Key Points

- As of 11 pm on 26 June, three (3) new suspected Ebola cases; three (3) new probable cases; and three (3) new confirmed cases have been reported. With these changes, the total number of suspected, probable and confirmed cases reported for Outbreak #2 now stands at seventy (70).
- A total of thirty-eight (38) confirmed cases, including twenty-four (24) from Lofa County, one (1) from Margibi County, and thirteen (13) from Montserrado County are reported. A total of six (6) cases among health care workers is reported including five (5) deaths.
- The total number of Ebola-related deaths for Outbreak #2 in confirmed, probable, and suspected cases now stands at forty-six (46) with twenty-five (25) in Lofa County, one (1) in Margibi County, and twenty (20) in Montserrado County. Twenty-four (24) deaths are among confirmed cases.
- Foya, Lofa County, and New Kru Town, Montserrat County, remain the epicentres of this Ebola outbreak. The outbreak is continuing to spread with confirmed cases now from Margibi County, and phoned reports of probable Ebola deaths from Bong County.
- Both public denial and resistance among family members, community “prayer centers”, and contacts remain high. The situation is currently being addressed with high level visits and promotion efforts.
- UNICEF continues to scale up support for the response. The Health unit of the Child Survival Section provided 2 diarrhoea kits. The Communication Section is printing 60 banners for outreach activities, and today provided signs to identify all Ebola Response vehicles. 3000 posters and 250 flip charts were also provided today to IPC teams from the Liberian National Red Cross and case management responder teams.
- 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 NTF meeting.

Situation Overview

- As of 11 pm 26 June, three (3) new suspected Ebola cases, all in Lofa County; three (3) new probable cases with one (1) in Lofa County, one (1) in Margibi County, and one (1) in Montserrado County; and three (3) new confirmed cases in Lofa 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 seventy (70) including forty-nine (49) in Lofa County, three (3) in Margibi County, and eighteen (18) in Montserrat County.
- A total of thirty-eight (38) cases are confirmed, including twenty-four (24) from Lofa County, one (1) from Margibi County, and thirteen (13) from Montserrat County.
- A total of six (6) cases are among health care workers with three (3) from Lofa County and three (3) from Montserrat County. A total of five (5) deaths among health care workers is reported with two (2) from Lofa County and three (3) from Montserrat County.
- The total number of Ebola-related deaths for Outbreak #2 in confirmed, probable, and suspect cases now stands at forty-six (46) with twenty-five (25) in Lofa County, one (1) in Margibi County, and twenty (20) in Montserrat County.
- The total number of deaths from confirmed cases is twenty-four (24) including twelve (12) in Lofa County, one (1) in Margibi County, and eleven (11) in Montserrat County. The national case fatality rate (CFR) in confirmed and probable cases is reported as 68%. The reported CFR for Montserrat County is high at 88.9% compared to 33.3% reported for Lofa County.
- The total number of patients currently in isolation is twenty-three (23) including eighteen (18) in Lofa and (5) in Montserrat. Ten (10) specimens await lab testing.
- Foya, Lofa County, and New Kru Town, Montserrat County, remain the epicentres outbreak #2. The outbreak continues to spread with confirmed cases now from Margibi County. Reports of probable deaths from Bong County were reported during the National Task Force (NTF) meeting and await lab testing.
- The County Health Officer (CHO) of Gbarpolou County updated the NTF that the deaths among a group of travellers from Sierra Leone that passed into Kongbor District were buried by individuals in the group, not the community, and that the group has returned to Sierra Leone at the community’s request. Contact tracing is on-
going in the district. The CHT is additionally following up on possible connections to one of the New Kru Town cases. The CHT is working with the Ministry of Agriculture to combat an outbreak of “Army Worms” with insecticide.

National Task Force Updates

Updates from the sub-committees continue to emphasize the need to improve contact tracing, designate a site for Ebola burials, increase awareness, and ensure adherence to proper infection control measures in all health facilities.

- All JFK staff were trained yesterday, and the hospital is to assign one senior doctor and one junior doctor to work in teams to maintain 24 hour operation of the Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU).
- Out of efforts to recruit and train 100 persons as contact tracers yesterday, only nine (9) were trained from Montserrado County. Work is ongoing with the CHT to improve recruitment and training to combat fear.
- Both public denial and resistance among family members, community “prayer centers”, and contacts remain high. The situation is currently being addressed with high level visits and promotion efforts.
- The social mobilization team noted that out of the 500 persons identified for orientation on June 25, 2014 at the Paynesville Town Hall in Montserrado County, 150 were oriented. Despite the effort, a large number continued to deny the outbreak and journalists again requested photos as proof of the outbreak. The MOHSW has quickly responded, by showing pictures of response activities on national television.
- The psycho-social team continues to follow up with families and discover new contacts and deaths. Incentives for informants that are supporting contact tracing through the Psycho-social team was requested.
- Communities continue to resist Ebola related burials, scared by the PPEs and fear of contamination. The Montserrado CHO is meeting with the County Superintendent today in on-going efforts to designate a burial site for Ebola related deaths.
- The supply committee reported a large quantity of PPEs was provided by USAID, in addition to thermometers and test tubes by WHO. UNFPA and UNICEF were both reported as donating diarrhoea kits.

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.

- UNICEF provided 2 diarrhoea kits including 1 for Lofa County and 1 for the Central MOHSW on June 26, 2014.
- UNICEF’s is printing 60 banners for outreach activities, and today provided signs to identify all Ebola Response vehicles. The C4D section distributed 3000 posters and 250 flip charts today to IPC teams from the Liberian National Red Cross and case management responder teams. The section continues to actively support the social mobilization sub-committee. A press-briefing attended by several media houses in the greater Monrovia area was coordinated yesterday. Support is also being provided to design a reader-friendly daily summary of Ebola deaths, cases, and affected areas for key newspapers. These updates will then be available for inclusion in the newspaper updates read aloud on many local radio stations.

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.

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