



Sierra Leone Ebola Situation Report

26 August 2015



HIGHLIGHTS

- The week to 23 August 2015 saw the second successive epidemiological week without a confirmed Ebola case.
- On 24 August 2015, the country's last current Ebola patient was released as a survivor from the International Medical Corps (IMC) Mateneh Ebola Treatment Centre. Back home in the formerly quarantined Massesebe village, Tonkolili district, she received a survivors' re-integration kit from UNICEF to help with her return. The discharge starts the 42 day countdown for the country to being declared free from Ebola transmission.
- The micro-surge in Western Area was extended by another five days with a focus on intensive community engagement. As part of the surge, 30 community meetings were held engaging 297 community leaders and 28,822 individuals through community dialogues and conversations. Over 8,447 households were reached through house-to-house visits in those wards during the week.
- In Port Loko district, UNICEF-led social mobilization teams from Restless Development, OXFAM and the Red Cross reached 37,437 people, 768 traditional healers and 2,968 community leaders in 2,350 communities.
- In Kambia, the UNICEF child protection team participated in the monitoring of cross border activities. The assessment of official and non-official crossing points continues, especially around the Bramaia, Gbinle Dixing and Samu chiefdoms.
- UNICEF, through the Sierra Leone Water Company (SALWACO) and PACT, continues to provide water to all the 508 formerly quarantined people in Massesebe village, as well as Masanga hospital in Tonkolili district. Around 11,000 litres of water are delivered every day and 1,730 litres of packaged drinking water has been provided to the households through UNICEF direct procurement.
- UNICEF and its implementing partners, working with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST), continued to visit schools to monitor readiness in compliance with the Ebola safety protocols. As of 25 August 2015, 5,800 (63.7 per cent) schools had been visited. Schools reopen for the new semester on 31 August 2015.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

As of 25 August 2015

8,697¹

Confirmed cases of Ebola

3,586¹

Confirmed deaths from Ebola

1,459²

Confirmed cases of infected children under age 18 registered by MSWGCA

8,624²

Registered Ebola Orphans

UNICEF funding needs to June 2015

USD 178 million

UNICEF funding gap

USD 55.2 million³

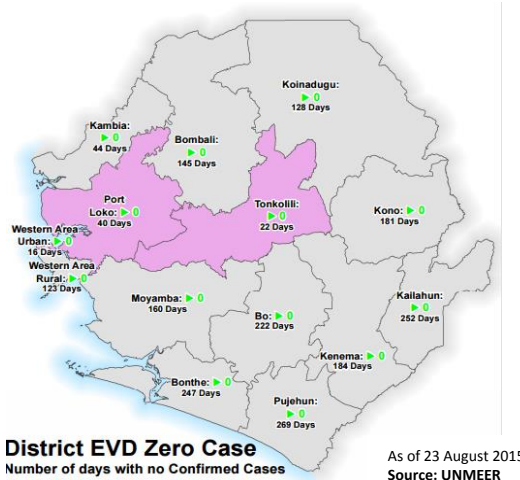
1. Source: Ministry of Health and Sanitation

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

3. Funding status as of 18 August 2015

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 has seen a large scale up of operations by the Government of Sierra Leone and partners since the launch of the operation on 16 June 2015. During the week to 23 August 2015, there were no confirmed Ebola cases, the second successive zero week.



Communication for Development (C4D) and Social Mobilization (SM)¹

- The micro-surge in Western Area was extended by another five days under Operation Safeguard Western Area (OSWA) with a focus on intensive community engagement. As part of the surge, 30 community meetings were held engaging 297 community leaders and 28,822 individuals through community dialogues and conversations. Community leaders, with support from social mobilisers, are now engaging cinema owners and the managers of video clubs to emphasize the need to enforce community bye laws against overcrowding, and to promote hand washing stations, especially in the seven high risk wards. Over 8,447 households were reached through house-to-house visits in those wards during the week.
- Under the Collective Community Action Project, twelve ward monitors have been trained and deployed with the aim of monitoring the daily movement of people in their assigned wharfs. Community action plans have been rolled out in the 69 wards with orientation to the ward committees and village task force members.
- In Port Loko district, UNICEF-led social mobilization teams from Restless Development, OXFAM and the Red Cross reached 37,437 people, 768 traditional healers and 2,968 community leaders in 2,350 communities. UNICEF, through the social mobilization pillar, engaged over 100 Okada motorbike taxi riders representing all the 11 chiefdoms of Port Loko. The activity aimed to ensure that this sector is fully integrated into the response system and that the riders play a part in preventing the spread of Ebola. The issue of protecting women and children was also discussed with the Okada riders. The exercise ended with a motorcade on the main streets of Port Loko town.
- Paramount chiefs from the 11 chiefdoms of Port Loko reported on the progress of their community engagement action plans. They also identified some of the challenges such as increasing the uptake of services at Peripheral Health Units (PHU). The Paramount Chiefs' meeting also discussed strategies for dealing with "silent sections"² and developing survivor networks. A UNICEF protection colleague made a presentation related to child protection and the role the Paramount Chiefs can play in supporting vulnerable people.
- In Kambia, UNICEF is coordinating two major initiatives as the district celebrated 42 days without a case. Operation 'Enduring Zero' continues with community engagement across all chiefdoms in the district. Village headmen have been provided with mobile phones to report alerts from their villages. The District Ebola Response Centre, District Health Management Team (DHMT), UNICEF, WHO, CDC, DFID, GOAL and others were part of the team that engaged with the communities during the week. The 'Ambulance Open Day' exhibition project resumed on 16 August 2015 in three communities in Braimaia chiefdom. The team comprised social mobilizers from the DHMT, a nurse, a hygienist/sprayer, two CDC staff, the UNICEF Deputy Field Coordinator and a journalist. Two ambulances were taken to the exhibition. Over 500 people were reached with information on the benefits of using the ambulance, and their perceived fears and apprehensions were addressed. The exhibitions will continue every Saturday and Sunday in various chiefdoms till 5 September 2015.

WASH

Tonkolili

During last week, UNICEF through its partners, SALWACO and PACT, delivered the following:

- Provided 83,730 litres of water to communities in Massesebe village and Masanga hospital benefitting 508 persons including 43 quarantined persons and 8 hospital patients.

¹ 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

² 'Silent sections' are areas of the district that are reporting very few alerts to the national Ebola hotline.

- Provided 1,730 litres of packaged drinking water to the formerly quarantined households through UNICEF direct procurement.
- Masanga and Magburaka hospitals with a capacity of more than 200 beds benefitted from 1,225 litres of fuel provided by UNICEF through PACT to facilitate the running of the hospital generators to ensure 24 hour electricity supply during the Ebola response.
- As part of the exit strategy for the previously quarantined Massesebe village, UNICEF WASH team conducted an assessment of the water supply situation of the village, and preparations are under way to rehabilitate two existing shallow wells and restore a piped water supply for the village.
- Supported the final decontamination of Massesebe village by incinerating solid waste including bedding from high risk households before the last households were released from quarantine.
- Sierra Leone's last Ebola patient was provided with a hygiene kit package on discharge from Mateneh Ebola Treatment Centre this week.

Port Loko

- UNICEF, through SALWACO, provided 17,500 litres of water to 26 households (156 persons) in under-served areas during the week, and water was delivered to all check points.

Education

- To ensure formerly quarantined children who missed part of the last school term are ready for school, UNICEF alongside the district education office (DEO) in Port Loko, provided learning materials to 128 children (68 boys and 60 girls) in Kaffu Bullom and Lokomasama chiefdoms following the loss of property including learning materials during the decontamination of houses.
- In addition, in the voluntary quarantine facility in Western Area Urban, eight school age children (5 boys and 3 girls) received recreational material including Ebola flip books, danger cards, and a snakes and ladders game. The UNICEF team also followed up with the schools where these children attend school to ensure schools are ready to reintegrate them. Schools reopen for the new semester on 31 August 2015.

Child Protection

- Psychosocial support (PSS) was provided by UNICEF to 14 adults at the voluntary quarantine facility in Western Area. Five children were reunified with families this week from the Observational Interim Care Centre (OICC). With support from UNICEF, 35 community members have been trained in psychological first aid (PFA) and are presently working in the seven hotspot wards. They are providing PFA for affected families post-quarantine, and also identifying child protection issues and referring to focal partners in the targeted communities.
- During the reporting period, the Tonkolili protection desk was involved in linking various cases reported by the PSS field teams from quarantine areas. 21 children were released from quarantine in the period.
- In Port Loko, child sexual abuse and rape continues to be a source of concern with three new cases reported during the week. In order to prepare the partners for a proper response to sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) cases, the protection pillar organized a one-day workshop, which was attended by 50 participants. UNICEF co-facilitated the SGBV training with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs, and IMC.

Summary Analysis of Other Programme Responses

Health

- UNICEF Sierra Leone supported all 14 districts with the distribution of UNICEF procured infection prevention and control (IPC) supplies from District Medical Stores (DMS) to the Peripheral Health Units (PHU). The distribution has covered 57 per cent of the PHUs this week and distribution will continue in the coming week.
- UNICEF also continued to support UNICEF procured anti-malaria commodities and neonatal resuscitation items/materials from District Medical Stores (DMS) to the PHUs.
- During the reporting period, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS), with the support of UNICEF, continued the cascade training of the 'Immunization in Practice' of health workers from PHUs. Districts including Moyamba, Kambia, Tonkolili, Bombali, Kono and Western Area completed the training of at least one health worker per PHU. To date, 448 health workers have been trained. The cascade training continues in other districts, involving an additional 274 health workers from the PHUs.
- UNICEF responded to the MoHS' request for the provision of 1,000 units of garbage bags and 536 bottles of liquid soap. A process for the procurement of veronica buckets, body bags and heavy duty rubber gloves is ongoing.
- UNICEF is supporting the MoHS Health System Strengthening hub to develop a detailed proposal on community engagement and outreach, as part of the national effort for building a resilient health system.

- UNICEF supported the MoHS to train district supervisors for “On the Job Training” of health providers for Maternal and Neonatal health care, including a revised IPC component. The supervisors were from the districts of Kambia, Port Loko, Western Area, Bombali, Tonkolili, Kono and Koinadugu. Ten supervisors per district were trained, except for the large districts of Western Area and Bombali where 15 supervisors were trained, making a total of 80 district supervisors trained in this first round. The remaining seven districts will be covered next week.

WASH

- UNICEF continues monitoring and supporting 17 CCCs with essential WASH packages including sanitation facilities, waste management and water supply for drinking, personal hygiene and disinfection.
- During the reporting period, 555m³ litres of water were delivered to 3,964 people in water-stressed Ebola affected communities, Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs), and other health facilities.

Nutrition

- 608 infants (0-5 months) of Ebola affected mothers and infant orphans (0-5 months) of non-Ebola affected mothers from 11 districts³ are receiving biweekly supplies of Ready to Use Infant Formula from UNICEF.
- 36,725 children were screened in 621 communities countrywide. 629 severe acute malnourished (SAM) children were identified and admitted for treatment at the Out Patient Therapeutic Programme (OTP) centre while 136 who had SAM with medical complications were referred to inpatient facilities to receive pediatric and nutrition care. By the end of last week, 2,192 children were receiving treatment under OTP. 112 boxes of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) were consumed.

Community Care Centres (CCCs)

Since 17 November 2014, 30,304 patients have been triaged at CCCs and 1,032 (3.4%) were Ebola suspects. In the past week, 474 patients were triaged and three were Ebola suspects. The average triage for the week: 68 patients per day.

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	459	3	0	0.7%	94%
Kono	2 x 8 beds	Partners in Health	15	0	0	0%	64%
TOTAL	80 beds		474	3	0	0.6%	87%

All data received through RapidPro, a SMS-based data collection platform, is cleaned continuously and adjusted, including for those

Child Protection⁴

- UNICEF in partnership with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs and with implementing NGOs reached 5,698 children in the reporting period with support including recreational activities, counselling and cleansing ceremonies, and individual/group counselling.
- For the reporting period, the UNICEF child protection section through NGO partnerships registered 5,202 children, conducted Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) activities for 686 children, followed up on 1,963 reunified children, and placed 486 children in alternative care. The partnerships also saw the distribution of 130 FTR kits. 2,092 children were engaged in activity planning and monitoring at community level, 3,010 children were provided with individual and/or group counselling. 3,526 children participated in spiritual and traditional healing ceremonies while 5,427 children participated in recreational activities⁵. 387 were children referred for specialised mental health services.

Education

- UNICEF and its implementing partners, working with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, continued to visit schools to monitor readiness in compliance with the Ebola safety protocols. As of 25 August 2015, 5,800 schools (63.7 per cent) had been visited. Critical hygiene replenishment supplies (hand washing and soap, cleaning materials) have been prepositioned in all the districts and the district education offices will distribute to all schools identified as having inadequate supplies.

³ Port Loko, Kambia, Tonkolili, Koinadugu, Western Area, Moyamba, Kenema, Pujehun, Bonthe, Bo and Kono

⁴ UNICEF is the UN Child Protection lead agency for the Ebola response and co-chairs the Child Protection, Psychosocial and Gender pillar with MSWGCA.

⁵ Kindly note that 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.

- UNICEF finalised plans to support the education of teenage girls who fell pregnant or gave birth in the months following Ebola and the closure of schools. The programme is intended to provide catch up lessons for these girls to facilitate their return to schools when they feel ready to do so.
- An additional 4,050 teachers in Bo, Bombali, Kenema, Moyamba and Port Loko districts as well as Western Rural and Western Urban Area were trained this week on psychosocial support. In total 19,000 teachers have been trained nationwide by UNICEF. The trainings equipped teachers with knowledge and skills on Psychological First Aid and Psycho-social Support, which will help them to play an important role in enabling children's well-being through conducting education in a manner that is participatory, supportive, child-friendly and free of humiliation, discrimination, abuse and other child protection issues.

Human Resources

UNICEF Personnel in Sierra Leone	Freetown	In the field	Total Staff Strength
International Staff	48	16	64
National Staff	73	94	167
Staff on Surge and SBP	4	1	5
Total Staff	125	111	236
Outsourced third party / government staff for CCCs	140		

Media & External Communication

The external relations team supported journalists covering the discharge of Sierra Leone's last Ebola patient, and also provided material for global social media networks. During the week, [Fox News](#) picked up an earlier Reuters story mentioning our support to quarantine homes in Tonkolili district. Three blog posts were published in the week: two on the UNICEF global blog highlighting the importance of continued [vigilance](#) against Ebola, and another on the [work](#) done to support families in quarantine. With UNICEF Sierra Leone help, the head of the UK UNICEF National Committee published a blog [post](#) on the Huffington Post UK platform. In the period, the office [Facebook account](#) grew to more than 10,000 followers.

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 18 August 2015, USD 122.6 million (68.9 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, 26 August 2015						
Indicators	Pillar / Sector			UNICEF		
	Target	Actual	% Achieved	Target	Actual	% Achieved
EPIDEMIOLOGY						
Children 0-17 years living in Ebola affected areas		Not Available				
Registered Ebola children who lost one or both parents/primary caregivers		8,624				
COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT						
Households reached with interpersonal communication on Ebola prevention	886,480	1,898,057	214%	532,000	1,009,667	190%
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%

Chiefdoms reporting resistance/reticence to cooperating with frontline workers in the past week	0	16	9% (16/182)	0	21	9% (16/182)
Ebola-related resistance/reticence incidents reported in the past week	0	24		0	24	
Proportion of population surveyed who indicated discriminatory attitude towards Ebola survivors	<3%	38% 1,286/3,415		<3%	38% ⁶ 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	
COMMUNITY CARE CENTRES						
CCCs established		58			46	
CCCs functional		10			10	
CCCs decommissioned		48			36	
WASH						
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 ⁷	100%
People benefiting from household WASH kits in Ebola-affected areas	420,000	249,979	59.5%	420,000	249,979	59.5%
CHILD PROTECTION						
Ebola-affected children provided with minimum package of psychosocial support (PSS) services	25,000	24,530	98%	25,000	24,530	98%
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	2,597	130%	2,000	2,597	130%
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 ⁸				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 (PMTCT)				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	6,086	190%
Children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) admitted for treatment				18,885	15,884	84%
Infants 0-6 months who cannot be breast fed, receiving ready to use infant formula				300	608	203%

⁶ KAP Survey, December 2014

⁷ This was a one off activity carried out by UNICEF on behalf of the cluster

⁸ The measles campaign for Sierra Leone targeted children 9-59 months

EDUCATION						
Radio stations broadcasting emergency learning programmes				41	41	100%
Teachers trained in providing psychosocial support (PSS)	36,000	18,338 ⁹	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 ¹⁰	94%	3,472 ¹¹	3,472	100%
Children in school benefitting from learning kits	1,800,000	1,800,000	100%	1,800,000	1,800,000	100%

Next Situation Report: 2 September 2015

UNICEF Sierra Leone Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/unicefsierraleone>

UNICEF Sierra Leone Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UnicefSL>

UNICEF Sierra Leone YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/UNICEFSL>

UNICEF Sierra Leone Instagram: <https://instagram.com/unicefsierraleone>

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⁹ Complete package of teacher training in PSS, and Ebola prevention including the school protocol and guidance notes

¹⁰ This is derived from the national coverage of 94 per cent observed in RapidPro monitoring

¹¹ UNICEF targeted at distributing 24,300 hygiene kits