Key Points

- As of 08 July, three (3) new suspected EVD cases have been reported in Liberia.
- According to the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOH) the total number of suspected, probable and confirmed EVD cases reported for Outbreak #2 now stands at one hundred thirty-three (133). Of these, a total of sixty-two (62) are confirmed EVD positive cases. The total number of deaths for Outbreak #2 in confirmed, probable, and suspected cases now stands at eighty (80). Thirty-eight (38) deaths have been confirmed as EVD positive cases.
- Foya in Lofa County, and New Kru Town in Montserrado County, remain the epicentres of this Ebola outbreak.
- According to the MOHSW, emphasis has been placed on improving case surveillance and tracking of contacts, as the number of actual cases could otherwise be under-reported.
- UNICEF continues to provide active support to the response in coordination with National Task Force (NTF) sub-committees. On 8 July, UNICEF trained 50 religious leaders on how to sensitize their congregations on EVD, and provided the group with 50 flip charts and 1000 posters.
- UNICEF’s estimated funding requirement for the EVD outbreak response is US$1.59 million. The current funding gap remains at US$1.27 million. Funding is urgently required to replenish supplies and continue support to the EVD prevention and response efforts.

Situation Overview

- As of 11 pm on 08 July, three (3) new suspected EVD cases were reported in Montserrado County. The total number of suspected, probable and confirmed cases reported for Outbreak #2 now stands at one hundred thirty-three (133). A total of ten (10) cases have been reported among health workers, including nine (9) deaths.
- A total of sixty-two (62) confirmed cases have been reported, including thirty-nine (39) from Loko County, one (1) from Margibi County, and twenty-two (22) from Montserrado County.
- The total number of Ebola-related deaths for Outbreak #2 in confirmed, probable, and suspected cases now stands at eighty (80). Thirty-eight (38) deaths have been confirmed as EVD positive cases. The reported national case fatality rate (CFR) is 69.6%.
- The total number of patients currently in isolation is fourteen (14), including eight (8) in Lofa County and six (6) in Montserrado County.
- Ten (10) specimens await lab testing. It was reported that lab test result of a suspected case from Grand Cape Mount County and a suspected case in an UNMIL soldier were both EVD negative.
- Foya, Lofa County, and New Kru Town, Montserrado County, remain the epicentres of this Ebola outbreak.
- According to the MOHSW, emphasis has been placed on improving case surveillance and tracking of contacts, as the number of actual cases could otherwise be under-reported.
- WHO reported that while the number of cases peaked during the week of 22-28 June, and appear to be declining, a greater proportion of deaths occurred in the week of 30 June to 5 July. It was also reported that more deaths also occurred among probable patients, indicating a need for increased lab response to collect specimens for testing.

National Task Force Updates

Sub-committee updates continue to emphasize the need for: designation of a burial site in Montserrado County; improved surveillance; and sustained social mobilization efforts to reduce denial and resistance.

COORDINATION:

- Dr. Bernice Dahn, Chief Medical Officer, is meeting with political leaders in Margibi County on 9 July to discuss response efforts.
- Following discussion between the MOHSW, UNICEF, WHO and the SRSG of the UN Mission, it was agreed that UNMIL will airlift MOHSW personnel for advocacy and awareness activities in Lofa County. Personnel will also be designated to support social mobilization activities and promote success stories of EVD survivors.
- Dr. Dahn requested the sub-committees to consider recommended actions and messages to protect the population during the large gatherings expected for the 26 July Celebration, and Ramadan festivities.
CASE MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH WORKER TRAINING
- Management of the Foya isolation unit has been turned over to Samaritans Purse and the County Health Team (CHT).
- A checklist has been developed to ensure that every case is treated comprehensively.
- A burial site is still needed for EVD related deaths in Montserrado County. The MOHSW reported a decision had been made to contract out all burials in Montserrado County, following training conducted for the burial team on 8 July.
- All staff at 185 community health clinics in Montserrado County have been trained on EVD response. Unregistered clinics are being added to remaining training sessions.
- Health workers at JDJ Hospital in Monrovia have agreed to resume work and are compiling a list of required supplies.

CASE TRACKING
- A meeting was held with Dr. Dahn and the surveillance team yesterday to address persistent issues with case tracking. A TOR for case tracking has been adopted and a community structure established. All case-based forms were reviewed and 19 were identified as having no follow up.
- WHO and MSF supported follow up of contact tracers assigned to Clara Town and Old Road communities in Montserrado County on 8 July.

SOCIAL MOBILIZATION & PSYCHOSOCIAL
- Local NGO Feed Our People has offered to host a weekly media conference and to provide weekly donations of assorted supplies to support response efforts. Nobel Laureate Leymah Gbowee, and Liberian politician/ex-football star George Weah will join efforts to raise awareness on EVD prevention and response.
- 50 religious leaders with a combined congregation of over 4000 persons have committed to raise awareness in their churches.
- 2 social workers have been assigned Lofa County, 1 in Voinjama and 1 Zorzor.

LOGISTICS AND SUPPORT
- A nationwide inventory of personal protection equipment (PPEs) is being conducted. A shipment of PPEs through WHO with the support of USAID has arrived.

UNICEF Response
UNICEF continues to provide active and critical C4D, health and WASH sector support to the national Ebola response in coordination with National Task Force sub-committees. Yesterday, UNICEF trained 50 pastors on how to sensitize their congregations on EVD, and provided the group with 50 flip charts and 1000 posters.

UNICEF Funding Needs:
UNICEF’s current estimated funding requirement for Ebola-related C4D, Health and WASH interventions remains approximately US$1.59 million. The Country 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$93,000 from the UK Committee for UNICEF. The current funding gap is US$1.27 million.

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), Email: prprabhakaran@unicef.org
- Rukshan Ratnam, Communication Specialist
  Tel: +231-(0)770-25-7110 (office), +231-(0)770-26-7110 (mobile), Email: Rukshan.ratnam@gmail.com