2 Ebola cases were confirmed on 14 and 20 January 2016 in Tonkolili. By 11 February, all contacts of the index case had completed follow-up. If no further cases are detected, transmission linked to this last cluster of cases will be declared to have ended on 17 March. During the reporting period, the affected communities were all fully discharged from quarantine, with no subsequent positive cases reported.

In response to the EVD cases in Tonkolili, UNICEF continued to support the quarantined communities in the affected districts of Tonkolili, Kambia and Port Loko. In the context of emergency preparedness, UNICEF was identified by the Inter-Agency Rapid Response Team as Incident Manager to lead the response in Tonkolili and Kambia.

UNICEF support to the overall response included provision of water and hygiene kits, psychosocial support, and learning materials to the communities. In Kambia and Bombali, UNICEF also provided support to the Ebola Treatment Centers for Infection Prevention and Control and WASH activities.

Through intensified community engagement, all missing contacts in the district of Kambia willingly returned to their communities. The EVD event was therefore officially closed. With a view to adjusting subsequent response to future events, should they arise, UNICEF contributed to the lessons learned exercise conducted by the Inter-Agency Rapid Response Team.

As of 29 February 2016

8,706
Confirmed cases of Ebola

3,590
Confirmed deaths from Ebola

1,459
Confirmed cases of infected children under age 18 registered by MSWGCA

8,624
Registered children who lost one or both parents due to Ebola

UNICEF funding needs to March 2016
USD 5 million

1. Source: Ministry of Health and Sanitation
2. Source: Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs (MSWGCA)
3. Funding status as of 17 November 2015
Communication for Development (C4D) and Social Mobilization (SM)

• With over 36 missing contacts in Kambia during the start of the month, social mobilization and community engagement efforts were intensified. The intensification was also part of the second 21 days response operations to heighten social mobilization, surveillance and active case search.

• With support from UNICEF, 121 social mobilizers including 9 rapid response team members, 77 chiefdom and section mobilizers, 15 dedicated mobilizers stationed in the affected and surrounding communities of Barmoi (Kambia) and 20 roving team members engaged communities through skits and edutainment. The mobilizers visited about 705 communities and directly engaged about 15,745 people through interpersonal communication efforts.

• At school level, a total of 2,998 pupils and students were reached across the district. UNICEF partner Focus 1000 oriented about 120 religious and traditional leaders, 20 of whom were tasked to support active case search. Traders Union another active partner of the social mobilization pillar engaged 139 traders and bike riders in four strategic locations to ensure their involvement and support for the response. The engagements focused on assuring the missing contacts of their safety and acceptance, raising alerts for all sick and death, vigilance and maintenance of hand washing.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

• UNICEF continued to support the EVD response in Tonkolili, Port Loko and Kambia districts until mid-February when all quarantined households were released. The support was done through coordination, advocating for support with other partners and direct WASH service provision through implementing partners, PACT, OXFAM and CAWeC in Tonkolili, Port Loko and Kambia districts respectively.

• As a result of UNICEF’s support to the EVD response, water supply systems were put in place with water being delivered to EVD affected households by SALWACO and distributed by water carriers engaged by the implementing partners and emergency latrines were constructed.

• With UNICEF support, implementing partners also distributed hygiene supplies and kits and conducted hygiene promotion activities, which included sensitization of the quarantined households on preventative best practices such as hand washing with soap and use of the distributed hygiene supplies.

• During the reporting period, UNICEF also continued to support three WASH partners in the implementation of upgrading 17 out of the 84 PHUs in line with the new WASH standards and guidelines in health care facilities.

• UNICEF continued to support and monitor implementing partners in the early recovery rehabilitation project for WASH at 170 schools and 84 health facilities in Western Area, Kenema, Pujehun, Moyamba, Tonkolili, Bombali, Port Loko and Kambia districts.

Child Protection

• UNICEF continued to support implementation of the DFID funded survivor Project Shield in Kambia, Tonkolili and Kono.

• 4,074 children and parents from eight districts (Western Area, Kambia, Tonkolili, Moyamba, Port Loko, Kono, Bombali, and Kenema) received psychosocial support (PSS) in the reporting period. This included psychosocial counselling, recreational activities, healing ceremonies and mental health services. Comprehensive case assessment for 89 in Western Area and Kambia continued during the reporting period.

• UNICEF partner AMNet continued to follow up over 100 EVD affected children in Kambia district and facilitated their participation in recreational and educational activities in their communities.

• UNICEF partner, Saint Georges Foundation, followed up on 16 (3 boys and 13 girls) children who were reunified with their families, in the Western Area to assess how they were re-adjusting and reintegrating back into their families. The follow-up visits found that children are all doing very well.

• Legal representation was provided to 17 children in conflict with the law held in the Bo remand home.

• As part of the response to the EVD event, UNICEF supported MSWGCA and NGO partners to assess the situation of children in quarantine households and their families. All children were released from quarantine and supported with FTR packages which included basic household items including clothing, bedsheets, and mattresses.

Education

• As part of prevention efforts, UNICEF continues to support the District Education Officers (DEOs) to monitor the implementation of the school safety protocol and guidance notes in communities recently affected by the EVD resurgence in Tonkolili, Port Loko, and Kambia districts to ensure that all schools are adhering to safety measures. The intervention includes use of RapidPro system by ward based EduTrac monitors selected by MEST from Back to

1 UNICEF is the lead agency for the UN for social mobilization and community engagement and co-chairs the Social Mobilization pillar with the Health Education Division (HED) of the MoHS
School (BTS) Committees, School Management Committees (SMCs), and Community Teacher Associations (CTAs) to monitor compliance in all schools.

- The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) through the Reduce Overcrowded Classrooms (ROC) Working Group has completed the construction of over 90% of the targeted 203 classrooms across the country as part of the government’s 10-24 months recovery plan for the education sector. UNICEF and partners are scaling-up support for equitable access to quality education for all Out of School Children, and the most vulnerable children especially pregnant girls indirectly affected by the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone as part of the Government’s recovery strategy.

- UNICEF in collaboration with DEOs in Tonkolili, Port Loko and Kambia and implementation partners (Action Aid, ACTS, CEFORD and DIP) supported children in quarantine homes with learning materials and solar radios to ensure learning continuity as part of the EVD response. UNICEF distributed teaching and learning material including core subject lesson notes to all 54 school going children in quarantine households (29 boys and 25 girls).

**Health**

- UNICEF is continuing the support for the response to measles outbreak in Western Area through integrating routine immunization defaulter tracing and vaccination with polio NIDs. An in-depth review of routine immunization coverage in the district has been conducted to identify weak facilities and a plan is in place to intensify and strengthen routine immunization in the Western Area.

- UNICEF also continued to support the EPI/CH program of the MOHS for procurement of routine vaccines and installation of cold chain. To this end, 30 health workers (District Operation officers and cold room staff) were trained on vaccine management.

- UNICEF continued to support the distribution for routine malaria commodities for quarter 1 of 2016.

- UNICEF provided support to the costing and finalization of the community health workers program.

**Nutrition**

- 56,647 children under five were screened at community level in 125 out of 149 chiefdoms, covering 340 communities, in the reporting period. 1,168 (2.06 per cent) severe acute malnourished (SAM) children were identified, of whom 731 were admitted for treatment at the Out-Patient Therapeutic Programme (OTP), while 124 children who had SAM with medical complications were referred to an In-Patient Facility (IPF) to receive pediatric and nutrition care. By the end of the reporting period, 3,126 children received treatment and 47,307 sachets of ready to use therapeutic food (RUTF paste) were consumed.

**Human Resources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNICEF Personnel in Sierra Leone</th>
<th>Freetown</th>
<th>In the field</th>
<th>Total Staff Strength</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Staff</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Staff</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff on Surge and SBP</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Staff</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Media and External Communication**

The external relations team continued to provide visibility to the Ebola response, covering the end of quarantine after the latest cases in Tonkolili district. Team members were present for the main and also final quarantine releases, producing material for social media, as well as a UNICEF blog post.

Separately, a blog post was also published by the Education team, and press releases were also issued locally for Zero tolerance to FGM/C day, and the February national polio campaign. During the period, social media accounts continued to grow, with Facebook likes and Twitter followers rising to 12,000 and 5,000 respectively.
**Funding**

In the 2016 Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) UNICEF is appealing for USD 5 million for Sierra Leone to support the needs of children and communities affected by the Ebola crisis until the end of March 2016.

UNICEF greatly appreciates the contributions that have been received to date from DFID/UKAID, OFDA/USAID, ECHO/European Union, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, SIDA, the Governments of Canada, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, and the United Arab Emirates, OCHA, and the Danish, Japan, Swedish, Swiss and UK Committees for UNICEF, as well as the US Fund for UNICEF, and the private sector.

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