



# Liberia Ebola Situation Report no. 62

26 November 2014

unicef 

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

## Highlights

- According to the latest Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW) Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) report, up until 21 November 2014, the cumulative total of suspected, probable and confirmed cases of EVD in Liberia was 7,165. The cumulative total of deaths stood at 3,016. Cases and deaths continue to be under-reported. Reported case incidence is stable or declining in Liberia, with 67 new confirmed cases in the week.
- The Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services estimates that 2,038,583 children are affected by EVD in Liberia. Of these, 599,913 children are under 5 years of age. According to new data from the health ministry, there have been 1,010 confirmed cases of children with EVD, and 507 deaths (40 per cent of these deaths occurred amongst children under 5). The cumulative total of suspected, probable and confirmed cases of EVD in children is 2,065. There are reasons to believe that these numbers are lower than the actual number of cases.
- Since the beginning of the outbreak, UNICEF has procured USD 13.4 million worth of supplies for the Ebola response in Liberia. As part of this, UNICEF has airlifted 1,169 metric tons of emergency aid, including essential protective gear, tents, diarrheal kits, emergency health kits, and sanitation supplies such as chlorine.
- Following an outbreak in Taylot-Ta, Bomi County, UNICEF's partner Global Communities conducted hygiene awareness and promotion training, and distributed hygiene kits to 123 families in the quarantined town. During this training, UNICEF provided messaging on Ebola prevention and the importance of rapidly contacting the health officials if a family member becomes sick. Also in Bong County, UNICEF has been working with the Bong County Health Team to supply parts for 3 ambulances to be used for the Ebola response.
- In response to Ebola outbreaks in hot spots\*, UNICEF along with county health teams and key partners, is setting up 15 Community Care Centers (CCCs) with significant contribution from the community, where patients with Ebola can be safely isolated and rapidly treated close to the community. First of the kind, the newly-opened Jene Wonde Rapid Response Centre is located adjacent to the Jene Wonde primary healthcare facility. Key elements of this centre include triage to separate patients based on the severity of their symptoms (i.e. wet and dry), medication to control the symptoms and infection prevention measures such as a strict separation of spaces, personal protective equipment, safe waste disposal and hygiene and sanitation supplies.
- In an effort to strengthen UNICEF's presence in the field, reinforce coordination with county officials and partners, and identify new partnerships opportunities, UNICEF opened two field offices in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County and Gbarnga, Bong County. A third office is being set up in Harper, Maryland County.

\*A 'hot spot' location is an area where there are high caseloads and deaths.

\*\*Data are based on official information reported by the Liberian health ministry up to 21 November 2014. These numbers are subject to change due to on-going reclassification, retrospective investigation and availability of laboratory results.

## Ebola statistics as of 21 November 2014\*\*:

**7,165 cases, including:**  
**2,726 confirmed**  
**1,753 probable**  
**2,686 suspected**

**3,016 total deaths**

**342 cases and 172 deaths among health care workers**

## Counties of highest incidence:

**Montserrado: 3,961**  
**Margibi: 1,225**  
**Lofa: 641**  
**Nimba: 326**  
**Bong: 308**

## UNICEF revised funding needs for the next six months:

**USD 85.8 million**

## Funding gap:

**USD 51 million**

## Situation Overview

Case incidence has stabilized over the past five weeks, after declining from mid-September until mid-October 2014. A total of 67 confirmed cases were reported in the week. However, a reversal of this trend is possible and efforts to control the disease remain critical, especially with the upcoming elections and Christmas around the corner, which translates into mass movement and gathering of people.

The district of Montserrado, which includes the capital Monrovia, reported 40 confirmed cases: 60 percent of all cases reported in Liberia this week. Bomi (2 cases), Bong (10 cases), Grand Bassa (1 case), Grand Cape Mount (12 cases) and Margibi (2 cases) are the only other districts to report cases during the same period. The district of Lofa, in the north of the country and on the border with Guinea and Sierra Leone, reported no cases for the fourth consecutive week. Response activities continue to intensify in line with the UNMEER aim to isolate 70% of EVD cases and safely bury 70% of EVD-related deaths by 1 December 2014.

According to reports, every EVD-affected district has access to a laboratory for case confirmation within 24 hours of sample collection. While some reports allege that 80 percent of registered contacts associated with known cases of EVD are traced, the low mean number of contacts registered per case suggests that contact tracing is still a challenge in areas of intense transmission.

## Health and Nutrition

- UNICEF formed a new partnership with Africa Humanitarian Action this week to expand the coverage of essential health services to 14 primary healthcare facilities in Montserrado County serving 158,181 people, including 26,890 children under five and 7,909 pregnant women. The provision of life-saving medical and nutritional supplies will be a key component with the aim to enable ready access to essential life-saving interventions. Ensuring that standard infection prevention and control measures and supplies are in place will be another key component.
- As part of UNICEF's support to the setup of Ebola Treatment Units (ETU) and Community Care Centres (CCC) across Liberia, 44,820 kilos of chlorine have been released to health authorities to date. Last week, an additional 1,344 kilos of chlorine was released to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to aid the management of dead bodies.
- As part of UNICEF's overall Ebola response, a total of 37,695 household protection kits have been released as of last week. Protection kits, containing basic protective gear and disinfectants, are designed to help frontline health workers to protect themselves against Ebola or protect the family when a sick person's Ebola status is unknown. These kits complement infection prevention and control measures and are suitable for use in CCCs, primary healthcare facilities or at home under active supervision and monitoring of trained health workers when Ebola treatment facilities are not readily available or accessible.
- As a key partner on the Rapid Isolation and Treatment of Ebola (RITE) team, UNICEF released drugs, such as Paracetamol and supplies, such as ORS and examination gloves aimed at supporting infection control measures to county health teams across the country.
- UNICEF provided mentoring and supervision support to County Nutrition Supervisors in Lofa and Nimba counties in collaboration with Pentecostal Mission United (PMU) and Project Concern International (PCI).
- Through a partnership with Save the Children, technical guidance on nutrition was provided to clinicians in the newly opened CCC in Margibi. UNICEF donated a wide range of drugs and supplies to run the CCC, including specialized products to improve the nutritional intake of patients.
- UNICEF supported five infants who lost one or both parents placed in kinship and foster care in Bomi County with 760 bottles of replacement feeding following the recently endorsed national EVD infant and young child feeding guidelines.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Since the beginning of the outbreak, UNICEF released hygiene kits containing personal hygiene items such as soap and bleach to benefit at least 36,615 households in six counties (Nimba, Bong, Bomi, Montserrado, Margibi and Lofa). The correct utilization of these kits through hand washing - as a key pillar to fight hand-to-hand transmission - and improving water treatment and storage prevents diarrhea, fever and vomiting, thereby helping to reduce the suspected Ebola caseload count. This is because Ebola has nonspecific symptoms, particularly early in the course, which can cause EVD to be confused with other more common infectious diseases such as malaria, typhoid fever, cholera and other bacterial infections.

- Through UNICEF's implementing partners, a total of 2,486 community members of Konobo and B'hai districts in Grand Gedeh county and 3,024 community members of Doe district in Nimba County were reached through hygiene promotion activities including hand washing demonstrations and awareness-raising on Ebola prevention and home protection.
- As part of improving the water supply system and sanitation facilities at Gbarnga Holding Centre (a community care center in Bong County), UNICEF is supporting the rehabilitation of the waste management system and the drilling of a borehole.
- As part of UNICEF's continued support to the construction of ETUs, the drilling of a borehole has begun at the SKD stadium ETU site in Monrovia, with a view to provide adequate water supply to the treatment centre. Drilling has reached 46 meters depth and is progressing.

## Communication for Development (C4D)

- UNICEF deployed 66 social mobilisers as part of its rapid response teams to respond to recent outbreaks in Grand Cape Mount, Sinoe and Rivercess counties. These recent additions bring the total number of UNICEF-supported social mobilisers deployed, in partnership with Development Communication Initiative, to 178 across nine counties. Their role is to engage communities in Ebola-affected districts to adopt Ebola prevention and protection measures.
- Last week, 15,796 households across 15 counties were reached through door-to-door visits and 56,503 community members and 740 traditional leaders were reached during group discussions on Ebola prevention and protection practices in an effort to address high transmission behaviours. During the outreach, 67 cases of resistance and rumours were recorded in 13 counties, of which Montserrado rated the highest (23 cases).
- As of this week, 616 young people have registered for U-report – a new SMS/text-messaging-based tool UNICEF is using for community engagement – in Montserrado, Lofa, Bong and Maryland counties. In the last poll focusing on youth engaged in decision-making, 58 percent of youth said that community elders make the decisions. 54 percent of respondents said that they thought these decisions affect them positively while 46 percent said negatively. Real-time poll results are available at: <https://liberia.ureport.in/> U-report is meant to serve as a two-way communication channel enabling citizens to report on the status of the Ebola situation in their local communities directly to the Liberian government, and for the government to respond in real-time with important information.
- UNICEF County Mobilisation Coordinators facilitated trainings in Nimba, Sinoe, Rivercess and Gbarpolu counties for implementing partners to raise awareness among communities on key prevention and protection behaviours. In addition, UNICEF provided specialized training to partners in Nimba and Margibi counties on community engagement processes to enable ownership and use of CCCs, care for affected children, acceptance of contact tracers and re-integration of survivors. This training was based on a recently field-tested community engagement guide.

## Child Protection

- As of this week, 34 children (17 boys, 17 girls) have been placed in the UNICEF-supported interim care center, which is meant for children needing observation for a period of 21 days. Of these, 10 children were reunified with a biological relative or placed in foster care; three are receiving treatment at the Island Clinic ETU after showing symptoms of Ebola; four died in an ETU while eighteen are currently under observation at the center. In addition, UNICEF donated recreation kits as well as supplies to prevent infection, including masks and gloves.
- UNICEF provided Ebola prevention supplies (hygiene and sanitation) and infection control training to wardens and staff of 14 prisons across the country housing juvenile offenders.
- Supported by UNICEF, a group of young girls are on the front line of the fight against the Ebola epidemic with an initiative they call "A-Life", or "Adolescents Leading the Intense Fight against Ebola". So far, 4,140 households in Monrovia's urban slum communities have been reached with Ebola prevention messages. As part of the same effort, 380 adolescent girls were given refresher training.
- With support from UNICEF, 305 adolescent girls and boys from Grand Gedeh County led a door-to-door awareness campaign last week on Ebola prevention measures in Dchien district reaching 122 households.
- UNICEF trained and deployed 203 national youth volunteers in 12 counties to reach 30,000 members of 145 communities and 81 institutions, including schools, health facilities and youth centres with messages on active case identification, hygiene promotion, infection control and early warning. These youth volunteers were also trained on how to intervene in the event of social unrest.

## Education

- UNICEF, the Ministry of Education and key development partners finalized an operating plan and sampling strategy for next month's Joint Education Sector Emergency Assessment to gauge the current sector-wide impact of the Ebola crisis. The assessment tool incorporates specific questions addressing EVD transmission to ensure the safety of school learning environments.

## 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.

UNICEF Results with partners 26 November 2014	UNICEF	TOTAL UNICEF RESULTS	
Indicator	Targets	Results	(%)
<b>COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Population reached with daily Ebola prevention and care messages through radio	1,500,000	1,500,000	100%
Households reached by social mobilization teams	250,000	128,093	51%
Counties where social mobilization taskforces met last week	15	15	100%
<b>HEALTH</b>			
Ebola treatment and care centers equipped with medical supplies	85	15	18%
Health facilities equipped with essential commodities for maternal, new-born and child health care and infection prevention and control	470	134	29%
<b>NUTRITION</b>			
Ebola patients who received nutrition support	11,950	N/A	N/A
Ebola-affected infants and young children 0-12 months who cannot be breastfed received replacement feeding	900	5	0.60%
Children 6-59 months admitted for SAM treatment	4,000	505	13%
<b>WASH</b>			
Ebola treatment and care centers equipped with essential WASH facilities	85	2	2%
Non-Ebola health centers in Ebola-affected areas equipped with hand washing station	470	N/A	N/A
Households equipped with hygiene kits in Ebola-affected areas	150,000	24,615	16%
Schools equipped with hand washing stations	4,400	N/A	N/A
<b>EDUCATION</b>			
Reopened schools in Ebola-affected district equipped with a minimum package for Ebola prevention	4,400	4400	100%
Teachers trained on psychosocial support, Ebola prevention, and safe and protective learning environments	15,000	5,666	38%
<b>CHILD PROTECTION</b>			
Children provided with psychosocial support	5,000	1,964	39%
Ebola-affected separated and unaccompanied children received appropriate care and support	2,000	595	30%

## Media Coverage

Spokespersons for UNICEF have been featured in global print, radio, television and online news highlighting UNICEF's role in the response. Field visits for international media have also been arranged. Samples of resulting coverage featuring interviews with UNICEF spokespersons and UNICEF's work on the ground include:

- [Launch of National Youth Volunteer Service](#) (AllAfrica.com)
- [UNICEF crowdsources report on world's children to inspire innovation and localize solutions](#) (Techrepublic)
- [Creating Tech Tools to Fight Ebola](#) (Techpresident)
- [How Cellphones Help Liberia Win Fight against Ebola](#) (Afkinsider)
- [Fighting Ebola with Mobile Technology in Liberia](#) (UNICEF blog)
- [UNICEF celebrates global innovation and a children's rights milestone](#) (Mashable)
- [Launch of u-report/technology use](#) (Reuters)

## Funding

The revised funding needs of the Ebola outbreak appeal until March 2015 is USD 85.8 million, 40.5 per cent of which has been funded. UNICEF has been able to respond to the Ebola outbreak in Liberia thanks to generous contributions from USAID/OFDA, World Bank, Japan, Sweden, Canada, Belgium, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Germany, Netherlands, Gates Foundation, CERF, ECHO, Anadarko Petroleum, Dawnus UK, and the UNICEF national committees of USA, UK, Japan, Korea, and Hong Kong.

## Next SitRep: 3 December 2014

UNICEF-Liberia Ebola Outbreak on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Liberia.Unicef>

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