



UNICEF is continuing to distribute teaching and learning material to schools across Liberia. The material helps reduce the economic impact on parents to send their children to school after the Ebola outbreak

# LIBERIA

## Ebola

### Situation Report

9 December 2015



#### HIGHLIGHTS

- No new cases have been reported since 20 November 2015, but 166 contacts, of whom 32 are health workers, are being monitored. All contacts are in Montserrado County.
- If no new cases are detected, this chain of transmission will end on 11 December 2015 and the period of voluntary observation and twice daily monitoring of contacts will cease. Active case finding and social mobilisation will continue for an additional 21 days.
- During the current Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak, 85 people (41 children and 44 adults) under observation are receiving daily visits from psychosocial support (PSS) workers (social workers, mental health clinicians, and Red Cross volunteers) to help them cope with the restrictions and fears of Ebola.
- The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) has reported that most of the foster families or next of kin are complaining of hardship in caring for the Ebola children who lost one or both parents they took in. This is not unexpected, and is an indication of the high risk that these children could end up victims of abuse or abandonment if they are not supported. UNICEF is in discussions with the MoGCSP to ensure these families are placed in the current cash transfer programme to ensure these children continue to remain in safe homes.
- UNICEF has been tracking and debunking rumours related to the current outbreak. The rumours are collected by social mobilisers deployed in the hotspot and ring communities and through 'Dey Sey' rumour bank, a SMS-based platform managed by the UNICEF innovations unit. Some of the notable rumours reported include rising disbelief in monkeys being the host of Ebola in view of the observations that people have resumed eating monkey meat; and some persisting misconceptions that the Ebola was reintroduced to generate money for upcoming holiday expenses.
- The findings of the rapid pre-campaign assessment conducted in the hotspot area shows that 44 per cent of households reported having hand washing stations while only 35 per cent were observed having them. The majority of the households (85 per cent) believed Ebola is real; weakness, sudden onset of fever and diarrhoea (in that order) were mentioned to be the signs and symptoms of Ebola. Eighty-nine per cent of the households said they were currently taking actions to prevent Ebola.

<sup>1</sup>Data 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.

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

#### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

As of 8 December 2015<sup>1</sup>

**18**

Days since last confirmed case

**3**

Laboratory confirmed cases over past 21 days

**166**

Contacts under follow up

**9**

Healthcare workers under precautionary observation

**8,613**

Children registered as affected by Ebola<sup>2</sup>

**2 million+**

Children living in affected areas

**USD 149 million**

UNICEF funding needs

**USD 10.6 million**

UNICEF funding gap (7%)

## Situation Overview

- No new cases have been reported since 20 November 2015, but 166 contacts of whom 32 health workers are being monitored. All contacts are in Montserrado County.
- If no new cases are detected, this chain of transmission will end 11 December 2015 and the period of voluntary observation and twice daily monitoring of contacts will cease. Active case finding and social mobilisation will continue for an additional 21 days.

## Child Protection

- As of 8 December 2015, the Government of Liberia has identified 8,613 (4,171 boys and 4,442 girls) children as being affected<sup>1</sup> by Ebola. To date, 15,953 children (7,203 boys and 8,750 girls) have been provided with care and support, and case management including PSS.
- More specifically, 7,921 children (1,869 having lost both parents/caregivers and 6,052 having lost one parent/caregiver) have been registered by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) social workers. Of the 7,921 registered children who have lost one or both parents/primary caregivers due to Ebola, 5,401 children have received a one-off financial cash grant of US\$ 150 through the MoGCSP, representing 68 per cent of registered orphan children.
- The Ministry of Health's (MoH) Mental Health Department and a partner completed a five-day training on techniques for working with children affected by Ebola, including listening to children, engaging in child friendly activities in groups, and working with parents. Forty-five participants from local NGOs, mental health clinicians and social workers are being trained for the work they do running children's clubs that provide structured recreation for the purpose of PSS to heavily Ebola affected communities.
- During the current Ebola outbreak, 85 people (41 children and 44 adults) under observation in the Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) and in homes, and health workers from the hospital where the case was first identified, are receiving daily visits from PSS workers (social workers, mental health clinicians, and Red Cross volunteers) to help them cope with the restrictions and fears of the disease.
- As part of the emergency response, a PSS team is providing support to the school where the most recent case attended. Visits happen twice weekly, and the team meets with students, teachers, and parents, listen to their questions and provide tips on coping with fear.
- The MoGCSP has reported that most of the foster families or next of kin are complaining of hardship in caring for the Ebola orphans they took in. This is not unexpected, and is an indication of the high risk that these children could end up victims of abuse or abandonment if they are not supported. UNICEF is in discussions with the MoGCSP to ensure these families are placed in the current cash transfer programme, and designing other support mechanisms to ensure these children continue to remain in safe homes.

## Social Mobilization

- On 30 November 2015, UNICEF, the MoH and the social mobilisation pillar partners conducted refresher trainings for mobilizers prior to the deployment of 454 general community health volunteers (gCHVs)/frontline mobilizers and 24 supervisors in the ring communities surrounding the hotspot. The learning topics included: key facts about the Ebola virus disease, interpersonal communications, monitoring, and reporting. The trainings were conducted in seven locations simultaneously.
- Currently, social mobilization activities are being conducted in the hotspot and ring communities, encouraging households to continue to practice Ebola preventive behaviours. Countrywide, radio messages continue to be aired to sustain a heightened level of awareness of Ebola.
- UNICEF has been supporting the MoH and the social mobilisation pillar in tracking and debunking rumours related to the Ebola outbreak. The rumours are collected by social mobilizers currently deployed in the hotspot and ring communities and through 'Dey Sey' rumour bank, an SMS-based platform managed by UNICEF innovations unit. Some of the notable rumours reported include rising disbelief in monkeys being the host of Ebola in view of the observations that people have resumed eating monkey meat; and some persisting misconceptions that the Ebola was reintroduced to generate money for upcoming holiday expenses. Such rumours are continually addressed by frontline social mobilizers, through radio talk shows and announcements.
- The findings of the UNICEF-supported rapid pre-campaign assessment conducted in the hotspot areas show that 44 per cent of the households reported having hand washing stations while only 35 per cent of households were observed having them. The majority of the households (85 per cent) believed Ebola is real; while weakness and

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<sup>1</sup> The Government has defined the number of children 'affected' as: quarantined, orphaned, and unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), in treatment and discharged. Orphans are children who have lost one or both parents/primary caregivers due to Ebola.

sudden onset of fever and diarrhoea (in that order) were mentioned to be the signs and symptoms of Ebola. Eighty-nine per cent of the households said they were currently taking actions to prevent Ebola. Handwashing (57 per cent) was mentioned most. Eighty-nine per cent of the respondents said they knew the number to call to report deaths or symptomatic persons.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- UNICEF supported the Montserrado County team to carry out WASH assessments in the Ebola affected area. The assessment covered 18 schools, nine health facilities, the community and the households under observation.
- For health facilities, results showed that:
  - Six out of the nine health facilities had a water source, however three of them dry out in the dry season.
  - Only three out of the nine have adequate handwashing stations.
  - Healthcare waste management is adequately practiced in four out of nine facilities.
- For schools, results showed that:
  - Of the 18 schools assessed, 13 have an adequate and safe water source, three have unprotected water sources and two do not have any source.
  - Only five schools have handwashing facilities installed.
  - 15 schools have latrines.
  - 30 per cent of the households visited have wells. However they are open wells and the quality was not determined.
  - 60 per cent of the visited households have handwashing facilities installed.
- UNICEF supplied essential WASH items including wheelbarrows, chlorine, handwashing stations, rain boots, water storage containers, soap and hygiene kits to support the Ebola response.
- For the households under observation, UNICEF continues to deliver 3,000 gallons of bulk water every other day. So far over 21,000 gallons have been delivered. They were also provided hygiene kits and soap.
- UNICEF is supporting the WASH pillar to monitor the distribution of supplies to ensure an effective and efficient response to the Ebola outbreak.

## Health and Nutrition

- As part of the Ebola recovery efforts in six counties highly affected by Ebola, 112 health workers in four health districts in Margibi were trained on nutrition counselling. By the end of the training, trained health workers will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to promote and support mothers and caregivers on proper methods of breastfeeding, as well as demonstrating the preparation of nutrient-dense complementary food using locally available products.
- The revised Community Health Policy, developed in line with one of the successful lessons of the Ebola outbreak control - strengthening engagement of communities in their health issues and incentivising the community health worker cadre - is being validated by the MoH with UNICEF support this week.
- UNICEF is supporting the MoH to review the implementation of the urban expanded programme on immunization (EPI) strategy in Montserrado County, one of the key approaches to reducing inequity in EPI delivery services disrupted by the Ebola outbreak. The two-day review will guide development of an implementation plan for 2016.

## Education

- The ongoing distribution of Teaching and Learning Materials (TLM) has so far reached 364,264 (30.40 per cent) students and 25,332 teachers, covering 1,647 schools of Bomi, Bong, Margibi and Montserrado counties.
- At the school affected by the recent outbreak in Montserrado, the Principal reported a decline in attendance. A community meeting was held to reassure parents about the safety of the school environment and that the safe school protocols (daily taking of temperature and washing of hands) were being enforced. All 13 teachers, including the school principal, were trained on PSS. To reinforce the messages relayed during the community meeting, infection, prevention and control (IPC) kits were distributed to motivate students to return to school, while TLMs were also distributed.
- UNICEF delivered learning material to 36 children (18 girls, 18 boys) living in quarantined homes, while 34 children (17 girls, 17 boys) were provided with basic school lessons (assignment /reading activity) from their schools to ensure continuity of learning during the quarantine period.

# Programme Results

UNICEF and Pillar/Sector Results for EVD Response						
Liberia, 8 December 2015						
Indicators	Pillar / Sector			UNICEF		
	Target	Actual	% Achieved	Target	Actual	% Achieved
<b>EPIDEMIOLOGY</b>						
Registered Ebola children who lost one or both parents/primary caregivers		7,921			7,921	
<b>COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT</b>						
Households reached with interpersonal communication on Ebola prevention	1,000,000	850,609	85%	750,000	771,444	103%
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)				500,000	614,825	123%
<b>COMMUNITY CARE CENTRES/RITES</b>						
CCCs established		25			12	
CCCs functional		14			8	
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	
<b>WASH</b>						
Ebola community, treatment and holding centres with essential WASH services	29	24	83%	14	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%
<b>CHILD PROTECTION</b>						
Ebola-affected children provided with minimum package of psychosocial support (PSS) services	189,630	122,213	64%	189,630	122,213 <sup>2</sup>	64%
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	5,401	146%	3,691	5,401	146%
<b>HEALTH</b>						
Health structures in Ebola-affected areas provided with Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) supplies				470	270	57%

<sup>2</sup> This number includes children who live in communities that were heavily affected by the EVD. They have received PSS from Social Workers, PSS workers from NGOs, Mental Health Clinicians, and the PTA members and teachers who have been trained by MoE in PSS.

Community Health Workers trained in Ebola prevention and case management				650	650	100%
<b>NUTRITION</b>						
Ebola patients receiving nutrition support				1,094	994	91%
Children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) admitted for treatment				13,925	9,371	67%
Infants 0-6 months who cannot be breast fed, receiving ready to use infant formula				40	38	95%
<b>EDUCATION</b>						
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 <sup>3</sup>	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	364,264	30%	1,196,010	364,264	30.4%
Teachers trained in providing psycho social support				10,000	6,163	62%

**Next SitRep: 23 December 2015**

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further  
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<sup>3</sup> 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.