UNICEF-Liberia
Ebola Virus Disease: SitRep #21
9 May 2014

Key Points

- The total number of suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases now stands at 12 (six confirmed, two probable and four suspected). This reflects the removal from the official total of one suspected case previously reported in Montserrado County, which likely occurred as a result of the ongoing review of the Ebola data.
- The total number of Ebola-related deaths stands at 11.
- Foya, Lofa County, remains the epicentre of the Ebola epidemic, although suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases have been reported in Lofa (7), Nimba (2), Margibi (2) and Bong (1) Counties.
- As of one week ago, all contacts of Ebola cases had completed their 21 days of follow up. However, cases continue to be received in Guéckédou, Guinea, which borders Lofa County. Per the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW), Liberia will not relax its Ebola surveillance, prevention and response activities until the situation in neighboring areas of Guinea also stabilizes.
- MSF will depart from Liberia early next week, but will continue to assist the Government of Liberia and partners from the agency’s base in Guéckédou, Guinea.
- The WHO and the US Center for Disease Control (CDC) remain heavily engaged with the government on the technical aspects of the ongoing Ebola response.
- The two UNICEF field coordinators and the 10-member interpersonal communication (IPC) team has continued to raise awareness of Ebola in Lofa County via visits to border towns, mosques, churches, marketplaces and schools, as well as meetings with key local and traditional leaders, motorcycle unions and general Community Health Volunteers (gCHVs).
- UNICEF’s estimated funding requirement for Ebola-related Communications for Development (C4D), Health and WASH interventions stands at approximately US$500,000 for the period from 21 March to 21 June. The current funding gap is US$187,000.

Situation Overview and National Task Force Updates

- As of today, the total number of suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases stands at 12, including six confirmed, two probable and four suspected. This reflects the removal from the official total of one suspected case previously reported in Montserrado County, likely as a result of the ongoing review of the data by the MoHSW, WHO and the CDC.
  - Confirmed Ebola cases have been reported in Lofa (4) and Margibi (2) Counties.
  - Probable Ebola cases have been reported in Lofa County (2).
  - Suspected Ebola cases have been reported in Nimba (2), Bong (1) and Lofa (1) Counties.
- Six of the eight confirmed and probable Ebola cases reported to date were female, and all eight were over the age of 18. The contacts generated by these cases have included children.
- The total number of Ebola-related deaths stands at 11.
- All Ebola contacts completed their 21 days of follow up one week ago. An Ebola epidemic can be considered over after two such 21-day incubation periods pass. However, due to the continued receipt of Ebola cases in Guéckédou, Guinea – including one confirmed and five suspected cases in the past two days – the MoHSW has decided that it will sustain its current level of Ebola surveillance, prevention and response activities until the situation in neighboring areas of Guinea stabilizes.¹
- MSF will depart Liberia early next week, but will continue to work closely with the MoHSW and partners from its base in Guéckédou, Guinea. The decision to withdraw was based on the apparent stabilization of the situation in Liberia, at least for the moment, as well as the successful establishment of Ebola isolation units at hospitals in Foya, Lofa County, and Monrovia, Montserrado County.
- The MoHSW has emphasized that the withdrawal of the MSF team back to Guinea does not mean that the Ebola epidemic in Liberia is officially over. The message to the public is that while no confirmed

¹ It will be recalled that Guéckédou borders Lofa County, and that it takes only two hours to reach Foya from Guéckédou.
Ebola cases have been reported in nearly one month, the proximity of affected areas in Guinea to Lofa County, Liberia, necessitates ongoing monitoring and vigilance.

- The National Reference Lab in Margibi County is now equipped with the supplies to run tests on Ebola, Lassa fever and yellow fever.
- The WHO has brought two logisticians to assist the MoHSW in ensuring supplies are deployed in a timely fashion to places such as Foya Borma Hospital.

UNICEF Response
Through its Communications and Child Survival Sections, UNICEF continues to provide critical C4D; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); and health sector support to the national Ebola response. This work is performed in coordination with the relevant committees of the National Task Force (NTF) on Health Emergencies, as well as with national working groups.

COMMUNICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT (C4D):
- Over the past week, UNICEF’s two field coordinators and the 10-person team contracted from the IPC firm continued to engage intensively with communities in Foya, Voinjama, Kolahun and Zorzor Districts, Lofa County, with emphasis on towns along the Liberian-Guinea border. Their collective outreach efforts have included regular attendance at Ebola coordination meetings in Foya; visits to local communities, mosques, churches, schools and marketplaces; and meetings with local and traditional leaders and community groups. During their outreach, they have continued to distribute UNICEF-developed and printed Ebola-awareness posters.
- Examples of specific visits/meetings conducted by the field coordinators and IPC teams in the past week include:
  - A meeting with the motorcycle union in Lofa County.
  - Visits to two hospitals (Foya Borma Hospital and Kolahun Hospital) and five clinics to sensitize general Community Health Volunteers (gCHVs).
- Throughout their efforts, the field coordinators and IPC teams have worked closely with the County Health Team, the gCHVs, the Liberian National Red Cross, Samaritan’s Purse, Global Communities/CHF International and other partners.
- Meanwhile, all UNICEF-supported mass media activities are ongoing, including work with local community radio stations, key national stations and collaboration with UNMIL Radio.

CHILD SURVIVAL (WASH AND HEALTH):
- With the WASH and case management materials previously procured and delivered by UNICEF, the isolation units at both Foya Borma Hospital in Lofa County and JFK Medical Center in Monrovia, Montserrado County, have been completed. MSF handed management of the unit in Foya over to the District Health Officer on Wednesday, 7 May, and will hand over the unit in JFK next week.
- UNICEF remains open to further requests for WASH and case management-related material and technical support from the MoHSW.

UNICEF Funding Needs:
- UNICEF’s estimated funding requirement for Ebola-related C4D, Health and WASH interventions remains approximately US$500,000 for the period from 21 March to 21 June. The office has received the following support to date: US$100,000 from the Japan National Committee for UNICEF; US$100,000 from the US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance/OFDA (provided through UNICEF Regional Office for West and Central Africa); US$30,000 from the UK Department for International Development/DFID (re-programmed funding); and US$ 83,000 from the UK Committee for UNICEF. The funding gap remains US$187,000.

UNICEF Contacts
- Sheldon Yett, Representative
  Tel: +231-(0)770-25-7100 (office), +231-(0)770-26-7100 (mobile), Email: syett@unicef.org
- Dr. Fazlul Haque, Deputy Representative
  Tel: +231-(0)770-25-7400 (office), +231-(0)770-26-7400 (mobile), Email: fhaque@unicef.org
- Prabhu Prabhakaran, Resource Mobilization Specialist
  Tel: +231-(0)770-25-7103 (office), +231-(0)770-26-7103 (mobile), Email: prprabhakaran@unicef.org
- Adolphus Scott, C4D Specialist
  Tel: +231-(0)770-25-7113 (office), +231-(0)770-26-7113 (mobile), Email: adscott@unicef.org