UNICEF-Liberia
Ebola Virus Disease: SitRep #39
21 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 Ebola National Task Force.

Summary

- Since 17 July, 28 new suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases and eight (8) new suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola deaths have been recorded in Liberia. One of the new confirmed cases was from Nimba County, which is now classified as a response county.
- As of 20 July, the cumulative number of suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases reported during Outbreak #2 in Liberia stood at 216; and the total number of suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola deaths stood at 116.2
- Confirmed Ebola cases have now been reported in Bomi, Bong, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado and Nimba Counties, which constitute the Ebola response counties.
- Eleven (11) additional health workers in Bong County have been added to the list of suspected and probable cases.
- The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW) and partners will establish an Ebola treatment unit in Bong County, where 19 suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases have been reported to date.
- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of the Republic of Liberia is expected to release the revised Ebola response plan tomorrow, 22 July.
- The Africa Regional Director of the WHO arrived in Liberia today and will depart for Sierra Leone tomorrow, 22 July.
- UNICEF released an additional 16 drums of chlorine (45 kg per drum) to the MoHSW for use in the Ebola response; distributed 2,000 Ebola awareness posters to Samaritan’s Purse for use in awareness activities; disseminated the updated Ebola jingles to all local community radio stations in Lofa County; and distributed posters and banners to immigration checkpoints and border posts with Guinea located in Lofa County.
- UNICEF’s revised budget for the Ebola outbreak response is US$ 1.59 million for the period between March and September 2014. The funding gap is US$ 960,000.

Situation Overview

- According to the MoHSW, between 23:00 on 17 July and 23:00 on 20 July, 28 new suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases and nine (8) new suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola deaths had been recorded in Liberia. Breakdown by County is as follows:
  - Bong: Ten (10) suspected cases, five (5) probable cases and two (2) deaths.
  - Lofa: Four (4) suspected cases, one (1) probable case and two (2) deaths.
  - Montserrado: One (1) suspected case, six (6) probable cases and four (4) deaths.
  - Nimba: One (1) confirmed case.
- Notably, 11 of the 15 new cases in Bong County are health workers, bringing to 27 the total number of suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases among health workers nationwide since the epidemic began.
  - It will be recalled that the first confirmed case reported in Bong County was that of a health worker in Phebe Hospital, where three other health workers have tested positive for the disease to date. The new cases among health workers have yet to be tested.
- With these additions, the total number of suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases reported in Liberia during Outbreak #2 now stands at 216, including 79 suspected, 66 probable and 71

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1 Outbreak #2 began on 29 May.
2 Cumulative statistics are drawn from SitRep #67 of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, which reports cumulative as of 23:00 on 20 July.
confirmed. Meanwhile, the total number of suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola deaths stands at 116; and the case fatality rate for probable and confirmed cases stands at 67 per cent. Case breakdown by County is as follows:

- Bomi: One (1) probable and one (1) confirmed.
- Bong: 10 suspected, five (5) probable and (4) confirmed.
- Lofa: 50 suspected, 27 probable and 41 confirmed.
- Margibi: Two (2) probable and one (1) confirmed.
- Montserrado: 17 suspected, 30 probable and 23 confirmed.
- Nimba: Two (2) suspected, one (1) probable and one (1) confirmed.

With the confirmation of one case in Nimba, the number of Ebola response counties has risen to six (6) and includes: Bomi, Bong, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado and Nimba Counties. Gbarpolu and Grand Cape Mount remain alert counties.

- The Case Management Committee of the Ebola National Task Force will deploy a team to Bong County on 23 July to initiate the establishment of an Ebola treatment unit there.
- The expanded Ebola treatment unit at ELWA Hospital in Montserrado County is near complete. Once finished, the unit at JFK Medical Center in Montserrado County will be closed, and all cases within a certain radius of Monrovia will be sent to ELWA, including cases from neighbouring counties. This will leave three treatment units in Liberia: one at ELWA Hospital, Montserrado County; one at Foya Borma Hospital, Lofa County; and one in Bong County.³

UNICEF Response

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

SOCIAL MOBILIZATION/COMMUNICATIONS:

- UNICEF provided 2,000 of its Ebola awareness posters (which were developed by UNICEF) to Samaritan’s Purse for use in outreach.
- During a three-day trip to Lofa County last week, the UNICEF distributed additional Ebola awareness posters and banners to immigration checkpoints and posts along the Guinea border, and also distributed the newly produced jingles to all community radio stations in Lofa.
- UNICEF is working with the Social Mobilization Committee of the Ebola National Task Force to enhance the Ebola interpersonal communications (IPC) response strategy by identifying individuals from within communities to lead outreach efforts. This would complement and improve upon existing strategies, including the work of the 14-person team from the IPC firm contracted by UNICEF to conduct outreach in Lofa County. General Community Health Volunteers (gCHVs) will be among the primary targets of this new strategy.

CASE MANAGEMENT:

- UNICEF released an additional 16 drums of chlorine (45 kg per drum) to the MoHSW for use in the Ebola response.

UNICEF Funding Needs:

- UNICEF’s revised budget for the Ebola response is US$ 1.59 million for the period from March to September 2014. The UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) approved a donation of US$ 306,355 toward this budget. This is in addition to the following support provided to date: US$ 100,000 from the Japan National Committee for UNICEF; US$100,000 from the US OFDA (provided through the UNICEF Regional Office for West and Central Africa); US$ 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 US$ 960,000.

UNICEF Contacts

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³ During the first outbreak, Duside Hospital at Firestone Plantation in Harbel, Margibi County, established a treatment (“isolation”) unit for Ebola patients. This facility is reportedly no longer supporting such a unit, although it does have an area where suspected patients from the plantation can be isolated.
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