Since the UNICEF SitRep of 11 October 2014, 320 new suspected, probable and confirmed cases of Ebola and 4 new deaths were added to the official totals for Liberia.

Montserrado remains the epicenter of the epidemic, with 150 new cases recorded during the reporting period. While still the county of second-highest incidence, Lofa recorded just 21 new cases, indicating the epidemic curve may be steadying in the county. Bong continued to report a rise, adding an additional 75 cases, with 40 new cases recorded in Margibi and 7 in Nimba.

Fully supported by UNICEF, 110 social workers and mental health clinicians provided psychosocial, family tracing, reunification and reintegration support to 668 children (307 boys, 361 girls) in the ten most affected counties. Of these, 95 social workers are deployed in all affected counties and 15 mental health specialists are providing counselling in ETUs and in the country’s only Interim Care Centre.

Funded by UNICEF, 111 orphaned, separated and unaccompanied children affected by Ebola have been registered to receive one-time cash assistance as part of immediate recovery support.

As part of UNICEF’s overall efforts to scale up Ebola case management and restore essential life-saving health, nutrition and WASH interventions in Bong, Margibi and Montserrado counties, a Project Cooperation Agreement valued at over USD 1 million was signed with Save the Children.

To support the establishment of Ebola Treatment Units and Community Care Centres, UNICEF this week released 19 tents to Montserrado, Sinoe and Margibi counties, and 1,000 household protection kits and 3 diarrhea kits to Nimba and Bong counties.

In an effort to promote hand washing with water and chlorine at the household level as a key pillar in the fight against hand-to-hand transmission, UNICEF released household hygiene promotion kits to 2,007 families in communities residing near Monrovia’s SDK Stadium.

*All Ebola statistics in this report are drawn from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW) Ebola SitRep #149, which reports cumulative cases as of 11 October 2014.*
Situation Overview
During the reporting period, the number of cases continued to rise in all counties. Montserrado County remains the current epicentre of the outbreak, reporting a high case fatality rate of 93.5% this week compared to the 66.1% national average.

MoHSW presented lessons learned from EVD response in Lofa County, where cautious optimism has been expressed by many about the advances made. Social mobilisation efforts, community engagement, including handling and safe burials, as well as community trust in the Case Management Centre, where survival rate was above 50 per cent were quoted as reasons for a decrease in cases. That resulted in high numbers of EVD case referrals from the community, enabled by the recruitment and training of general Community Health Volunteers (gCHVs) and effective contact tracing. Good levels of coordination, logistical capacity and financing of the response were also critical for the success. The key challenges included lack of ambulances, population movement from other parts of Liberia, health workers’ remuneration, as well as stigmatization of EVD patients and survivors, health care workers, and members of dead body management (DBM) teams. Many experts have warned about a premature optimism at Lofa County, where a third outbreak is still possible.

Reports suggested that several hospitals and clinics were hit by the strike last Monday as health workers abandoned hundreds of patients, demanding higher hazard pay and protective equipment.

Re-opening of health facilities is currently a top priority for reducing non-Ebola related deaths.

This week, UNICEF experts are participating in the Crisis Management Operational Planning Meeting organized by UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) in Accra.

On Global Hand Washing Day, UNICEF organized activities around hand washing, including hand-washing demonstrations in 3000 communities across 7 counties.

Health and Nutrition
- As part of UNICEF’s overall efforts to scale up Ebola case management and restore essential life-saving health, nutrition and Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions in Bong, Margibi and Montserrado counties, a Project Cooperation Agreement valued at over USD 1 million was signed with Save the Children.
- To support the establishment of Ebola Treatment Units (ETU) and Community Care Centres (CCC), UNICEF this week released 19 tents to Montserrado, Sinoe and Margibi counties, and 1,000 household protection kits and 3 diarrhea kits to Nimba and Bong counties
- UNICEF is supporting the health ministry to resume routine EPI services in the country. A rapid assessment of service availability is underway in Montserrado county this week and funding sources are being explored to procure supplies for infection prevention and control to benefit 600 vaccinators.
- As part of UNICEF’s continuing response to the Ebola outbreak, 25,719 Protection Kits have been airlifted to Liberia to date.
- In an effort to address nutrition requirements of patients with EVD in Ebola Treatment Units and Community Care Centers, UNICEF procured 500 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic BP-100 high energy and nutrition bars. In addition, UNICEF is supporting the Identification and referral of severely malnourished children to 7 health facilities in Montserrado county.

WASH
- UNICEF released household hygiene promotion kits to 2,007 families in communities residing near Monrovia’s SKD Stadium, in an effort to promote hand washing with water and chlorine at the household level as a key pillar in the fight against hand-to-hand transmission.
UNICEF is working with key partners to finalize a standard design and setup of Ebola Treatment Units and final protocols for Community Care Centres, including faecal waste disposal.

UNICEF, along with key partners, carried out a feasibility assessment of three CCC sites in Montserrado county, namely Koon Health Centre (Todee district), Bensenville Hospital (Careyburg district) and Mount Barclay Clinic (Careyburg district).

**Communication for Development (C4D)**

- About 60,000 people in the six worst-hit counties (Montserrado, Lofa, Bong, Nimba, Bomi and Margibi) were reached last week using interpersonal communication within communities, at marketplaces and house-to-house campaigns.
- Radio broadcasts of prevention and protection messages on 50 radio stations targeted an estimated 1.5 million listeners across all 15 counties last week. As part of this, 2 new radio spots using testimonials from survivors and their family were aired on 20 national radio stations in an effort to create a general environment of acceptance and normalization.
- The UNICEF-led social mobilization Cluster now forms part of Liberia’s Incident Management System—the country’s official response framework to rapidly and effectively deal with the burgeoning Ebola outbreak.

**Child Protection**

- Fully supported by UNICEF, one Interim Care Centre (ICC) for children needing 21-day observation and one Transit Centre (TC) for children - that survived Ebola but have no known relative to return to after being treated - are both fully-functional facilities. In addition, social workers have done follow-up visits to monitor new living arrangements of children that have been reintegrated with families.
- Entirely supported by UNICEF, 110 social workers and mental health clinicians provided psychosocial, family tracing, reunification and reintegration support to 668 children (307 boys, 361 girls) in the ten most affected counties. Of these, 95 social workers are deployed in all affected counties and 15 mental health specialists are providing counselling in ETUs and in the country’s only Interim Care Centre.
- With support from UNICEF, 111 orphaned, separated and unaccompanied children affected by Ebola have been registered to receive one-time cash assistance as part of immediate recovery support. The reunification rate of children temporarily placed – 12 in ICC and 39 in TC - is 98%, with almost all children having been placed with their extended family.

**Education**

- With 1.5 million students out of school resulting from the closure of almost 4,500 schools in Liberia, UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Education and partners to develop a radio education program to reach at least 1 million children with messages on Ebola prevention, basic literacy and psychosocial support amongst others. Additionally, education programs were aired on 3 private radio stations this week.
- As part of the Ministry of Education’s Ebola Response Plan, UNICEF is supporting the rollout of a cascade teacher training on Ebola awareness, prevention and home protection across 15 counties. As of this week, 77 education personnel at national level, 298 at county level and 408 at district level were effectively trained.
- UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Education and key partners to develop protocols for the reopening of schools countrywide.

**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 situation reports.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNICEF Results Table.</th>
<th>UNICEF Total Cumulative UNICEF Results</th>
<th>% Target reached</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period 16th September 2014 – 15th March 2015</td>
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</table>

COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT
Radio stations airing daily messages on Ebola | 54 | 50 | 93%
Districts where all radio stations air Ebola content every day | 88 | 80 | 93%
House Holds receiving Inter-Personal Communication on Ebola prevention messages | 250,000 | 65,400 | 26%

**WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ebola care centres are provided with essential WASH services</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Ebola Health centres in Ebola affected areas provided with Hand washing station</td>
<td>470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household benefiting from hygiene kits in Ebola affected areas</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EDUCATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reopened schools in Ebola-affected district equipped with a minimum package for Ebola prevention</td>
<td>4,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers trained on psycho social support, Ebola prevention, and safe and protective learning environments</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio stations broadcasting emergency learning programmes</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHILD PROTECTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children provided with psychosocial support</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separated and unaccompanied children (including orphans) identified and receive appropriate care and support</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Media and External Communications**

- Spokespersons for UNICEF have been featured in global news programming highlighting UNICEF’s role in the response including the New York Times, RT and Voice of America, while field visits for international media crew including CNN, AFP and CBS have been arranged. Samples of resulting coverage include:
  - Country Representative Sheldon Yett speaks on Voice of America about the situation in Liberia (VOA)
  - On the plight of children orphaned by Ebola (Washington Post)
  - On UNICEF’s training of survivors to provide care and support for affected children (AFP)
  - On UNICEF’s role in alternative education programming through the Ebola emergency (Mashable)

**Funding**

UNICEF’s funding needs for the next six months have increased exponentially. The need for the next six months is estimated to be USD 64.7 million. The current funding gap is USD 52.7 million. International support is urgently needed to rapidly scale up activities to reverse the trajectory of the outbreak.

**Next SitRep: 22/10/2014**

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

**Who to contact for further information:**

- **Sheldon Yett**
  - Representative
  - UNICEF Liberia
  - Tel: +231-770-25-7100
  - Mob: +231-770-26-7100
  - Email: syett@unicef.org

- **Fazlul Haque**
  - Deputy Representative
  - UNICEF Liberia
  - Tel: +231-770-25-7100
  - Mob: +231-770-26-7100
  - Email: fhaque@unicef.org

- **Rukshan Ratnam**
  - Communications Specialist
  - UNICEF Liberia
  - Tel: +231-770-25-7100
  - Mob: +231-770-26-7100
  - Email: rratnam@unicef.org

- **Prabhu Prabhakaran**
  - Resource Mobilization Specialist
  - UNICEF Liberia
  - Tel: +231-770-25-7101
  - Mob: +231-770-26-7201
  - Email: pprabhakaran@unicef.org