carried out by UNICEF on behalf of the cluster

CHILD PROTECTION						
Ebola-affected children provided with minimum package of psychosocial support (PSS) services	25,000	28,734	115%	25,000	28,734	115%
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	2,000	2,423	121%	2,000	2,423	121%
HEALTH						
Health structures in Ebola-affected areas provided with Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) supplies				1,185	1,195	101%
Community health workers trained in Ebola prevention and case management				6,000	9,715	162%
Children 6-59 months immunized against measles during the measles campaign <sup>11</sup>				1,240,601 95%	1,205,865 97.2%	97.2%
HIV/AIDS						
HIV positive pregnant/breast feeding women receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission				1,142	916	80%
Exposed new born provided with antiretroviral (ARV) for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT)				900	155	17%
HIV positive children under 15 continuing to receive ART				539	300	56%
NUTRITION						
Ebola patients receiving nutrition support				3,200	6,102	191%
Children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) admitted for treatment				18,885	17,390	92%
Infants 0-6 months who cannot be breast fed, receiving ready to use infant formula				300	695	232%
EDUCATION						
Radio stations broadcasting emergency learning programmes				41	41	100%
Teachers trained in providing psychosocial support (PSS)	36,000	18,338 <sup>12</sup>	50.9%	9,000	8,997	99.9%
Teachers trained in Ebola prevention	36,000	18,338	50.9%	9,000	8,997	99.9%
Schools equipped with minimum hygiene package for Ebola prevention compliant with protocols	9,000	8,460 <sup>13</sup>	94%	3,472 <sup>14</sup>	3,472	100%
Children in school benefitting from learning kits	1,800,000	1,800,000	100%	1,800,000	1,800,000	100%
Children enrolled in schools equipped with minimum hygiene package	1,800,000	1,692,000	94%	694,400 <sup>15</sup>	694,400	100%

### Next Situation Report: 23 September 2015

#### Who to contact for further information:

**Geoff Wiffin, Representative**  
UNICEF Sierra Leone  
Tel: +44 2033579278/9 x1001  
Mobile: +232 76 101 004  
Email: gwiffin@unicef.org

**Sandra Lattouf, Deputy Representative**  
UNICEF Sierra Leone  
Tel: +44 2033579278/9 x2001  
Mobile: +232 76 291 023  
Email: slattouf@unicef.org

**John James, Communications Specialist**  
UNICEF Sierra Leone  
Tel: + 232 76 601 310  
Mobile: +232 76 102 401  
Email: jjames@unicef.org

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<sup>11</sup> The measles campaign for Sierra Leone targeted children 9-59 months

<sup>12</sup> Complete package of teacher training in PSS and Ebola prevention including the school protocol and guidance notes

<sup>13</sup> This is derived from the national coverage of 94 per cent observed in RapidPro Monitoring

<sup>14</sup> UNICEF targeted at distributing 24,300 hygiene kits

<sup>15</sup> Derived from schools equipped with the minimum hygiene package multiplied by an average of 200 students per school