UNICEF-Liberia
Ebola Virus Disease: SitRep #37
16 July 2014

*This report provides an update on the UNICEF response to the Ebola emergency in Liberia. All statistics, other than those related to UNICEF support, are from the SitReps issued by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare through the National Task Force on Health Emergencies.*

Summary

- Since 13 July, nine (9) new suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases and six (6) new suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola deaths have been recorded in Liberia. The new cases include the first confirmed case in Bong County, where a health worker has tested positive for Ebola.
- As of 15 July, the cumulative number of suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases reported during Outbreak #2 in Liberia stood at 173; and the total number of suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola deaths stood at 100.3
- Confirmed Ebola cases have now been reported in Lofa, Montserrado, Margibi, Bomi and Bong Counties, which are officially classified as response counties.
- A probable Ebola patient who fled treatment in Montserrado County has been tracked down in Grand Gedeh County, where she is now quarantined with her two children.
- The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW) has appealed for additional support for contact tracing to strengthen surveillance and halt the further spread of the disease into other counties.
- UNICEF released an additional 90 kg of chlorine to the MoHSW to support the Ebola response and distributed 1,000 Ebola awareness posters and five banners to Navigator Courier Service, a company which will use these materials to conduct social mobilization and outreach to communities in Montserrado County.
- UNICEF’s revised budget for the Ebola outbreak response is US$1.59 million for the period between March and September 2014. The UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has approved a donation of US$306,355 (programmable amount) for the response. With this support, the funding gap is now US$960,000.

Situation Overview

- According to the MoHSW, between 23:00 on 13 July and 23:00 on 15 July, nine (9) new suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases and six (6) new suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola deaths had been recorded in Liberia. Breakdown by County is as follows:
  - Lofa: Three (3) probable cases, two (2) confirmed cases and two (2) deaths.
  - Montserrado: One (1) probable case and three (3) deaths.
  - Bomi: One (1) probable case and one (1) death.
  - Bong: One (1) confirmed case.
  - Nimba: One (1) suspected case.
- With these additions, the total number of suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases reported in Liberia during Outbreak #2 now stands at 173, including 62 suspected, 39 probable and 64 confirmed. Meanwhile, the total number of suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola deaths stands at 100. The case fatality rate for probable and confirmed cases stands at 71 per cent. Case breakdown by County is as follows:
  - Lofa: 45 suspected, 23 probable and 41 confirmed.
  - Montserrado: 15 suspected, 18 probable and 23 confirmed.
  - Margibi: Two (2) probable and one (1) confirmed.

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1 Outbreak #2 began on 29 May.
2 The total number of cases reported in UNICEF SitRep #36 was 163, indicating that 10 new cases were reported since that time to reach the current total of 173. However, careful review of the Ministry SitReps reveals that, in fact, only nine (9) new cases have been added to the totals as of 23:00 on 15 July. The tenth case had been reported to the Ministry, but had not yet been officially added to the cumulative total. It has been included in this SitRep.
3 Cumulative statistics are drawn from SitRep #62 of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, which reports cumulative totals as of 23:00 on 15 July.
• Bomi: One (1) confirmed and one (1) probable.
• Bong: One (1) confirmed.
• Nimba: Two (2) suspected.4

The confirmed case reported in Bong County is of a health worker at Phebe Hospital, who fell ill after treating a sick patient who travelled to Bong County from Montserrado. This brings to 12 the total number of Ebola cases diagnosed among health workers in Liberia since the beginning of the epidemic in late March. Nine (9) of these health workers have died.

Bong County has been added to the list of Ebola response counties, which now consists of Lofa, Montserrado, Margibi, Bomi and Bong. (Response counties are counties where Ebola cases have been confirmed.)

Over the past week, two (2) suspected Ebola cases have been reported in Nimba County. Specimens have been taken from both patients and are en route to the National Reference Lab.

A probable Ebola patient who fled treatment in Montserrado County has been tracked down in Grand Gedeh County, where she has been quarantined with her children.

The MoHSW has requested additional support for contact tracing. This call follows the spread of the Ebola virus into Bomi and Bong Counties within a period of one week, which, according to the MoHSW, is linked to a lack of resources for robust contact tracing. Specifically, the Ministry has cited lack of timely compensation to support contact tracers as a major barrier to effective surveillance. The WHO announced it will permit a portion of the US$100,000 it recently pledged to the Ministry to be used for this purpose, and UNICEF agreed to provide additional support to general Community Health Volunteers (gCHVs) for the purpose of contact tracing.

A high-level delegation led by the Minister of Health is conducting an assessment mission in Lofa County.

The emergency meeting of Medical Directors from Montserrado County called by the MoHSW was held on 15 July. The participants agreed to draft a policy stating that no medical centre can turn patients away, including suspected Ebola patients.

Burial, investigation and disinfection teams continue to face challenges to prompt removal of bodies from health facilities. The teams are reportedly overstretched relative to the number of bodies.

### UNICEF Response

As a member of the National Task Force on Health Emergencies, UNICEF continues to provide critical social mobilization/communications, case management and logistical support to the national Ebola response.

#### SOCIAL MOBILIZATION/COMMUNICATIONS:

• UNICEF distributed 1,0000 Ebola awareness posters and five banners to the Monrovia-based company Navigator Courier Service, which will be using these materials to conduct outreach in community in Monsterrado County. Prior to beginning their outreach, staff from the company will receive a training facilitated by the Social Mobilization Committee of the National Task Force. Navigator Courier Services has also agreed to distribute copies of a forthcoming video on Ebola, which is being led by UNICEF, to video clubs.

• UNICEF met with Inter-Religious Council of Liberia (IRCL) heads on 15 July to discuss strengthening collaboration in reaching Christian and Muslim communities.

#### CASE MANAGEMENT:

• UNICEF donated an additional 90 kg of chlorine to the MoHSW to support the Ebola response.

#### UNICEF Funding Needs:

• Following an extension of the budget period beyond June 2014 (the original end date), UNICEF’s revised budget for the Ebola response is US$1.59 million. This budget covers the period from March to September 2014. The UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has approved a donation of US$306,355 for the UNICEF-Liberia Ebola response. These funds come in addition to the following

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4 One of these two suspected cases was previously reported in Ministry SitReps, but was not reflected in the last UNICEF SitRep.
support provided 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$93,000 from the UK Committee for UNICEF. The funding gap is now US$960,000.

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