

UNICEF Sierra Leone Ebola Virus Disease Weekly update (8-14 September 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 (MoHS).

Highlights

Situation Overview

- The cumulative number of laboratory confirmed cases are **1464** (185 new cases since last week). The number of confirmed deaths is **463** with a Case Fatality Rate (CFR) based on confirmed cases of **31.6%** (13th September 2014).
- Of the Ebola confirmed cases around 22% are children (0-17 years).
- One hundred and Twenty two (122) patients are currently admitted at the Kenema (60) and Kailahun (62) isolation Units with cumulative discharges of 313 (survivors).
- The total number of contacts currently being followed is 4171: Kailahun (166), Kenema (640), Kono (111), Kambia (85), Bombali (439), Tonkolili (371), Port Loko (1368), Pujehun (138), Bo (165), Moyamba (55), Bonthe (57), Western Area Urban (364) and Western Area rural (212). A cumulative of 5224 have completed 21 days and are dropped off from follow-up.

Funding requirements (Summary)

Keeping in view the spread of Ebola in Sierra Leone, the current total funding requirements for UNICEF have been revised and increased to US\$60,997,753 to offer comprehensive support to the six pillars: (i) Coordination, (ii) Social Mobilization, (iii) Surveillance and Contact tracing, (iv) Child Protection, (v) Supplies and Logistics, and (vi) Case Management. This also includes support for WASH, Nutrition, Education, and HIV/AIDS interventions, which are crosscutting throughout these six pillars.

UNICEF Sierra Leone Ebola response

Coordination

- **Senior UN System Coordinator for Ebola Virus Disease**, Dr. David Nabarro again visited Sierra Leone this week to follow up on the national response to Ebola.
- **UNICEF Regional Director for West & Central Africa**, Manuel Fontaine, started on Sunday 14 September a 4 day visit to Sierra Leone to further reinforce UNICEF support to Ebola response.
- A team of six content experts (from NYHQ and WCARO) arrived for a one-week mission to Sierra Leone to provide support to UNICEF country office in planning and responding to the Ebola epidemic and its aftermath.
- To further strengthen the coordination and reinforce district coordination, UNICEF has deployed a total of 14 teams for two weeks - a team in each of the 14 districts along with IEC materials.
- **Mapping of Social Mobilization partners and Child Protection partners** was finalized and is available on the Ministry of Health website: http://health.gov.sl/?page_id=955

Social Mobilization¹

- The planning, led by the Government, is underway for the nationwide flagship House-to-House Family Sensitization on Ebola Campaign entitled: **'Ose to Ose Ebola tok'** scheduled for 18 – 21 September.
 - The main objective of the campaign is to **reverse the trend of new Ebola cases** and infected areas within 3 months as well as to **enhance interpersonal communication** and **engagement of communities** in fight against Ebola.
 - In total, **28,544 people** (7136 teams of 4 people) will be mobilized **across Sierra Leone**.
 - UNICEF is supporting the Government in the **distribution of 1.5 million bars of soap, stickers and flyers to the districts**.
 - Campaign preparations have involved participation from several government Ministries (Health, Youth Affairs, and Local Government), UN agencies, and many civil society organizations. A daily task force is supplemented by four subcommittees: (i) Coordination, Planning, and Budget; (ii) Social Mobilization; (iii) Training and material development; and (iv) Supply and Logistics.
 - *'Ose to Ose Ebola Tok'* awareness is being conducted during the ongoing 30 minute daily radio programmes about Ebola broadcast on 30 radio stations through the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ).
 - **Jingles on 'Ose to Ose Ebola Tok' in Krio** were produced and released to all community radio stations. Jingles in 7 other local languages will be released by Sunday 14th September to all 52 community radio stations.
 - A frequently asked questions (FAQ) on the *'Ose to Ose Ebola Tok'* campaign has been finalized for dissemination.
- Special social mobilization activities:
 - **200 youths in Freetown** were trained to sensitize their communities on Ebola prevention. This training was organized by UNICEF in collaboration with UNDP and the Office of National Security (ONS).
 - Sensitization meetings for special groups were conducted on 12th and 13th September in Western Area. These groups included: **Councilor of Churches Sierra Leone (CCSL); Teachers Association; Motorbike Riders Association; Drivers Union;** Village Chief/Headmen; **Market Association; Women's Union;** and the **Inter-Religious council of Sierra Leone**.
 - **45 HIV counsellors, social workers and volunteers** from all the 13 districts participated in a one day training workshop on Ebola and follow up for HIV infected children. Training was supported by UNICEF in collaboration with SOLTHIS and HIV/AIDS Prevention Project for Youth (HAPPY).



¹The Social Mobilization Pillar meets three times per week at UNICEF. It is co-chaired by the Health Education Department of the Ministry of Health & Sanitation and UNICEF.

Case management

- **Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)** - UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ebola Response Consortium (ERC) of NGOs and the CDC have been supporting the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS) in the development of tools, guidelines and training modules; in planning for the roll out of a nationwide IPC training covering all 1,200 Peripheral Health Unit (PHUs) country wide. The training is expected to be rolled out immediately following the completion of the house to house Ebola social mobilization campaign (week 4 of September 2014).

Child Protection

- The rapid assessment has identified **1135 children** (575 girls and 560 boys) **affected by Ebola** including 717 quarantined, 309 orphaned, 94 separated, 4 in treatment, and 11 cured and discharged. This data is collected from 11 Family Tracing and Reunification partners in 12 districts (Kailahun, Bo, Tonkolili, Moyamba, Port Loko, Western area Rural, Kenema, Kono, Western Area Urban, Kambia, Bonthe, and Koinadugu). The rapid registration is used to trigger a response from Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender & Children's Affairs (MSWGCA) and civil society partners.
- 6 motorbikes were distributed to MSWGCA in Kailahun, Kenema and Port Loko districts to strengthen Child Protection/ Psychosocial Support responses. Family Tracing and Relief packages for 200 children were ordered and distribution plan finalized, and an additional 1000 packages are under procurement.
- Psychosocial Support (PSS) partners met to finalize the contents of the pre-testing **psychosocial support manual** designed to provide urgent Psychological First Aid (PFA) to EVD affected children. UNICEF facilitated a Training of Trainers (TOT) for 10 staff from a NGO partner (Restless Development) to provide the PFA, which includes four initial core modules: (i) Entering Communities safely, (ii) PFA, (iii) Stigma and shame, and (iv) Stress Management.
- **Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR)** coverage from partners were mapped. The coordination and logistics were worked out for scaling up response by FTR partners to provide PSS and FTR to affected children.
- **Referral guidelines for affected children** were approved, and 1,000 posters (A3 size) and 2,500 one pagers (A4 size) are to be printed and distributed.

Logistics

- UNICEF continued providing logistics support on **distribution of medical supplies**, donated by various donors, to 9 districts including two treatment centers for the Ebola.
- Daily monitoring by District Logistical Officers of stock levels of Ebola supplies at District Medical stores/Facilities continued.
- UNICEF supply/Logistics staff continue to meet with members of the Logistics Pillar as needed. In addition to this, a pipeline meeting will be held at UNICEF Office every Monday to address supplies status with other partners involved in Ebola emergency.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

- WASH sector partners coordination meeting has been reactivated for Ebola response and will be held weekly at Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR). The WASH sector is working on a six-month strategy and plan for WASH Ebola response.
- WASH sector partners developed Ebola WASH response plan to increase access to safe water during the 'Ose to Ose Ebola Tok' campaign. Targeting communities in underserved areas in Freetown and Rural areas, it is estimated 754,150 people will be reached (Freetown – Western 22,403, Eastern areas 536,747 people and 195,000 in rural areas and cities).

- WASH implementing partners:
 - Out of 37 implementing partners (IPs), 17 reported WASH Ebola response activities: 10,050 households reached with Ebola social mobilization and hand washing campaign and 171 meeting / trainings held with natural leaders and other community WASH groups on Ebola prevention.
 - All implementing partners continue to participate in district and chiefdom Ebola treatment centers.

Education

- A special Education Development Partners meeting was held on Ebola on the 9th of September and MEST presented a draft **Education Ebola Response Plan**. To take the ideas forward, a taskforce is established to work in the following four areas (1) Media, (2) Continuing Learning Opportunity for Children, (3) School-re-opening Committee and (4) Operational Planning Committee.
- UNICEF continued the discussions on the **reactivation of** Ministry of Education, Science & Technology (MEST)'s **School Broadcasting Radio Station**, which can be used to deliver lessons to facilitate learning continuity for children as well as providing a framework for the Education Sector's support to the National Ebola response strategy.



Challenges

- Continued misinterpretation and presentation by Local and International media on the 'Ose to Ose Ebola tok' campaign.
- Education system disrupted by the Ebola emergency – a huge setback for Sierra Leone with a 42% literacy rate.
- Rumours, denial and myths surrounding Ebola continue to be big challenges in the prevention and mitigation measures.
- Continued absence and refusal by health workers to work in isolation wards and Ebola treatment hospitals.
- Some progress on Ebola referring (holding-centers) but not yet ready for use in several districts.
- Continued cases of affected people escaping from treatment centers. Some infected people, including medical personnel, are still disappearing with their families, leading to fear and tension in the communities and great uncertainty in the control of the disease.

Human Resources and Surge Capacity

- UNICEF has recruited this week 14 consultants to further strengthen its capacity for Ebola response at district level nationwide to ensure better coordination, monitoring, and further reinforce social mobilization in all the 14 districts. They will also support the District Health Medical Teams (DHMT) in all 14 districts across Sierra Leone for the Ebola response.

Funding

- The current total estimated funding requirements for UNICEF have now increased to **US\$ 60,997,753**. Since the beginning of the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone, UNICEF has received a total amount of **US\$1,918,584** [US\$ 200,000 (OFDA), US\$ 131,248 (CERF), US\$ 243,524 (UNICEF Global - Thematic Humanitarian Response – WCARO), US\$45,700 (Sierra Leoneans working with UN), US\$ 300,000 (US Fund for UNICEF), US\$25,000 (Dawnus), US\$50,348 (SLFA), US\$ 100,000 (Government of Japan), US\$822,764 (DFID)]. The current funding gap is **US\$ 59,079,169**. **No Regret allocation of US\$1.0 million** was received from UNICEF Emergency Programme Fund (EPF).

Media and communication

- The Ebola Operations Center (EOC) in collaboration with UNICEF, facilitated a press conference on Monday 8 September 2014 on the 'Ose to Ose Ebola Tok' campaign. The purpose of the press conference was to dispel the misinterpretations and misunderstanding published in local and international media. Over 50 journalists attended the press conference.
- A press conference was organized by the Health Education Division on 12 September 2014 to brief journalists on the upcoming 'Ose to Ose Ebola Tok' campaign.
- Two UNICEF staff participated in an hour long radio programme at the Cotton Tree News, (one of the leading radio networks in the country) and one UNICEF staff participated in a similar programme on SLBC radio. They discussed UNICEF's involvement in the Ebola response.
- UNICEF continues to provide interviews to international news media (Ghana Broadcasting Corporation) and facilitating their visits to its activities on Ebola.

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