



Therapeutic feeding treatment at a UNICEF-funded centre has transformed Henry Dixon from a severely malnourished boy in just a few days. *UNICEF/Sierra Leone 2015*

Sierra Leone Ebola Situation Report

29 January 2015



HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 29 January 2015, according to the Government of Sierra Leone, the cumulative number of laboratory confirmed Ebola virus disease (EVD) cases is 8,015. The number of confirmed deaths is 2,859. Total Survived and Discharged Cases is 2,181.
- WHO officials said the Ebola crisis had reached a “turning point” given the fall in cases in the three main affected countries. However they continue to warn against any complacency.
- On 22 January, the president of Sierra Leone, HE Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, removed district quarantine restrictions across the country saying victory over Ebola was in sight. Household level quarantine measures continue for affected homes.
- The UNICEF-led Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) network have identified 15,768 children as being directly affected by the Ebola crisis (7,919 girls and 7,849 boys), with 8,185 children having lost one or both parents to Ebola and 578 unaccompanied or separated from their caregiver. 9,333 Ebola-affected children have been provided with psychosocial support.
- UNICEF Sierra Leone requires USD 178 million for its response to the Ebola crisis until end of June 2015. To date, USD 115.6 million has been received – 65 percent of the total.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

29 January 2015

8,015

Confirmed Cases of Ebola

2,859

Confirmed Deaths from Ebola

8,185

Registered Ebola Orphans (latest data 19 Jan)

3.12 million (1 million under-5)

Children living in affected areas

UNICEF funding needs to June 2015

US\$ 178 million

UNICEF funding gap

US\$ 62 million

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The weekly Ebola caseload continues its decline with 65 confirmed cases recorded in the week to 25 January 2015, continuing a steady decline in cases since the end of December 2014. The majority of new cases are in the Western Area (Rural and Urban) in and around the capital Freetown. As of 26 January 2015, six districts (Kenema, Pujehun, Bonthe, Bo, Kailahun, Koinadugu) did not record a single case in the previous seven days.

A total of 8,015 people have contracted the virus of whom 2,859 have died. 15,768 children are directly affected by the crisis, around half of whom have lost one or both parents to Ebola.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health

Training on the revised guidelines for the Appropriate Management of Childhood Illnesses in the context of Ebola continued. District trainers from five districts (Koinadugu, Bombali, Porto Loko, Kambia and Bonthe) trained a total of 760 health workers from 380 Peripheral Health Units (PHU). This brings the cumulative number of staff trained to 1,970 – 82 percent of the targeted PHU staff have now been trained.

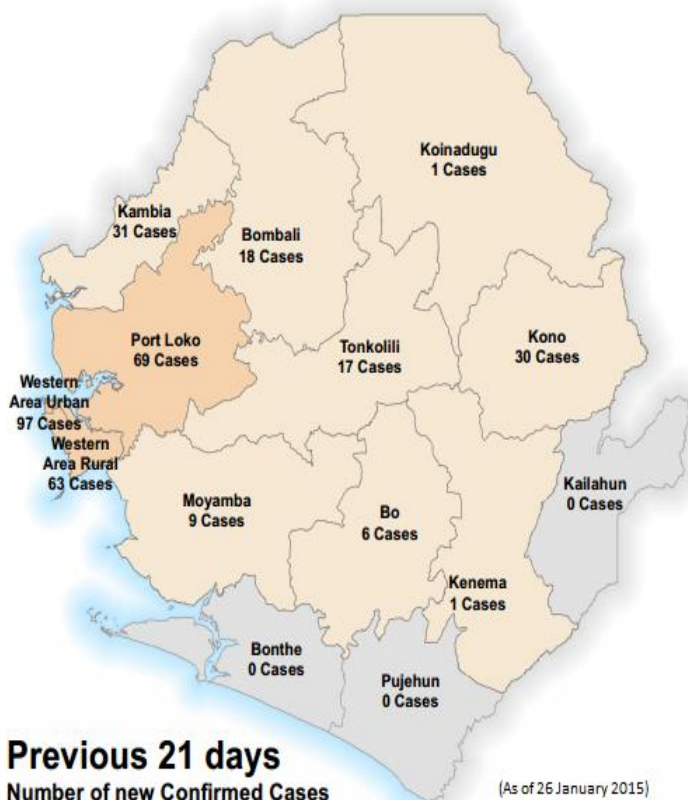
The roll out of the revised guidelines for Community Health Workers, based on the "No Touch Policy" continued. In this reporting period, an additional 778 community health workers (CHW) were trained, bringing the cumulative number of CHWs trained to 4,527. The Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS), in collaboration with UNICEF and WHO, has started planning for lifesaving interventions campaigns which will include Vitamin A, deworming tablets, monitoring for acute malnutrition, and polio and measles vaccinations.

The mass drug administration (MDA) campaign, led by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS), through its National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP), with support from MSF and UNICEF has reached more than 2.4 million people aged above six months with life-saving antimalarial drugs during the four-day door to door campaign. The MDA campaign was conducted from 16 to 19 January 2015, across the Western Area and in hotspots areas in the districts of Bombali, Kambia, Koinadugu, Moyamba, Port Loko, and Tonkolili.

UNICEF continued to support the MoHS in the planning process of the early recovery and building a resilient health system. The UNICEF Senior Child Survival and Development Advisor from the West and Central Africa Regional Office and technical officers (Nutrition, WASH, Health) from the Sierra Leone Country Office participated in a two-day consultative meeting, organized by the MoHS. The report of the meeting will serve as the basis for the development of the new National Health Sector Strategic Plan.

Nutrition

In the last week, as part of the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM), a total of 10,088 children under 5 were screened at the community level in 61 out of 149 chiefdoms (417 communities). A total of 204 severe acute malnourished (SAM) children were identified, all of whom were admitted for treatment at the outpatient therapeutic feeding programme (OTP), while 35 children who had SAM with medical complications were referred to an inpatient facility (IPF) to receive paediatric and nutrition care. A total of 181 boxes of RUTF were consumed.



UNICEF is providing 24 Ebola Treatment Units (ETU), 56 Ebola Holding Centres (EHC), and 10 ETU/EHCs, 21 interim care centres (ICC)¹ and 13 Observational Interim Care Centres (OICC) as well as 46 Community Care Centres (CCC) directly with nutrition supplies². Furthermore, nutrition supplies have been prepositioned at district medical stores (DMS) for replenishment to all ETUs, EHCs, CCCs, ICCs and OICCs as well as to support quarantined households countrywide.

WASH

As a lead agency for WASH, UNICEF is coordinating the WASH-sector Ebola response. UNICEF continues to support 28 ETUs and EHCs in eight districts (533 beds) with an essential WASH package (sanitation facilities, waste management and water supply for drinking, personal hygiene and disinfection). UNICEF has also ensured that a total of 46 CCCs with 416 beds in five districts continue to have adequate access to essential WASH services. Last week an additional 3,024 people, totalling to approximately 42,977 people to date in quarantined households and communities, have benefited from WASH supplies distributed through WFP packages.

In anticipation of the dry season a comprehensive WASH assessment was undertaken of Ebola Care Centres across the country. In total 121 Ebola Centres (16 ETUs, 36 EHCs, 46 CCCs, 11 OICCs, 12 ICCs) were assessed. 35 percent (42) facilities have inadequate water supply during dry season. The WASH partners are working together to ensure that Ebola care centres have uninterrupted access to WASH services. This week an additional 5,000 m³ water tank was installed at one Ebola holding centre. The drilling of two boreholes to increase access at two Ebola care centres was completed and three additional connections were made from the national water supply network to three Ebola care centres. A total of 147,000 litres of water were delivered by the Ministry of Water Resources to eight Ebola care centres and three 10,000 litre water storage tanks were installed in unserved Ebola affected communities.

A total of 13,521 persons, including 3,171, children have been reached with Ebola prevention messages including the importance of hand washing with soap. To date UNICEF WASH partners have reached more than 616,111 people (approximately 102,685 households) with essential Ebola prevention messages.

Communication for Development (C4D) and Social Mobilization (SM)³

Building on the success of Phase I, the Western Area Surge Phase II (WAS II) started on 19 January 2015 for a period of two weeks. UNICEF is providing technical guidance to the district Social Mobilisation Pillar and supporting the deployment of social mobilizers and the engagement of 17 local radio channels for Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) radio programming.

UNICEF continues to use mobile technology to reach out to populations, especially young people, in the Western Area and Port Loko. A total of 391,355 SMS messages were delivered during the first two weeks of January 2015. Text messages (SMS) as a source of information on EVD rose from 1% (KAP 1, August 2014) to 14% (KAP 3, December 2014).

UNICEF supported Hotspot Busters project: Health For All Coalition (HFAC) social mobilizers covered 55 hotspots communities nationwide (including 16 that were newly identified) from 19 to 25 January 2015, reaching 83,523 households through door-to-door community sensitization. The mobilizers reported 185 suspected cases of Ebola (103 from existing hotspots and 82 from non-hotspot areas); of these 45 cases were referred to CCCs/holding centres/treatment units within 48 hours. A total of 1,344 traditional healers and religious leaders were engaged in promoting safe and dignified burials and demystifying rumours about Ebola.

¹ One centre operates as an OICC and ICC.

² Supplies include high energy fortified biscuits (BP100), ready-to-use infant formula (RUIF) and Ultra High Temperature (UHT) whole/full cream milk for Ebola patients and survivors – including for children.

³ UNICEF is the lead agency for the UN for social mobilization and community engagement and is co-chairing the Social Mobilization pillar with the Health Education Division (HED) of the MoHS.

Community Care Centres (CCCs)

Since 17 November 2014, UNICEF-supported CCCs have triaged 3,144 patients, admitted 370 and conducted rapid ambulance transfers for 158 patients across five districts. The number of patients triaged at UNICEF-supported CCCs has increased by 19 percent since last week and about 100 percent since the first week of January 2015, emphasizing the important role played by these facilities in building community trust and ensuring sick individuals seek professional assessment. Only one of 45 CCCs reporting (one site did not report during the week) did not triage any patients last week.

During the period, there were 56 new admissions in CCCs in five districts. 30 percent of admitted patients presented within 48h of symptom onset during the reporting period. 31 lab test results from CCC patients were able to be tracked during the period. 97 percent of these lab results were available at the District Ebola Response Centre (DERC) within 48 hours of the patient test. In total five patients, all in Western, were found EVD positive.



A bird's eye view of Condama CCC in Kono District.

UNICEF/Sierra Leone 2015

TABLE 1: 7 day status update 13-19 January 2015

District	Number/type of CCC	Implementing Partner	Triaged	Admitted	Transfer	% Ebola Suspects	Reporting completeness
Bombali	15 x 8 bed	World Hope	235	15	3	8%	95%
Tonkolili	13 x 8 bed	Concern Worldwide	143	7	10	12%	88%
Kambia	12 x 8 bed (10 open)	Marie-Stopes	363	4	0	1%	93%
Western	2 x 24 bed	Action Aid	34	13	1	41%	100%

TABLE 2: Kono Update from opening to-date for 4 open sites

District	Number/type of CCC	Implementing Partner	Triaged	Admitted	Transfer	% Ebola Suspects	Reporting Completeness
Kono	3 x 8 & 1 X 12 bed (4 open)	Partners in Health	65	17	5	34%	61%

UNICEF's five implementing partners reached out to 248 communities around the CCCs supporting social mobilization activities including active case finding, community surveillance, and household visits to ensure that sick people are moved to CCCs and focusing messages on survivors, safe and dignified burials and sustaining positive behaviour change, especially in areas where there are no cases. A rapid needs assessment is planned to better understand the influence of social mobilization on the number of people being triaged in CCCs and the experience around community health care seeking behaviours and practices.

Child Protection⁴

Registration: 365 additional children were documented by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA)/UNICEF and partners during the period 13 to 19 January 2015 as being affected by the Ebola Virus Disease. Of this number 296 children (161 boys and 135 girls) are in quarantine in their homes as a result of exposure to an infected person; six were confirmed to be Ebola positive (4 boys and 2 girls). Fifty-one children (26 boys and 25 girls) or 17 percent of the children documented have lost one or both parents, and 13 (3 boys and 10 girls) or 4 percent are documented as

⁴ UNICEF is the lead agency for the UN on child protection in the Ebola response and is co-chairing the Child Protection, Psychosocial and Gender pillar with MSWGCA.

unaccompanied or separated. The cumulative number of children documented by UNICEF through the Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) network is 15,768 (7,849 boys and 7,919 girls) of which 8,185 (4093 boys and 4092 girls) have lost one or both parents and 578 (257 boys and 321 girls) are unaccompanied.

Family tracing and reunification: In the period 13 to 19 January 2015, UNICEF-led Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) network identified three children who required support to be reunified with their families, all of whom were reunified. Cumulatively 1,691 children have been identified for FTR since the beginning of the outbreak and 1,048 (62 percent) were reunified with their families.

Psychosocial Support: A total of 211 out of 222 (95 percent) in need of psychosocial services (PSS) received one-on-one counselling and group counselling support within their communities during this reporting period. Counselling support is provided as part of the follow up on children when they are reunified or placed in alternative care. To date 9,333 out of 11,289 (83 percent) identified to need PSS have benefited from specific psychosocial support services.

Relief Items: In the reporting period 93 children were identified as requiring relief items, and 30 (32 percent) received items. Cumulatively, items for 10,394 children have been identified and 7,013 (67 percent) were provided. The relief items are to support children either on discharge from treatment centres, or during reunifications or follow up where they will need the support as they return to their families or an alternative care situation. The items consist of non-food items including clothing, slippers, sleeping items, bedding, blankets, hygiene materials such as soap, toothbrush and toothpaste and sanitary pads, and utensils cooking pots, drinking cups, and recreational items including toys, games, exercise books and crayons.

Observational and Interim Care Centres (OICCs): There are currently 13 open OICCs covering 12 districts with a total capacity of 262 beds, though due to decreasing needs only nine of the OICCs have children. The OICCs provide care for asymptomatic contact children with no caregivers. For the week 19 to 24 January 2015, the OICCs admitted 66 children including 16 boys under 5 years, 14 boys over 5, 25 girls under 5, and 11 girls over 5. In the course of the week, 89 children were discharged including 11 to a treatment centre, 19 to an Interim Care Centre, and 59 who were reunified with their families. Cumulatively 259 children have been admitted to the OICCs so far, though only 53 children are in the OICCs at the moment.



There are currently eight Interim Care Centres (ICCs) receiving children out of eleven that are functional. During the reporting period, 121 children were counted in the ICCs : Moyamba district (24), Port Loko (4), Western rural (65), Western Urban (22), Kailahun (1), Kenema (4), and Bo (1). 68 (55 percent) are boys and 53 (45 percent) girls. Over the past week, 17 children were reunified with their families. They received FTR packages and PSS during their stay at the centres. The ICCs provide care and support for surviving (non-contact) children with no caregivers as last resort if attempts find alternative care solutions for them have not succeeded.

Protection Desks: Seven protection desks are fully functioning in 13 districts, and four are partially functioning due to staffing shortages. In the week 19 to 25 January 2015, 40 referrals were made to the desks, and 19 were responded to and the cases closed.

Education

The Minister of Education, Science and Technology presented its plan for re-opening of schools in a meeting with President Ernest Bai Koroma, different line ministries, development partners and the National Ebola Response Centre (NERC) Chief Executive Officer: Education after Ebola – Overcoming Adversity – Achieving New Heights. The plan suggests minimum requirements for educational institutions to re-commence operations included: (i) Institutions are safe for students and staff to enter and use; (ii) Early detection and isolation of students/staff infected with the Ebola virus is in place; (iii) Designated staff of institutions must be able to use thermometers/sensors and identify students/staff that could be infected with the Ebola virus; (iv) Arrangements in place to encourage students to return to school when re-opening takes place; and (v) Psychosocial support available for students and staff. Schools are likely to re-open by the end of March 2015.

As part of the ongoing rapid listenership assessment of the emergency school radio programmes, this week 1,767 households covering five districts (Western Urban and Rural, Pujehun, Kailahun and Kenema) were visited by UNICEF implementing partners to determine if children were engaging. About 44 percent of households had children of primary school age listening to the education programmes. This week UNICEF, along with the teachers' college and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, finalized training material for a Master's training for teachers in EVD prevention, social mobilization and psychosocial support.

UNICEF with MEST and Freetown Teachers College started a Master's training for teachers on EVD Prevention, Social Mobilization and Psychosocial Support. 28 teachers will complete the training this week and roll out the training for 420 trainers from 14 District in first half of February 2015. These 420 trainers will then roll out the training to 7000 teachers in 14 districts in February and March 2015. A one-day training on Safe School Opening protocol is included within the training plan.

The validation workshop of Safe School Opening Protocol is postponed for 6 February 2015.

Supply and Logistics

This week, one charter delivered PPE supplies as well as solar radios for the education programme. To date, 29 UNICEF supported charters have delivered 1,563 MT of essential supplies in response to the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone. The seventh round of distribution of Ebola supplies to ETU/EHUs/District Medical Stores has been completed. Hygiene kits to ensure safe drinking water and sanitation for 591 households across the country were distributed this week.

Human Resources

As at 26 January 2015, the total number of IP staff in the country office is 57; 7 of these have been deployed in the field. Out of 150 national staff members, 49 are based in the field. The surge and stand-by-partner staff is 18; 16 in Freetown and 2 in the field. These staff members, including the 942 outsourced third party and government staff continuing to support the CCCs.

UNICEF Personnel in Sierra Leone	Freetown	In the field	Total Staff Strength
International Staff	50	7	57
National Staff	101	49	150
Staff on Surge and SBP	16	2	18
Outsourced third party/ government staff for CCCs	942		

Media & External Communication

The External Relations and Advocacy team continued to handle media queries; setting up interviews, visits and providing information to journalists. In the past week, UNICEF received mentions related to the [re-opening](#) of schools, including an interview with the Education chief on [VoA](#). Interest in FGM in the Ebola context was also sparked by interviews with the [Daily Beast](#) and the [Huffington Post](#). A number of reports were also published by the Dutch [KinderCorrespondent](#) team, who worked closely with the Dutch National Committee and UNICEF Sierra Leone on several child-focused television news stories. Articles in the national press also mentioned our work with [Ebola orphans](#), the [visit](#) of the Deputy Executive Director, FTR [kits](#) and post-Ebola [planning](#).

Social media postings continued on a daily basis on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). During the reporting period on Facebook there were 15 new page likes, 262 post likes, 7 post comments, 24 shares and 2,900 posts views on the site. On Twitter we gained 38 new followers, and received 41 retweets and 45 mentions.

Funding

In line with the UN inter-agency response strategy for the Ebola Outbreak, [UNICEF humanitarian action for children](#) (HAC) is appealing for USD 178 million for Sierra Leone to support the needs of women and children affected by the Ebola crisis until end of June 2015. To date, USD 115.6 million has been received, 65 percent of the current appeal.

UNICEF greatly appreciates the contributions that have been received to date including from the Governments of Canada, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands and United Arab Emirates, DfID, ECHO, OFDA/USAID, SIDA, OCHA, the World Bank, and the Swedish, UK and US Fund for UNICEF, as well as the private sector.

Next Situation Report: 4 February 2015

UNICEF Sierra Leone Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/unicefsierraleone>

UNICEF Sierra Leone Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UnicefSL>

UNICEF Sierra Leone YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/UNICEFSL>

Who to contact for further information:

Roeland Monasch, Representative
UNICEF Sierra Leone
Tel: +44 2033579278/9 x1001
Mobile : +232 79 250 230
Email: rmonasch@unicef.org

Gopal Sharma, Deputy Representative
UNICEF Sierra Leone
Tel: +44 2033579278/9 x2001
Mobile: +232 76 291 023
Email: gsharma@unicef.org

John James, Communication Specialist
UNICEF Sierra Leone
Tel: + 232 76 601 310
Mobile: +232 76 102 401
Email: jjames@unicef.org

Programme Results (Period 20 – 26/01/2015)

UNICEF and Pillar/Sector Results for EVD response (28/01/2015)				
Indicators	Pillar / Sector		UNICEF	
	Target	Results	Target	Results
Percentage of EVD cases with onset in the past week		0.84% (67/7,991)		
Percentage of District, Social Mobilization taskforces (SMT) reporting on the dashboard each week (UNMEER)	100% (14)	79% (11/14)	100% (14)	79% (11/14)
Percentage of districts, counties etc. with list of identified key religious leaders (including priests, imams, pastors, tribal leaders) or community groups who promote safe funeral and burial practices according to standard guidelines (UNMEER)	100% (14)	100% (14/14)	100% (14)	100% (14/14)

Percentage of Districts with at least one security incident or other form of refusal to cooperate in past week (UNMEER)	0% (0)	21.4% (3/14)	0% (0)	21.4% (3/14) ⁵
Percentage of CCCs established after a community dialogue process aligned with Global SOPs or according to norms established in country (UNMEER)	100% (100)	50% (50)	100% (46)	100% (46/46)*
Radio stations airing daily messages on Ebola	100% (64)	97% (62/64)	100% (64)	97% (62/64)
Districts where all radio stations air Ebola content every day	100% (14)	100% (14/14)	100% (14)	100% (14/14)
House Holds receiving Inter-Personal Communication on Ebola prevention messages (in a quarterly bases)	100% (886,480)	54% (476,664/886,480)	60% (532,000)	54% (476,664/886,480)
Percentage of CCCs functional against target set for the current reporting period (UNMEER)	100% (100)	50% (50/100)	100% (46)	100% (46/46)
Percentage of patients who present at a CCC within 48 hours of becoming ill with any symptoms that could be EVD (UNMEER)	100%	30%	100%	30%
Percentage of all Ebola community, treatment and holding centers with essential WASH services	100% (94)	72% (69/94)	100% (50)	56% (28/50)
CCCs provided with essential WASH services	NA	NA	100% (46)	100% (46/46)
Non-Ebola health centres in Ebola- affected areas provided with hand-washing stations			100% (1,162)	100% (1,162/1,162)
People in quarantine households receiving WASH support (as part of "home protection and support" kit)			100% (420,000)	10% (42,977/420,000)
Percentage of EVD-affected children provided with care and support, including psychosocial support	100%	83%		
Percentage of children who have lost one or both parents/caregivers or who are separated from their parents/caregivers reintegrated with their families or provided	100%	62% (1,048/1,691)		

⁵ Kambia, Tonkolili and Western Area Urban

with appropriate alternative care.				
EVD-affected children provided with psychosocial support.			100% (11,289)	83% (9,333/11,289)
EVD-affected caregivers provided with psychosocial support.			75% (15,000)	69% (10,416/15,000)
EVD-affected children placed in interim care			TBD	416
EVD-affected children reunified with their families			TBD	1,048
EVD-affected children and adult survivors who receive non-food items			100% (12,576)	76% (9,512/12,576)
Percentage of patients admitted to CCCs with a provisional diagnosis of possible EVD who receive a confirmatory positive or negative test (rapid or laboratory test) within 36 hours of admission to treatment facility			100%	97% (30/31)
Health structures in EVD affected areas provided with essential commodities package			100% (1,185)	101% (1,195/1,185)
Health personnel in health facilities trained in infection prevention and control and Ebola triage			100% (2000)	218% (4,368/2,000)
Community Health Workers (CHW) trained on revised guidelines on provision of community-based maternal, new-born and child health (MNCH) care			100% (6,000)	75% (4,527/6,000)
HIV positive women (including pregnant women) continuing to receive ARTs			100% (1,142)	75% (856/1,142)
HIV positive children continuing to receive ARTs			100% (539)	20% (109/539)
Treatment centres providing nutrition support to Ebola patients**			100% (150)	117% (176/150)
Children 6-59 months screened for SAM and referred for treatment			70% (18,885)	60% (11,140/18,885)
Radio Lesson Listenership Coverage during EREP monitoring			100%	44.0% (777,/1,767 HH surveyed)
Teachers trained on psycho social support, Ebola prevention, and	7,000	NA	7,000	NA

safe and protective learning environments				
Radio stations broadcasting emergency learning programmes			100% (41)	100% (41/41)
Extremely poor households directly affected by the EVD that receive a cash transfer through the national safety net programme	8,000	8,000	NA	NA

*All CCCs are being established following a community dialogue process.

**= targets set for Jan-February 2015. Result in all the operational centres supported with nutrition supplies.