UNICEF-Liberia
Ebola Virus Disease: Flash Update
31 July 2014

*This Flash Update provides an update on the Ebola National Action Plan and related comments by the President of Liberia. It is intended to complement UNICEF’s regular Ebola Virus Disease SitReps, which provide a situational overview and updates on the UNICEF Ebola response.

Launch of Ebola National Action Plan

- On 30 July, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf officially launched the revised Ebola National Action Plan, which was developed by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW), in partnership with WHO. The plan was developed in line with the regional Ebola strategy that was discussed at the inter-ministerial meeting on Ebola held in Accra, Ghana, on 2 and 3 July. The plan lists activities to be conducted within the following thematic areas:
  - Coordination, Finance and Logistics
  - Epidemiology and Laboratory
  - Case Management and Infection Prevention and Control, as well as Psychosocial Support
  - Social Mobilization and Public Information
- The six-month plan (July-December 2014) has an estimated budget of US$ 21,400,000, of which US$ 6,200,000 has been pledged by the Government and partners, leaving a gap of US$ 15,200,000.1

Presidential Statement

- President Sirleaf delivered a special statement to accompany the launch of the new plan. In her remarks, she said the Government of Liberia would contribute US$ 5 million in initial support for the Ebola National Action Plan. She stressed that this is an international public health problem, as opposed to a Liberia-specific problem. She reiterated new preventive, containment and security measures outlined in her statement of 27 July2, and added the following to that list:
  - All non-essential Government staff are to be placed on 30-days compulsory leave.
  - Friday, 1 August, is declared a non-working day, and should be used to disinfect and chlorinate all public facilities.
  - All schools are ordered closed pending further directives from the Ministry of Education.
  - All markets in border areas are to be closed until further notice.
  - All video clubs and entertainment centres will be required to have improved sanitation facilities.
  - Increases in the prices of sanitation commodities is forbidden and is to be treated as an offense.
  - The MoHSW and relevant agencies have been asked to consider the cremation of dead Ebola victims.
  - Travel by government officials will be severely restricted.
  - Several severely affected communities are currently under consideration for quarantine. Only health care workers will be permitted to move in and out of the quarantined areas. Residents in these areas would receive food and medical support.

1 Figures have been rounded for ease of reading.
2 See UNICEF Ebola Virus Disease SitRep #42 of 30 July 2014 for details on the President’s statements and the announced preventive, containment and security measures.
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