UNICEF-Liberia
Ebola Virus Disease: SitRep #28
25 June 2014

Key Points

- As of 24 June, two (2) new suspected Ebola cases, both in Lofa, and four (4) new confirmed Ebola cases in Montserrat 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 for Outbreak #2 now stands at fifty-four (54).
- A total of thirty-three (33) confirmed cases, including twenty-one (21) from Lofa County and twelve (12) from Montserrat County are reported.
- The total number of Ebola-related deaths for Outbreak #2 in confirmed, probable, and suspect cases now stands at thirty- two (32) with seventeen (17) in Lofa and fifteen (15) in Montserrat County. Eighteen (18) deaths are among lab confirmed patients.
- Foya, Lofa County, and New Kru Town, Montserrat County, remain the epicentres of this Ebola outbreak, but the outbreak is spreading. In the last two days, confirmed cases have been reported from Brewerville, St. Paul Bridge, and Caldwell Communities in Montserrat County.
- UNICEF continues to scale up C4D support for the response with the coordination and trained 81 leaders yesterday from the Council of Chiefs, Council of governors, Muslim Women, and Women on the Move. UNICEF is also partnering with the Inter-religious Council of Liberia to scale up awareness among 181 religious leaders from churches and mosques across the country with particular focus on affected areas.
- 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. Current funding gaps are under review based on needs highlighted in today’s National Task Force meeting.

Situation Overview and National Task Force Updates

- As of 24 June, two (2) new suspected Ebola cases, both in Foya, Lofa County, and four (4) new confirmed Ebola cases in Montserrat County have been added to the official case totals for Outbreak #2 in Liberia. ¹
- A total of thirty-three (33) confirmed cases, including twenty-one (21) from Lofa County and twelve (12) from Montserrat County are reported.
- The total number of Ebola-related deaths for Outbreak #2 in confirmed, probable, and suspect cases now stands at thirty- two (32) with seventeen (17) in Lofa and fifteen (15) in Montserrat County. Eighteen (18) deaths are among lab confirmed patients.
- The total number of suspected, probable and confirmed cases now stands at 54 for Outbreak #2, with thirty-eight (38) cases in Lofa County and sixteen (16) cases in Montserrat County including:
  o Thirteen (13) suspected cases, all from Lofa County;
  o Eight (8) probable cases, including four (4) from Lofa County and four (4) from Montserrat County; and
  o Thirty-three (33) confirmed cases, with twenty-one (21) from Lofa County and twelve (12) from Montserrat County.
- The total number of patients in isolation is twenty-five (25) with twenty (20) in Lofa County and five (5) in Montserrat County. Eleven (11) cases are confirmed and fourteen (14) are suspected.
- Foya, Lofa County, and New Kru Town, Montserrat County, remain the epicentres of this Ebola outbreak. In the last two days confirmed cases have been reported from Brewerville, St. Paul Bridge, and Caldwell Communities in Montserrat County. This is in addition to the previous cases from Congo Town and St. Paul Bridge communities in Montserrat County, and Voinjama, Lofa County.
- The Gbarpolu County Health Team is currently investigating community reports of a woman from Sierra Leone entering Kongbor District. She was reported as displaying symptoms of Ebola and the community asked her to leave when both she and 1 of her children died.
- The isolation unit in Foya has been expanded to a 12 bed unit with MSF support. The arrival of two (2) MSF epidemiologists is expected this week.

¹From: SitRep 41: Re-Ocurrence of Ebola Virus Disease Epidemic in Liberia since the 29th May 2014 (Reporting Period: 24 June 2014 as at 2400 hours). Thomas K. Nagbe, BSc, MPH. Director, Disease Prevention and Control Division MOHSW.
• ELWA is building a 2nd isolation area and reported that all staff including non-medical personnel have been trained in proper infection control procedures. JFK has identified holding areas, trained staff, and informed all doctors to work with nurses as part of the response.

• There is confirmation that some hospitals in Monrovia continue to turn away patients despite the Memo from Dr. Dahn, Chief Medical Officer advising on proper procedures.

• The Lab team has been reorganized to have 3 components: (i) 4 Lab technicians have been identified to collect samples at 4 hospitals- JFK, ELWA, Redemption, and JDJ; (ii) all national reference lab technicians will work in two stationary teams at the national lab; (iii) a mobile team will collect samples.

• Dr. Dahn, Chief Medical Officer, announced that the EU had provided an additional $500,000 for Ebola response in Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia to be provided to WHO, Red Cross, and MSF. Partners are requested to inform the MOHSW of the amount available for the Liberian response.

• The need to strengthen the coordination among all sub-committees was emphasized at the national Task Force meeting. Both resistance and denial remains high and is delaying timely and comprehensive tracing of all contacts.

• The MOHSW has suspended all programmatic activities and is circulating a template to all NTF participants with a request they sign up staff to support subcommittees and possible deployment to counties.

• Based on a circulated inventory of current supplies, and field reports, materials for survival kits for both Lofa and Montserrado are needed immediately. Increased support is also additionally requested for continued adaptation and expansion of messages and social mobilization activities.

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 in coordination with National Task Force sub-committees.

COMMUNICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT (C4D):
• UNICEF led the coordination and training for 81 traditional and religious leaders representing the Council of Chiefs, the Council of Governors, Muslim Women, and Women On The Move, yesterday. All of the attendees pledged support to the overall response effort.

• UNICEF continues to work in partnership with the Inter-religious Council of Liberia to scale-up awareness among 181 religious leaders from churches and mosques across the country with particular focus on affected areas.

• UNICEF continues to provide technical assistance and active support to the social mobilization subcommittee of the National Task Force which has secured the support of Lonestar GSM Company to text subscribers with Ebola awareness messages. Today, the group also conducted a town hall meeting for over 500 leaders and citizens of the Paynesville Community, one of the most populated communities in the greater Monrovia area of Montserrado County.

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. Current funding gaps are under review based on needs highlighted in today’s National Task Force meeting.

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), E-mail: pprabhakaran@unicef.org

• Adolphus Scott, C4D Specialist
  Tel: +231-(0)770-25-7113 (office), +231-(0)770-26-7113 (mobile), E-mail: adscott@unicef.org