

UNICEF-Liberia
Ebola Virus Disease: SitRep #27
23 June 2014

Key Points

- As of 22 June, five (5) new suspected Ebola cases, one (1) in Foya and four (4) in Zorzor; eight (8) new probable Ebola cases, four (4) in Lofa and four (4) in Montserrado; and five (5) new confirmed Ebola cases, three (3) in Lofa County and two (2) in Montserrado County have been added to the official case totals for Outbreak #2 in Liberia.
- With these changes, the total number of suspected, probable and confirmed cases reported during Outbreak #2 now stands at 42.
- The total number of Ebola-related deaths for Outbreak #2 in confirmed, probable, and suspect cases now stands at twenty-five (25) with fourteen (14) in Lofa and eleven (11) in Montserrado County.
- A total of twenty-eight (28) confirmed cases, including twenty-one (21) from Lofa County and seven (7) from Montserrado County are reported.
- Foya, Lofa County, and New Kru Town, Montserrado County, remain the epicentres of the second outbreak. The outbreak is reported as spreading with confirmed cases in Voinjama and suspected cases Zorzor, Lofa County; and confirmed cases in St. Paul Bridge and Congo Town communities, Montserrado County.
- UNICEF continues to scale up C4D support for interpersonal communication, with the provision of megaphones and rain gear (coats and boots) for trained mobilizers; production and increased airing of radio messages, dramas, and songs; and active engagement of traditional and religious leaders. UNICEF also continues to support the response with logistics and other supplies. 1 vehicle and 5 motorbikes were handover to the MOHSW last week.
- UNICEF's estimated funding requirement for Ebola-related Communications for Development (C4D), Health and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions stands at approximately US\$650,000. The current funding gap has increased to US\$337,000.

Situation Overview and National Task Force Updates

- Two (2) deaths in Montserrado were reported over the weekend. One was the previously reported St. Paul Bridge Community case. The other was a patient admitted to JFK, who subsequently died. Lab testing on the St. Paul case was confirmed positive for Ebola.
- A third person from Montserrado, a youth, was admitted to ELWA Hospital over the weekend from the Congo Town area. He was tested and confirmed positive. He is reported as improving as a result of early detection and treatment.
- Two (2) deaths were reported from Lofa County.
- Including the above updates, the total number of suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases now stands at 42 for Outbreak #2, including thirty-one (31) cases in Lofa County and eleven (11) cases in Montserrado County. The exact breakdown of cases is as follows:
 - Six (6) suspected cases, all from Lofa County;
 - Eight (8) probable cases, including four (4) from Lofa County and four (4) from Montserrado County; and
 - Twenty-eight (28) confirmed cases, including twenty-one (21) from Lofa County and seven (7) from Montserrado County.
- The total number of Ebola-related deaths now stands at 25, including 14 in Lofa County and eleven (11) patients in Montserrado County.
- The total number of patients in isolation is sixteen (16) with fifteen (15) in Lofa County and one (1) in Montserrado County.
- Foya, Lofa County, and New Kru Town, Montserrado County, remain the epicentres of this Ebola outbreak.
- Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Bernice Dahn, returned over the weekend from Guinea where she attended a meeting with Health Ministers and officials of Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Ivory Coast. She announced that a joint communication on a coordinated Ebola Outbreak response within the region will be released soon.
- All MOHSW staff are currently on standby for possible deployment to priority counties to support response and active surveillance. Currently, all programmatic trainings, workshops, meetings and other activities are suspended to focus on the Ebola response.

- Updates from the subcommittees emphasized the need for increased lab equipment and additional clinical staff, particularly physicians.
- Denial among the public remains high. Due to the fact that now 3 out of 6 health districts in Lofa County are reporting cases, there is a need to scale up IPC and interpersonal engagement activities in Lofa County and other bordering counties.

UNICEF Response

Through its Communications and Child Survival Sections, UNICEF continues to provide critical C4D, health and WASH sector support to the national Ebola response. This work is performed in coordination with the relevant National Task Force committees and working groups.

COMMUNICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT (C4D):

- Social Mobilizers active over the weekend reached an estimated 8, 800 people in 12 communities in New Kru Town, Logan Town, and surrounding areas including 4 markets with UNICEF WASH Partner organization CODES. These mobilizers will be joined today by others from the Red Cross and 2 additional UNICEF WASH Partners (CIS and LICH).
- UNICEF, in collaboration with the Interreligious Council of Liberia, is working closely with the leaders of churches and mosques within Monrovia, Lofa County. Over the weekend, the Inter-religious council met with 2 key Bishops in New Kru Town and supported distribution of 200 posters to religious groups. Scale up is planned for churches and mosques in all 15 counties
- UNICEF provided 125 rain coats and sets of rain boots as well as 65 megaphones to IPC partners over the weekend to support mobilization and IPC activities.
- UNICEF is supporting Crusaders For Peace, a local NGO, in the production of a song on Ebola that provides information on the prevention of the disease and how it relates to traditional burial practices. UNICEF is also collaborating with the group to bring together key traditional and religious leaders, including a meeting with about 70 leaders tomorrow 24 June, at the MOHSW.
- UNICEF is also supporting the production of an additional song by 2 popular Liberia “HipCo” groups on the symptoms of the disease and prevention measures.

CHILD SURVIVAL (WASH AND HEALTH):

- UNICEF handed over 5 motorbikes, 1 vehicle, and 10 megaphones to the MOHSW to support the response last week.

UNICEF Funding Needs:

- UNICEF’s current estimated funding requirement for Ebola-related C4D, Health and WASH interventions remains approximately US\$650,000. 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 current funding gap has increased to US\$337,000.

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