Liberia has transitioned to a more detailed reporting mechanism, leading to a spike in the number of cases. According to latest data from 27 October 2014, the cumulative number of laboratory confirmed Ebola virus disease (EVD) cases is 2,303. The number of deaths is 2,446.

817 children (370 boys and 447 girls) have been identified as being affected by the Ebola crisis. The Government of Liberia has defined the number of children affected as quarantined, orphaned, unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in treatment and discharged. Orphans are children who have lost one or both parents.

Since the beginning of the outbreak, UNICEF has flown in 755 metric tons of emergency aid. This includes a cargo plane that arrived Monday carrying 105 metric tons of supplies, including pharmaceutical and health kits as well as ready-to-use therapeutic food, such as nutritional biscuits and therapeutic spread, made possible by funding from ECHO.

As part of UNICEF’s support to restoring basic health services in the six worst-affected counties that have been severely disrupted since July 2014 at all levels of the health system, UNICEF partnered with Africare to restore essential service delivery in 102 health facilities in Bong and Nimba and another 32 health facilities in Montserrado and Margibi through Save the Children.

New (partial) data on severe acute malnutrition admissions for the month of September 2014 revealed that a total of 325 severely malnourished children under five from seven counties were admitted to UNICEF-supported integrated management of acute malnutrition treatment sites.

UNICEF is field-testing a facilitator’s guide on community engagement for use by trained community volunteers and mobilisers. The guide elaborates on protocols and tips on facilitating dialogue to achieve community ownership, approval and actions around six core themes that are aligned to overall Ebola response efforts – including safe burials.

*All Ebola statistics in this report are drawn from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW) Ebola SitRep #165, which reports cumulative cases as of 27 October 2014 (from 23 May to 27 October 2014).*
Situation Overview

Liberia have transitioned to reporting information from their viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF) database, which contains detailed individual case data. The precise ramifications of this change are currently being investigated, but in the immediate term it has led to a significant jump in total cases and a drop in the total number of deaths reported. After a jump in cumulative suspected, probable or confirmed Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) figures last week and a drop in cumulative deaths, presumably from a cleansing and catch up in data reporting, the cumulative reported number of cases levelled off between 23 and 25 October 2014, noting only an addition of 19 suspected, probable or confirmed cases over those two days, to 6,267 on 25 October 2014. For the purposes of this report, UNICEF will use the cumulative cases based on ministry reporting, noting at the same time that cumulative cases stretching over the entire lifecycle of the second outbreak is not indicative how the outbreak is evolving.

Communities with high EVD cases are the worst hit in terms of food insecurity, according to a joint nationwide food assessment conducted earlier this month. The assessment also found that some markets have been closed, food prices have risen and cross-border movement has been disrupted.

Continuous strikes of health workers in more than half of operating health facilities in River Gee, Bomi and Grand Cape Mount counties could considerably impair health care amid the EVD outbreak. Lack of PPEs for health personnel also poses substantial hindrance in provision of basic assistance.

17 new Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs) are under construction in Liberia to supplement current system. The aim is to have at least one functioning ETU in each of Liberia’s 15 Counties. This will bolster health systems and infrastructure to be able to withstand infectious disease outbreaks.

According to reports, new cases have been brought to a standstill in Foya. This success shows that it's going to take more than extra beds at a ward to stop Ebola. Health workers say there are two main reasons the epidemic here has been brought under control. One is the care center, which means sick people aren't at home infecting other people. Another is a massive campaign to connect with the community and to distribute information. In addition, families were allowed to visit sick patients at the health center, from a safe distance, and one of the most important changes was allowing family members to see the body of someone who died from Ebola.

Health and Nutrition

- As part of UNICEF’s support to restoring basic health services in the six worst-affected counties that have been severely disrupted since July 2014 at all levels of the health system, UNICEF partnered with Africare to restore essential service delivery in 102 health facilities in Bong and Nimba and another 32 health facilities in Montserrado and Margibi through Save the Children – representing 28% of UNICEF’s target of 470 government health facilities. The support includes establishing triage, infection prevention and control measures and distributing essential drugs, including malaria treatment, antibiotics, ORS, zinc, chlorhexidine, inter-agency emergency health kits, safe delivery and newborn care kits and supplies to treat severe acute malnourished children – to enable ready access to essential life-saving interventions.
- In an effort to re-activate routine essential immunization to curb vaccine-preventable diseases in Ebola-affected areas, UNICEF is supporting the development of guidelines and procurement of material necessary for safe and clean deliveries in the context of Ebola. The target is to ensure that 88,000 pregnant women have access to safe and clean deliveries, and their newborns to essential health care.
- UNICEF partnered with the Red Cross to provide training and infection prevention and control supplies to Red Cross health officers, branch coordinators and health volunteers to help enable safer isolation and community-based home protection to any person suspected with Ebola, in the event that immediate access to an ETU and
CCC is not possible. This project will target ‘hot spot’ locations [1], with the capacity for up to 10,000 suspected sick persons to be isolated as early as possible in their homes, while waiting to be transported to a treatment unit. The beneficiaries will also receive essential protection, health and nutrition supplies.

- New (partial) data on severe acute malnutrition admissions for the month of September 2014 revealed that a total of 325 severely malnourished children under five from seven counties (Bomi, G. Bassa, G. Kru, G. Gedeh, Lofa, Montserrado and Rivercess) were admitted to UNICEF-supported integrated management of acute malnutrition treatment sites.

- The UNICEF-supported global interim guidelines on nutritional care and support for EVD patients in treatment centers was released last week. The technical working group comprising key actors managing ETUs and CCCs are working to adapt these guidelines to the local context.

- UNICEF partnered with International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Africare and Save the Children to address the nutrition needs of patients in Ebola Treatment Units and Community Care Centers.

**WASH**

- As part of the overall Ebola response effort, UNICEF has airlifted 183,590 kilos of chlorine since the beginning of the outbreak.

- UNICEF is carrying out trials on the functionality of the recently-completed water supply and sanitation facilities at the Ministry of Defense ETU. In light of the low ground water potential at this site, alternative water sources are being developed.

- UNICEF is supporting the construction efforts in the ETU near Monrovia’s SKD Stadium as well as ongoing repairs and new construction at the Island Clinic ETU.

- UNICEF is procuring water, sanitation and hygiene supplies for five ETUs in Montserrado county.

- UNICEF is distributing additional hygiene kits to benefit 8,680 households in Margibi County this week adding to the 15,579 families in Monrovia in previous weeks as part of UNICEF’s efforts to promote hand washing at the household level as a key pillar to stopping the Ebola transmission.

**Communication for Development (C4D)**

- UNICEF’s Community Mobilization Coordinators trained 500 community volunteers and local partners on community engagement, mobilized local community radio stations to deliver prevention messages, and led the establishment of county level coordination groups comprising governmental and local partners in 14 out of 15 counties.

- UNICEF is field-testing a facilitator’s guide on community engagement for use by trained community volunteers and mobilisers. The guide elaborates on protocols and tips on facilitating dialogue to achieve community ownership, approval and actions around six core themes that are aligned to overall Ebola response efforts, namely 1) household-level prevention and protection messaging including transportation; 2) contact and case reporting; 3) establishment of community care centres; 4) safe and dignified burials; 5) addressing needs of infected and affected children; and 6) re-integration of survivors.

- This week, 10,000 households mainly in high transmission districts were reached through door-to-door interpersonal communications. In addition, 31,000 community members, including leaders, elders and traditional chiefs also were reached through group discussions.

**Child Protection**

- As part of immediate recovery support, foster parents and next-of-kin are receiving one-time emergency cash assistance meant for 595 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) affected by Ebola (169 in Monrovia and 426 in other nine counties with high EVD prevalence). The reunification rate of children temporarily placed – 20

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[1] A ‘hot spot’ location is an area where there are high case loads and deaths. This program will focus on hot spots where access to CCC or ETU is very difficult and delayed (e.g. over 4 hours of transportation time).
in the Interim Care Center and 40 in Transit Center - is 98 per cent, with almost all children having been reunified or placed into foster care. Five children were referred to the ETU after showing symptoms of Ebola, three tested positive, another two are undergoing treatment while two died at the Island Clinic ETU. One was tested negative and has been put under observation. Four children are completing their 21-day observation this Saturday and will be reunited with their families. Currently there are 15 children (6 girls, 9 boys) at the ICC and 2 children (1 girl, 1 boy) at the transit center.

- Entirely supported by UNICEF, 110 social workers and mental health clinicians provided psychosocial, family tracing, reunification, reintegration and case management support to 817 children (370 boys, 447 girls) in the ten most affected counties—including in Ebola Treatment Centers. In addition, UNICEF hired and trained 20 Ebola survivors to provide care in the Interim Care Center and Transit Centre. UNICEF is also supporting the development of strategy and operational plan to provide psychosocial support to Ebola Survivors.

Education
- As part of the Ministry of Education’s Ebola Response Plan, UNICEF continues to support the nationwide rollout of training for teachers to deliver door-to-door Ebola awareness, prevention and home protection messages in all 15 counties. As of this week, at least 77 education personnel at national level, 298 at county level and 4,217 at district level have been trained nationwide through these efforts. Door-to-door outreach has been initiated in 10 counties (G. Cape Mount, G. Gedeh, Rivercess, River Gee, Gbarpolu, Bomi, Bong, Lofa, Maryland and Margibi), with teachers in the remaining five counties scheduled to start reaching households in the next two weeks.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNICEF Results Table</th>
<th>UNICEF Target</th>
<th>Total UNICEF Results</th>
<th>% Target reached</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Radio stations airing daily messages on Ebola</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Districts where all radio stations air Ebola content every day</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Holds receiving Inter-Personal Communication on Ebola prevention messages</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>65,400</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUTRITION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td># of Ebola patients who received nutrition support during treatment and at discharge according to internationally agreed upon guidance note (disaggregated by gender and age group)</td>
<td>11,950</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of infant and young children 0 – 12 months who cannot be breastfed and who received replacement feeding (disaggregated by gender and center)</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of children 6 – 59 months admitted for SAM treatment</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>WATER, SANITATION &amp; HYGIENE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ebola care centres are provided with essential WASH services</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Ebola Health centres in Ebola affected areas provided with Hand washing station</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household benefiting from hygiene kits in Ebola affected areas</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>15,579</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Reopened schools in Ebola-affected district equipped with a minimum package for Ebola prevention</td>
<td>4,400</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers trained on psycho social support, Ebola prevention, and safe and protective learning environments</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>4,217</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio stations broadcasting emergency learning programmes</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILD PROTECTION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Children provided with psychosocial support  |  5,000  |  817  |  16%
Separated and unaccompanied children (including orphans) identified and receive appropriate care and support  |  2,000  |  595  |  29%

**HEALTH**

Health Structures (CCCs and ETUs) in Ebola affected areas provided with essential commodities package  |  85  |  15  |  17%
Affected households benefiting from community protection package  |  10,000  |  N/A  |  N/A
Health facilities in targeted areas receiving supplies of essential commodities for maternal, new-born and child health (MNCH) care and infection prevention and control (IPC)  |  470  |  134  |  28%

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**Media and External Communications**

Spokespersons for UNICEF have been featured in global print, radio, television and online news programming highlighting UNICEF’s role in the response, while field visits for international media crew have also been arranged. Samples of resulting coverage include:

- **Child Protection Officer Miatta Clark on Ebola orphans** (Wall Street Journal) and also regional Communications Specialist Laurent Duvillier here (New Internationalist)
- **Country Representative Sheldon Yett on the training of survivors as caregivers** (Reuters) and also here (PBS) and here (Reuters)
- **Country Representative Sheldon Yett on Ebola’s impact on vaccinations** (NPR)
- **Communications Specialist Rukshan Ratnam on Ebola songs** (CCTV America) and a video feature on the artists UNICEF commissioned to create the songs here (CNN)
- **Regional Communications Specialist Laurent Duvillier blogs on his visit to an ICC** (The Guardian) and also here (El Mundo)
- **Regional Communications Specialist Laurent Duvillier on the use of mobile technology to fight Ebola** (Devex) and also Global Innovations Co-Lead Chris Fabian here (Bloomberg)
- **Child Protection Officer Hawa Page and Country Representative Sheldon Yett on UNICEF’s training of adolescent social mobilizers in West Point** (The Daily Beast)
- UNICEF USA is featuring a video highlighting UNICEF’s training of adolescent social mobilizers in West Point

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**Funding**

UNICEF’s funding needs for the next six months have increased exponentially. The need for the next six months is estimated to be USD 64.76 million. The current funding gap is USD 42.52 million. International support is urgently needed to rapidly scale up activities to reverse the trajectory of the outbreak.

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**Next SitRep: 5 November 2014**

UNICEF-Liberia Ebola Outbreak on Twitter: [https://twitter.com/UNICEF_Liberia](https://twitter.com/UNICEF_Liberia)

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