UNICEF-Sierra Leone
Ebola Virus Disease:
Weekly update of 21st July 2014

This report provides an update on the UNICEF response to the Ebola emergency in Sierra Leone. All statistics, other than those related to UNICEF support, are from the daily Sit-Rep issued by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation.

Summary

- The cumulative number of Laboratory confirmed cases are 409 whiles confirmed death is 139 with a Case Fatality Rate (CFR) based on confirmed cases of 34.0%.

- Twenty-eight (28) patients are currently admitted at the Kailahun Isolation Units with no report received from Kenema Isolation Unit. Cumulative discharges are 98

- Total number of contacts listed is 1308: Kailahun (637), Kenema (425), Port Loko (52), Kambia (10), Bo (79), Bombali (24) and Western Area (66). 421 have completed 21 days and are dropped off from follow up.

- UNICEF staff from sections involved in response to Ebola (Health, Social Mobilization, Child Protection, WASH and Logistics/Supplies) participated in a two days meeting (17th and 18th July 2014) organized by Ministry of Health and Sanitation in collaboration with WHO to develop an Operational Plan for Accelerated Response to Ebola Virus Disease based on the Accra strategy for Accelerated EVD outbreak.

- On 16th-17th July 2014, UNICEF trained 30 Journalists and 15 staff from 117 (Sierra Leone National Emergency Call Center) and Environmental health providers in Freetown on Comprehensive Introductory training on Ebola, Psychosocial support and Behaviour Change theory.

- During 14th-18th July 2014, UNICEF in collaboration with Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children Affairs (MSWGCA) and Save the Children completed the rapid needs assessment on Child Protection in Kailahun district to determine needs of children impacted by Ebola, about 32 children have so far been listed in Kailahun district and the assessment is now conducted in Kenema.

- UNICEF will support the Western area Social Mobilization team to conduct an intensive awareness campaign on Ebola in Freetown through public address system in the week of 21st-26th July 2014,

- Since the beginning of Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone, UNICEF has received a total amount of USD 331,248 which includes; $200,000 (OFDA) and $131,248 (Programmable $122,660) – CERF. All these amounts have been fully utilized. The current gap is estimated at 2.4 million.

- UNICEF is consolidating a three months sectoral emergency funding appeal for five pillars (including: Social Mobilization, Surveillance and Contact tracing, Supplies and Logistics, WASH and Child Protection) which amounts to approximately USD 2,400,000.
Country Office Ebola response:

Coordination

- Ebola Operations Center is now meeting daily.
- National Task Force on Ebola meeting with focus on resource mobilization and response action plans meets once a week.
- UNICEF supports and participates in four Coordination Pillars in the fight against Ebola as follows: Coordination, Logistics, Social Mobilization, Surveillance and Laboratory pillar.
- 8 UNICEF staff (4 NOs and 4 Drivers) deployed to epicenter and have brought on board 2 international (C4D and Emergency Coordination for 3 and 2 months respectively). Additional staff have been deployed in Port Loko and Kambia to strengthen coordination for Ebola response.

Social Mobilization

- UNICEF supported the orientation of call center staff to be able to respond correctly to callers on Ebola.
- The pillar meetings held and reviewed community presentations on Ebola.
- IEC materials on Ebola have been reviewed, developed, printed and distribution is ongoing. The materials include: 100,000 posters, 75,000 fact sheets, 73,000 key messages, FAQs 5000, and 900 banners.
- Jingles, radio slots in six local languages and songs have been developed and aired.
- The key messages, jingles and radio slots are being aired in national and key community radio stations across the country especially in the Ebola affected districts.
- A Training guide for community mobilizers has also been finalized for use by volunteers integrated with contact tracing.
- Monitoring of Community mobilizers going door to door in Kailahun with hand held megaphones.
- Supported orientation of special groups including market women, teachers associations, bike riders, religious leaders, traditional leaders and paramount chiefs, district social mobilization teams and local councilors.
- Daily radio discussion programs and jingles been aired.
- Bi weekly media briefings held.
- Website for Ebola information and education now up and running.

Surveillance/Contact tracing

- UNICEF drafted budget for contact tracing in communities of 4 affected districts.
- Understanding and knowledge on Ebola will be improved among the affected communities and population at risk as a result of training supported by UNICEF to 242 Peripheral Health Units staff and 1,245 community workers/volunteers in Kenema District and 210 volunteers in Kailahun District.
- Supplies including intravenous fluids, gloves, facial masks, disinfectants and goggles were distributed to the affected districts.

Child Protection

- UNICEF in collaboration with Save the Children are supporting the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs (MSWGCA) to undertake a rapid assessment to better understand the impact of the Ebola pandemic on children’s rights (social protection, education, health, etc.) in Kenema and Kailahun. The purpose is to address child protection issues emanating from Ebola outbreak. The assessment is completed in Kailahun.
- 32 affected children are said to have been registered so far in Kailahun district with one child being traced in Kenema.
- UNICEF identified additional staff to support Kailahun district on Child protection issues.
WASH

- Hand washing facilities will be provided in 13 affected districts-soap, chlorine, stands for buckets and water tanks

Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ebola Response Requirements</th>
<th>Funds Received</th>
<th>Funding Gap</th>
<th>% funding gap</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,700,000</td>
<td>331,248</td>
<td>2,368,752</td>
<td>88%</td>
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Challenges

- There has been a disconnect between the districts plans (which are specific) with the national plans (which are generic) and poor feedback to district response issues. This results in the fact that district requests for support to activities are not responded to from the national level
- Health illiteracy-the population lacks the ability to understand basic health information and make appropriate health decisions thus relying on rumor, myths and traditional beliefs.

Way forward

- UNICEF plans to strengthen its engagement with communities including traditional, religious leaders and other stakeholders. A short education film on Ebola including survivors is being produced.
- Provide additional UNICEF staff to support the affected districts in coordination of Ebola response.
- Support training for Community Health Workers in contact tracing.
- UNICEF will support Psychosocial counseling for survivors, affected families and health staff.
- Implementing Partners in WASH from affected and non-affected districts will be trained on Ebola and thereafter utilized for Social Mobilization activities in their catchment districts.

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