**Highlights**

- Since the last UNICEF SitRep of 5 September, 544 new suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases and 218 new deaths were added to the official totals for Liberia, indicating a steepening of the epidemic curve.
- Based on the data, the epicenter of the outbreak has shifted from Foya, Lofa County, where the rate of reported cases appears to be lessening, to Monrovia, Montserrado County, where the rate of reported cases is rapidly rising.
- Ten cases of measles have been reported in Lofa County, of which five have been confirmed clinically.
- Training for the County Health Teams in infection control has commenced. This is the first step toward reopening health facilities nationwide.
- A fifth 100-bed ETU was officially opened this week in Bong County, and services will start as soon as possible.
- A third international Ebola lab has been opened in Foya, Lofa County.
- Vice President Mr. Joseph Boakai officially launched the “Wash Away Ebola” strategy, which was developed by the Ministry of Public Works together with UNICEF, and which will guide nationwide Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) efforts geared at stopping the spread of Ebola.
- Together with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW), WHO and other key partners, UNICEF conducted a refresher Training of Trainers (ToT) for 42 Master Trainers. These trainers will support UNICEF-funded trainings, including trainings of over 2,000 general Community Health Volunteers (gCHVs) in all 15 counties for their door to door messaging.

**Ebola statistics as of 10 September:**

- 2,407 cases including:
  - 539 suspected
  - 1,078 probable
  - 790 confirmed

- 1,296 deaths including:
  - 261 suspected
  - 472 probable
  - 563 confirmed

- 169 cases and 82 deaths among health care workers

**UNICEF funding needs for next six months**

- US$ 75 million (revised estimate, to be included in revised UN appeal)

**UNICEF funding gap**

- US$ 72.7 million (per revised UN appeal estimate)

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*All Ebola statistics in this report are drawn from MoHSW Ebola SitRep #118, which reports cumulative cases as of 10 September 2014.*
Situation Overview
Despite progress in the establishment of additional ETUs and Ebola labs, the number of beds in ETUs continues to fall far short of the need, and testing facilities remain inadequate. Based on the latest data from the MoHSW, the number of beds in existing ETUs could hold only 15 per cent of the total reported cases (suspected, probable and confirmed). Meanwhile, all services remain overwhelmed. Consequently, the epidemic continues to increase, and UNICEF’s funding requirement is continuously growing.

WASH
• On 12 September, Vice President Mr. Joseph Boakai officially launched the “Wash Away Ebola” strategy for Liberia, which was developed by the Ministry of Public Works together with UNICEF, and which will guide nationwide WASH efforts geared at stopping the spread of Ebola.
• Together with Liberian partner NGOs Community Initiative Services (CIS) and Liberia Cares for Humanity (LICH), UNICEF continued the distribution of 9,000 hygiene kits to West Point, an urban slum community in Monrovia. The kits will benefit 45,000 people – the estimated population of West Point. Distribution was conducted alongside WFP food distribution.
• The WASH system for the soon-to-be opened Island ETU in Montserrado County was completed through an UNICEF-WHO collaboration.
• Technical plans for installation of the WASH system for two more ETUs in Montserrado have been developed, and installation will commence within days.
• Installation of the six 5,000-litre water tanks for West Point community in Montserrado County is ongoing.

Communications for Development (C4D)
• Together with the MoHSW, WHO and key partners, UNICEF conducted a refresher ToT for 42 persons who will serve as Master Trainers on Ebola awareness and outreach. The trainees will join UNICEF, WHO and partners to form a core team who will roll out Ebola trainings to over 2,000 gCHVs in all 15 counties. This core team will also train partner agencies, NGOs and teachers nationwide. Some of these trainings will be done under the ToT model at the county level, and then cascaded down to the district level. For example, via this ToT/cascade model, 11,000 teachers are expected to be trained nationwide in the coming months.
• UNICEF also oriented and deployed six additional Ebola field coordinators, bringing to nine the total number of coordinators, who are now on the ground in Bomi, Bong, Lofa, Montserrado and Nimba. Additional field coordinators are under recruitment for the remaining counties. A total of 30 field coordinators will eventually be recruited and deployed, with two in each county.
• UNICEF, the MoHSW, the WHO, the US Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the USAID-funded programme Rebuilding Basic Health Services (RBHS) made final edits to the gCHV training materials, which are expected go to print next week. These materials will be shared with all Government, UN, NGO and civil society partners, with the aim of standardizing Ebola trainings and harmonizing Ebola messaging by all actors.
• UNICEF has hired four community outreach and awareness mobile teams to be deployed in Lofa and Montserrado Counties – two key Ebola hotspots. Using a PA system and armed with outreach materials, the teams will go neighborhood to neighborhood to raise awareness of Ebola in urban areas and large towns, with a focus on hotspot communities.

Child Protection
• UNICEF, with technical support from WHO, reviewed the infection control protocols in the UNICEF-supported safe home for child contacts of suspected, probable or confirmed Ebola cases.
• Fifteen (15) children who have been affected by the Ebola outbreak are receiving psychosocial support through UNICEF-supported projects, and 23 orphaned and abandoned child “contacts” and children of survivors have been reintegrated into their families or placed in an appropriate alternative care services.
Media and External Communication


- A short video depicting a UNICEF ToT for adolescent girls, boys and community leaders in West Point slum community of Monrovia was released on 9 September. It can be viewed here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZN_dqgTAKHA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZN_dqgTAKHA)

Funding

UNICEF’s funding needs for the next six months have increased exponentially. The need for the next six months is estimated to be around US$ 75 million. This will be formalized through a revised UN appeal in the coming days. Against the revised appeal, the funding gap will rise to US$ 72.7 million. International support is urgently needed to rapidly scale up activities to reverse the trajectory of the outbreak.

Next SitRep: 19/09/2014

UNICEF-Liberia Ebola Outbreak on Twitter: [https://twitter.com/UNICEF_Liberia](https://twitter.com/UNICEF_Liberia)

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