Highlights

- Since the UNICEF SitRep of 19 September, 433 new suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases and 252 new deaths were added to the official totals for Liberia, indicating a continued steepening of the epidemic curve.
- Montserrado remains the epicenter of the epidemic, with 166 new cases recorded. Bong County continued to report a steep rise for a second consecutive week, adding an additional 71 cases. Margibi recorded an additional 85 cases and Nimba an additional 49. While still the county of second-highest incidence, Lofa County recorded just 29 new cases, indicating the epidemic curve may be steadying in the county.
- The MoHSW is investigating a possible outbreak in Grand Kru County, with 15 reported cases this week, 6 of which have been confirmed. Elsewhere, cases in River Cess increased from 1 to 10, while Gbarpolu also reported a suspected case.
- On 21 September, the Government of Liberia and WHO opened the 100-bed Island Clinic Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) in Monrovia.
- On 24 September, UNICEF airlifted the first shipment of 9,000 household protection kits to Liberia. The kits are the first of a planned batch of 50,000 procured by UNICEF and USAID to be distributed at community health facilities and Ebola care centres.
- The international response continued to scale up, with the announcement of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), the first UN mission dedicated to a public health response. UNMEER will be headquartered in Accra, Ghana. A UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination mission comprising experts from OCHA, the European Union and the Liberian Government was also deployed to assess the overall response.

Ebola statistics as of 23 September:

3,450 cases including:
- 1,005 suspected
- 1,537 probable
- 908 confirmed

1,819 deaths including:
- 412 suspected
- 621 probable
- 786 confirmed

182 cases and 89 deaths among health care workers

Counties of highest incidence:
- Montserrado: 1,320
- Lofa: 769
- Margibi: 567
- Bong: 300
- Nimba: 224

UNICEF funding needs for the next six months:
US$ 64.77 million

UNICEF funding gap:
US$ 55.63 million

*All Ebola statistics in this report are drawn from MoHSW Ebola SitRep #131, which reports cumulative cases as of 23 September 2014.
Situation Overview
During the reporting period, the number of cases continued to rise, with steep increases continuing to be reported from most of the highest counties of incidence. With only 29 new cases recorded in Lofa County, the epidemic’s rise continues to show some levelling. Montserrado County remains the current epicentre of the outbreak, recording 166 new cases during the current reporting period. For Monrovia, the MoHSW has begun mapping incidence by district, with most recent maps indicating the densely populated areas of New Kru Town and Caldwell as those with the highest incidence in the capital.

All 15 counties continued to report cases, with notable spikes from single to double digits in more remote counties of Grand Kru and River Cess. This, along with the continued reporting of a case in Gbarpolu indicates the epidemic is spreading to some of the country’s more remote areas. Meanwhile, despite progress in the establishment of additional ETUs and Ebola labs, including this week’s opening of the Island Clinic ETU on Monrovia’s Bushrod Island, the number of beds in ETUs and testing facilities remain inadequate. General health services also remain overwhelmed. Given the need for rapid expansion of the response to arrest the spread of the epidemic, UNICEF’s funding requirement has increased.

Health & Nutrition
- Through a collaboration with USAID and with funding from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, UNICEF airlifted a first batch of 9,000 household protection kits to Liberia on 24 September. The kits, which contain protective gear and sanitation supplies, as well as instructions for safe use and disposal, will be distributed by UNICEF’s partners, in co-ordination with the MoHSW and USAID, to the five counties with the highest rates of EVD. A planned total of 50,000 kits have been procured and will be airlifted in the coming weeks.
- County Health Teams carried out community sensitization on measles in Lofa County, following a reported outbreak in the previous week. All cases are currently pending laboratory confirmation. UNICEF supported the team in preparing a potential response if the cases are confirmed.
- UNICEF provided technical support to the MoHSW for the finalization of “no-touch guidelines” for Community Health Volunteers. The guidelines are now awaiting for approval from the MoHSW before roll-out.
- UNICEF continued discussion with the MoHSW’s National Malaria Control Program on distribution of long-lasting treated nets nationwide during the EVD crisis, given the trend of high incidence of malaria during the annual rainy season. A concept note and workplan have been drafted, while a budget proposal is being developed.
- UNICEF also followed up on the continuation of service provision in the areas of HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria. The Government’s National AIDS Control Program plans to send 26 teams to 114 health facilities nationwide, starting 15 October.
- UNICEF continued to provide ongoing nutritional support for 200 Ebola patients found to be severely malnourished in 3 ETUs (1 in Lofa and 2 in Montserrado County).
- UNICEF has begun procurement of 100,800 bottles of ready-to-use infant feeding liquid formula for infants of mothers affected by EVD.

WASH
- UNICEF continued installation of the 18 water tanks delivered to the ETU site at the Ministry of Defense, in addition to the drilling of boreholes at the site. Preparation of technical drawings for water supply and waste water systems in both the Ministry of Defense and SKD Stadium ETU sites have been completed, and construction is ongoing at the Ministry of Defense site.
- UNICEF hosted daily technical forums on ETU design and construction progress with partners including WHO, WFP, and USAID.
- UNICEF provided support and technical guidance to the Ministry of Public Works to convene the weekly national Emergency WASH Coordination meeting.
As part of community-based hygiene promotion interventions, procurement of an initial 50,000 hygiene promotion kits has been initiated, with the first batch of 3,000 kits to be distributed in communities in Monrovia early next week.

**Communication for Development (C4D)**

- UNICEF, together with the MoHSW, WHO and key partners, continued trainings on Ebola awareness and outreach for an additional 100 general Community Health Volunteers (gCHVs) in Montserrado County, adding to the 300 trained in previous weeks, advancing towards its goal of training over 2,000 gCHVs. Trainings also featured a nutrition component to engage the gCHVs in also identifying incidents of malnourished children in communities.
- UNICEF trained and deployed an additional 21 Field Coordinators who will monitor social mobilization activities across all counties. This brings the total of Field Coordinators nationwide to 30, with 2 Field Coordinators posted in each of Liberia’s 15 counties.
- UNICEF facilitated a training-of-trainers for 60 NGO partners, with representatives from 25 local and national NGO partners engaged in social mobilization for Ebola prevention and awareness. These trainers will go on to train others in their organizations working on the ground across the country to broaden the reach of Ebola messaging.

**Child Protection**

- UNICEF supported the MoHSW to hire an additional 60 social workers and 50 mental health clinicians, who are being trained to provide psychosocial care and support services to children affected by Ebola.
- Master trainers previously trained by UNICEF facilitated the first roll-out of trainings for an additional 30 social workers on the provision of psychosocial care, IDTR and Nutrition for children. This brings the accumulated number of trained social workers and Mental Health clinician to 60 out of the 110. The remaining 50 will be trained in subsequent trainings.
- UNICEF continued operation of a UNICEF-funded and MoHSW-managed Transit Home for children who have survived Ebola and require interim care prior to return to their families. Psychosocial care and support services have been provided to 10 children (6 girls and 4 boys), while family tracing is carried out. Two girls were reunified with their families this week.
- The MoHSW is seeking technical expertise and advice from WHO to inform the redesign of a facility where children can go for the 21-observation day period if they have had contact with infected family members. This facility will be managed by the Ebola survivors who are part of the Ebola Survivors network.
- The Child Protection Working Group has been revitalized and will conduct a rapid assessment on the situation of children in the EVD crisis. The Concept Note for the rapid assessment is being finalized along with the tools that will be used. UNICEF is providing the technical guidance and expertise to the Ministry of Gender and Development, who is taking the lead on the process.

**Funding**

UNICEF’s funding needs for the next six months have increased exponentially. The need for the next six months is estimated to be US$ 64.77 million. The current funding gap is US$ 55.63 million. International support is urgently needed to rapidly scale up activities to reverse the trajectory of the outbreak.
Programme Results
UNICEF is currently refining its programme results framework and indicators, while also developing methods and sources for data collection, monitoring and evaluation. Revised or additional indicators for all programmes will be developed and reported in future SitReps.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WATER, SANITATION &amp; HYGIENE (WASH)</th>
<th>UNICEF TARGET</th>
<th>UNICEF RESULT</th>
<th>% TARGET COVERED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated # of people reached with hygiene kits</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>45,000</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated # of people reached by hygiene promotion messages and awareness</td>
<td>275,000</td>
<td>164,500</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHILD PROTECTION</th>
<th>UNICEF TARGET</th>
<th>UNICEF RESULT</th>
<th>% TARGET COVERED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of children participating in psycho-social activities</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of orphaned and abandoned children (survivors or contacts) reintegrated into their families or placed into appropriate alternative care</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EDUCATION</th>
<th>UNICEF TARGET</th>
<th>UNICEF RESULT</th>
<th>% TARGET COVERED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of education workers effectively trained as Ebola awareness social mobilizers</td>
<td>11,165</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>1%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (C4D)</th>
<th>UNICEF TARGET</th>
<th>UNICEF RESULT</th>
<th>% TARGET COVERED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of master trainers trained on social mobilization and community awareness</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of general Community Health Volunteers trained in social mobilization</td>
<td>2,371</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Media and External Communications
- UNICEF HQ released a global News Note on the arrival of household protection kits in Liberia. This was complemented by a press conference at UNICEF’s warehouse in Monrovia on 25 September, featuring Assistant Minister Tolbert Nyeswah of the MoHSW, the US Ambassador to Liberia, the UNICEF Country Representative and USAID representatives discussing the importance of the kits in breaking the cycle of home transmission, as well as demonstrating their contents.
  The release: [http://www.unicef.org/media/media_76030.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_76030.html)
  Video on YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGoubBp7ky8&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGoubBp7ky8&feature=youtu.be)
- Spokespersons for UNICEF have been featured in global news programming including MSNBC, BBC World’s “World Have Your Say”, CNN, ABC (Australia), and a TV crew from the Netherlands highlighting the organizations’ role in the response.
- UNICEF published a photo essay on its efforts to ramp up the social mobilization response through expanded trainings in C4D for Ebola prevention: [https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.539515676150265.1073741842.26971393797108&type=1](https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.539515676150265.1073741842.26971393797108&type=1)
- UNICEF published a video clip featuring its WASH programme work in Monrovia’s West Point community: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9M75jgmerSw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9M75jgmerSw)

Next SitRep: 3/10/2014

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