



UNICEF Sierra Leone country staff celebrate the gold medal awarded by H.E. President Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma for services to the Ebola response

Sierra Leone Ebola Situation Report

23 December 2015



HIGHLIGHTS

- On 18 December 2015, Sierra Leone observed the day of Recognition of Ebola workers. The day was celebrated as a national holiday. A ceremony, hosted by H.E. President Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, was held to mark the event and attended by UNICEF, international partners, the diplomatic community and local representatives. UNICEF Sierra Leone was awarded a gold medal for services rendered during the Ebola response.
- UNICEF implementing partners FHM, CEDA and RODA decommissioned 11 Community care Centres (CCCs) during the reporting period; five in Kambia, four in Tonkolili and two in Kono. The six remaining CCCs will be handed over to the District Health Management Team (DHMT) for repurposing (three in Bombali and three in Kambia).
- The implementation of Project Shield is ongoing. The review of the registration of Ebola survivors and mapping of health services in the pilot districts continued in the reporting period. In Bombali, the counselling of survivors continued and in Port Loko, the third phase of the project was launched with awareness raising and safe sex education campaigns led by the District Medical Health Teams and the HIV/AIDS department

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

As of 23 December 2015

8,704¹

Confirmed cases of Ebola

3,589¹

Confirmed deaths from Ebola

1,459²

Confirmed cases of infected children under age 18 registered by MSWGCA

8,624²

Registered children who lost one or both parents due to Ebola

**UNICEF funding needs to
December 2015**

USD 160 million

UNICEF funding gap

USD 34.9 million³ (22%)

1. Source: Ministry of Health and Sanitation

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

3. Funding status as of 17 November 2015

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

Kambia

- UNICEF supported social mobilizers from Restless Development engaged 143 communities; reaching over 3,789 people across the seven chiefdoms of Kambia. 217 Village Development Committees (VDCs) have been re-oriented on VDC formation, roles and responsibilities. Out of these, 157 are developing action plans.
- Community engagement on the decommissioning of Community Care Centres (CCCs) was also undertaken. The activity was led by Marie Stopes Sierra Leone with support from UNICEF. One of the key issues raised by communities included inadequate planning and discussions on the re-purposing of CCCs. Social mobilizers clarified that the dismantling was in the context of the end of the outbreak and that most of the items such as beds and mattresses would be handed over to the District Health Medical Teams (DHMTs) for use at Peripheral Health Units (PHU) and that some of the items would be left with the communities.

Western Area

- UNICEF supported social mobilization partners HFAC, Conservation Alliance, Sierra Leone Red Cross, Talented Young People Everywhere and Child Welfare Society, along with Social Mobilization Action Consortium (SMAC), conducted community dialogues, weekly meetings and one to one conversations on safe and dignified burials, calling 117 and reporting the sick and deaths. They reached 20,233 households, including 36,969 people, 1,074 community leaders, and 746 religious leaders.
- UNICEF partner Girl Child Network, launched a project to engage traditional societies to improve their involvement and participation in maintaining vigilance over the next 90 days. 30 identified communities will be part of this project.
- Community Development Committees (CDC) across 69 wards in the Western Area reviewed their Community Action Plans (CAP). As a part of the CAPs, 18 wards in Western Area have initiated awareness raising campaigns to promote hand washing and remind communities to maintain vigilance. Under the enhanced surveillance initiative, approximately 12,000 passengers were screened in the 32 high risk wharfs during the reporting period.

Port Loko

- UNICEF, WHO, and the DHMTs continued to hold confidence building meetings for PHU staff and community stakeholders across the district. The meetings aim at increasing attendance at health facilities and to curb the high infant mortality in the district. More than 99 people including village headmen, nurses, religious leaders and other stakeholders participated in open dialogue meetings
- UNICEF supported partner Restless Development oriented 937 Community Champions in six chiefdoms. The orientation aimed at updating them on the Ebola situation in the district and clarifying their roles and responsibilities to maintain zero Ebola.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) to develop WASH priority initiatives (as part of the 10-24 months post-Ebola plan) intended to improve WASH service provision and support the strengthening of systems, government institutions, structures and promote sustainability
- UNICEF supported the MoWR to draw up plans to improve coordination at district level and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) to roll out national WASH standards and guidelines in schools.
- UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS) in compiling and analyzing survey data on WASH in health facilities to identify gaps and requirements to strengthen post-Ebola health service provision.
- UNICEF continued to monitor and support implementing partners in the early recovery rehabilitation project for WASH at 170 school and 85 health facilities in Western Area, Kenema, Pujehun, Moyamba, Tonkolili, Bombali, Port Loko and Kambia districts. The implementation of new WASH standards and guideline in health care facilities have commenced in 17 of the 84 PHUs to ensure compliance with the MoHS infection, prevention and control (IPC) requirements.
- UNICEF implementing partners FHM, CEDA and RODA decommissioned 11 Community care Centres (CCCs) during the reporting period; five in Kambia, four in Tonkolili and two in Kono. The six remaining CCCs will be handed over to the District Health Management Team (DHMT) for repurposing (three in Bombali and three in Kambia).

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

Child Protection

- 6,692 children and parents from 13 districts received psychosocial support (PSS) during the reporting period, including counselling, recreational activities, healing ceremonies and mental health services.
- UNICEF, through implementing partners, followed-up on 327 reunified children, reunified 14 children with their families, distributed 47 family tracing and reunification (FTR) kits, engaged 2,483 children in activity planning and monitoring at community level, provided 3,350 children and families with individual and/or group counselling, while 1,310 children participated in recreational activities and 799 participated in spiritual healing ceremonies. 579 volunteers were engaged in PSS community activities.
- All 13 protection desks, supported by UNICEF, are operational and operated by staff from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA).
- There are currently 23 children in Interim Care Center (ICC) in various districts and no contact children in Observational Interim Care Centers (OICC). It is expected for all OICCs to be closed at the end of December 2015. The decommissioning process will be supported by UNICEF implementing partners.
- Implementation of Project Shield is ongoing. The review of the registration of Ebola survivors and mapping of health services in the pilot districts continued in the reporting period. In Bombali, the counselling of survivors continued and in Port Loko, the third phase of the project was launched with awareness raising and safe sex education campaigns led by the District Medical Health Teams and the HIV/AIDS department

Kambia

- The vulnerability assessment of Ebola affected children who lost one or both parents and verification in the district continues. 14 children were verified and assessed in Magbema chiefdom.
- UNICEF partner AMnet organized community healing ceremony for Ebola affected children in five chiefdoms during the reporting period.

Port Loko

- With a view to building capacities, UNICEF engaged the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs and all partners in the district on case management process. Partners were engaged on ensuring quality and timeliness of the entire process.
- UNICEF supported the assessment of vulnerable children and provision of support to vulnerable children and families.

Western Area

- Healing and cleansing ceremonies were successfully held at Mantainkay and Manor Koya in Ward 345. During the planning meetings with stakeholders, community members emphasized the importance of conducting cleansing ceremonies for children as there are children who lost one or both parents that are now afraid to be alone in the dark and carry out their chores. During the ceremony, a special prayer and ritualistic incantations were made to remove the spirit of fear from the children.

Tonkolili

- UNICEF partners Caritas Makeni and FHM organized traditional cleansing and healing ceremonies and recreational activities for children. A large number of children participated in these ceremonies and activities.

Education

- The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST), with support from UNICEF and national ECD experts, conducted a national Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop in Freetown on 12 December 2015 to build the capacity of pre-school teachers on the use of Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits. The 42 trainers have in turn trained 888 pre-school teachers (two per school) and will monitor the effective use of ECD kits in schools.
- MEST, in collaboration with UNICEF and the Institute for Public Administration and Management (IPAM), conducted the second round of capacity building workshops in Moyamba and Kenema. 70 participants from District Education Offices and local councils attended the workshops aimed at building their capacities in education planning, coordination and information management.
- UNICEF continued to support the MEST in the implementation of the bridge education programme for adolescent pregnant girls and teenage mothers across the country. 5,821 girls are registered and 122 learning centres in 14 districts are offering classes in core subjects for the various education levels to ensure that those girls, who have already given birth can return to formal education at the start of the new academic year in January 2016.

Health

Post-Ebola recovery and strengthening of health systems

- During the reporting period, UNICEF supported the MoHS and the Western Area DHMT in their emergency response to the measles outbreak reported last month. A ring vaccination targeting 88,782 children under five years was organized in both Western Area Urban and Rural districts from 15 to 19 December 2015. The results of the campaign are not yet available.
- The On the Job Training of health workers in maternal and newborn health continued in this reporting period with a cumulative total of 1,958 health providers trained on Modules 1 (Antenatal Care) and 2 (Labour and Delivery). The training was carried out in all the districts. In addition, 825 health providers were trained on Modules 3 and 4 (Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care and Postnatal Care) in three districts.

Nutrition

- 89,685 children under five were screened at community level in 107 out of 149 chiefdoms, covering 1,559 communities, in the reporting period. 1,870 (2.09 per cent) severe acute malnourished (SAM) children were identified, of whom 1,009 were admitted for treatment at the Out-Patient Therapeutic Programme (OTP), while 92 children who had SAM with medical complications were referred to an In-Patient Facility (IPF)² to receive pediatric and nutrition care. By the end of the reporting period, 6,530 children received treatment and 948 boxes of ready to use therapeutic food (RUTF paste) were consumed. Distribution plans were developed at district level for the OTP PHUs replenishment. This report was analyzed from Kono, Kenema, Moyamba, Kambia, Port Loko, Bombali, and Tonkolili districts.
- The home fortification pilot program with micronutrient powder, planned for Pujehun, Tonkolili and Kono districts, has been launched. The project, implemented by the University of British Columbia (UBC), is being coordinated by the Directorate of Food and Nutrition (MoHS), with technical support from UNICEF. The implementation of the project at the district level, starting with Pujehun, will begin in the coming week.

Community Care Centres (CCCs)

- Since 17 November 2014, UNICEF-supported CCCs have triaged 40,215 patients and have detected 1,002 Ebola suspects across five districts. 861 of the Ebola suspects received supportive care at the CCCs and 141 received immediate ambulance transfers to the nearest Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU). 32 percent of patients admitted at the CCCs came within 48 hours of symptom onset, allowing for rapid isolation and testing.
- During the last week that CCCs were operational (7-13 December 2015), 104 patients were triaged. None of the patients screened met the Ebola case definition. All CCCs have been safely decontaminated and decommissioned.

Human Resources

In view of the end of the outbreak and the return to normalcy, the Country Office is in the process of downsizing. 40 staff members will be separating in the period between December 2015 and January 2016.

UNICEF Personnel in Sierra Leone	Freetown	In the field	Total Staff Strength
International Staff	51	6	57
National Staff	72	89	161
Staff on Surge and SBP	2	0	2
Total Staff	125	95	220
Outsourced third party / government staff for CCCs		0	

Media and External Communication

With the start of construction on Sierra Leone's first education radio station supported by UNICEF, a press release was issued nationally, and media covered the launch, including the [Patriotic Vanguard](#). The radio station will build on the school radio work begun during the Ebola outbreak. Regular postings continued on social media accounts, with 33,201 accounts reached on Facebook in the last week and 173 new likes. Followers on Facebook are now 11,732, with 4,799 on Twitter. Finally, a new [web story](#) on the UNICEF website in the period highlighted the support given to combat malnutrition in Sierra Leone throughout the Ebola outbreak.

² Those referred to IPF include cases identified in the community every week, cases coming spontaneously to the OTP and the non-respondent cases, referred by health workers, who have been attending OTP for a while

Funding

In line with the UN inter-agency response strategy for the Ebola outbreak, the revised [UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children](#) (HAC) is appealing for USD 160 million for Sierra Leone to support the needs of children and communities affected by the Ebola crisis until the end of December 2015. As of 17 November 2015, USD 125 million (78 per cent of the total funding needs) has been received.

UNICEF greatly appreciates the contributions that have been received to date 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, 23 December 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	2,017,296	228%	532,000	1,089,561	205%
Hotspot communities reached by social mobilizers/rapid response teams within 24 hours of detection of Ebola cases in the past week	100%	0/0	100%	100%	0/0	100%
Chiefdoms reporting resistance/reticence to cooperating with frontline workers in the past week	0	15	8% (15/182)	0	15	8% (15/182)
Ebola-related resistance/reticence incidents reported in the past week	0	19		0	19	
Proportion of population surveyed who indicated discriminatory attitude towards Ebola survivors	<3%	38% 1,286/3,415		<3%	38% ³ 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		0			0	
CCCs decommissioned		58			46	
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 ⁴	100%
People benefiting from household WASH kits in Ebola-affected areas	420,000	260,561	62%	420,000	260,561	62%
CHILD PROTECTION						
Ebola-affected children provided with minimum package of psychosocial support (PSS) services	25,000	65,643	263%	25,000	65,643	263%

³ KAP Survey, December 2014

⁴ This was a one off activity carried out by UNICEF on behalf of the cluster

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	2,520	126%	2,000	2,520	126%
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 ⁵				1,240,601 95%	1,205,865 97%	97%
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	6,165	193%
Children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) admitted for treatment				20,126 ⁶	23,912	119%
Infants 0-6 months who cannot be breast fed, receiving ready to use infant formula				300	358	119%
EDUCATION						
Radio stations broadcasting emergency learning programmes				41	41	100%
Teachers trained in providing psychosocial support (PSS)	36,000	28,338	78.7%	19,000	18,997	99.9%
Teachers trained in Ebola prevention				60,000	34,338 ⁷	57.2%
Schools provided with replenishment of minimum hygiene package				2,083	2,187	105%
Children supported to access education in emergency				8,900 (5,000 ⁸ emergency, 3,900 pregnant girls)	8,400 (4,500 emergency, 5,821 ⁹ pregnant girls)	94.4% (90% emergency, 100% pregnant girls)
Children enrolled in schools equipped with minimum hygiene package				416,600 ¹⁰	437,400	105%

Next Situation Report: 29 January 2016

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⁵ The measles campaign for Sierra Leone targeted children 9-59 months

⁶ The target has been revised from 18,885 to 20,126 to accommodate an additional 2 districts, making a total of 9 districts.

⁷ The target has been revised from 19,000 to 60,000 teachers. UNICEF and MEST in process of school-based training of teachers. The data from the field on actual # of teachers trained

⁸ Teenage pregnancy targeting approximately 3,900 pregnant girls and approximately 5000 children affected by flood and other emergency

⁹ Teenage pregnant girls registered in the Education programme according to MEST report

¹⁰ Derived from schools equipped with minimum hygiene package during replenishments multiplied by average of 200 students per school