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.

Highlights

Situation Overview
- The cumulative number of laboratory confirmed cases is 775 (105 new cases since last week). The number of confirmed deaths is 297 with a Case Fatality Rate (CFR) based on confirmed cases of 38.3% (17 August 2014).
- Of the Ebola confirmed cases 22% are children (0-17 years).
- One Hundred and twenty one (121) patients are currently admitted at the Kenema and Kailahun Isolation Units with cumulative discharges of 215 (survivors).
- The total number of contacts currently being followed is 2323: Kailahun (362), Kenema (579), Port Loko (488), Bo (189), Bombali (156), Moyamba (79), Tonkolili (8), Pujehun (46), Kambia (13), Western Area Urban (394) and Western Area rural (36). A cumulative of 2021 have completed 21 days and are dropped off from follow-up.

Funding requirements (Summary)
- The current total requirements for UNICEF are US$3,499,706 to offer comprehensive support to the six pillars: Coordination; Social Mobilization; Surveillance and Contact tracing; Supplies and Logistics; Child Protection; and Case Management (+WASH).

Inter-Agency Collaboration, Coordination, and Key Partnerships
- UNICEF continued participation in the Ebola Operations Centre (EOC). The EOC serves as the Sierra Leone National Central Command and Control Center for Ebola Outbreak Response activities (24/7). During daily meetings the situation is reviewed and strategic decisions are taken.
- UNICEF supports and participates in five Pillars that are set up for the fight against Ebola as follows: (i) Coordination, (ii) Logistics, (iii) Social Mobilization, (iv) Child/Social Protection, and (v) Surveillance and Laboratory pillar.
- UNICEF staff have been out-posted to eight districts around the country most affected/at risk. In five of the districts UNICEF is co-chair of the District Ebola Operations Centre. Two international experts (C4D and Emergency Coordination) provide support at national level. Additional international experts in process of being recruited.

UNICEF SLCO Ebola response

Social Mobilization
- The Social Mobilization Pillar continued preparations for the nationwide house to house sensitization campaign. The aim is to visit all households in the country (similar to the MCH weeks) interacting with

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1 Total budget for National Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak Response Plan is US$ 25,817,130
2 The Social Mobilization meets daily at UNICEF. It is co-chaired by the Health Education Department of the Ministry of Health & Sanitation and UNICEF.
household members, clarifying concerns and questions, strengthening contact tracing, identifying children affected by Ebola and building confidence between people and health workers. Each house visited will be provided with a bar of soap to promote hand washing. Final decision to be made by EOC.

- **A 10-minute documentary film** (and a 3 minute summary) have been produced for social mobilization against denial/myths surrounding Ebola and broadcasting has started on two public screening platforms in Freetown. It is expected to be broadcasted by SLBC (TV) during the coming week.

- Preparations are in final stage for screening of special health awareness messages on TV screens at arrival lounge of Lungi International Airport. A brochure on Ebola prevention messages for arriving passengers is being printed.

- The partnership with the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists (SLAJ) has been formalized in order to continue to broadcast 30 minute daily simulcast radio programmes on 40 radio stations across the country and to dedicate a quarter page newspaper publications in key newspapers on Ebola education and prevention – including public notices by the EOC.

- UNICEF and the Health for All Coalition embarked on a week-long mobile street-to-street campaign in every district capital in the country. 520 social mobilizers, including bike riders, equipped with megaphones have been going from street-to-street on motorbikes with Ebola messages on placards, posters, leaflets and other promotional materials. The social mobilizers will continue this week educating communities on Ebola prevention and provide on-the-spot responses questions posed by people.

- **KABP Survey** - An assessment of the Public Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices, and Behaviors relating to Ebola is under development. UNICEF, in collaboration with FOCUS 1000 & CRS have drafted the questionnaire and training of interviewers will start shortly. The survey will be implemented in six districts covering all four regions. The results should inform evidence-based strategies in preventing the transmission of Ebola.

- **This week, again Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops in Social Mobilization/Community Sensitization were organized.**

  - Youth Empowerment Initiative - 40 members from the Regional Youth Council (youth leaders and leaders from youth serving agencies within Freetown) were trained on Ebola and were provided with IEC materials for dissemination in their constituencies and catchment areas.

  - A total of 27 youth volunteers from five zones in Freetown; Hilltop, Red palm, Hill court, Brookfield's and Commum pole received training on Ebola prevention and awareness promotion in the UNICEF office and they have started to embark on sensitization in their community using UNICEF/MOHS produced IEC materials.

- In close collaboration with FAO, a nationwide community sensitization outreach campaign has been planned from 18-23rd August 2014. In each of the 13 districts a one day Training-of-Trainers session (TOTS) of 50 participants will be organized involving members of Parliament, Paramount Chiefs, Religious Leaders, Traditional healers, Local Councils and District Health Management Teams. Following the TOTS at district level the sensitization activities will cascade down to trainings in all Chiefdoms disseminating and enforcing Chiefdom Bylaws. The training at Chiefdom level will target Chiefs, Women’s groups, Traders, Farmers, Teachers, Ward Development Committee, Religious leaders, Herbalist and Youths.
• The data base of best Training-of-Trainers has been further updated in order to further roll out the training in the districts.

• Continued distribution of IEC material including new bumper stickers (4 types), passenger "Public Ebola Notices" for taxis and CDs with songs for the minibus sound systems.

• The Rumour Bank is now linked to the National Emergency Call Center - of Toll Free Number “117” Misconceptions recorded in calls to 117 are shared with the Social Mobilization pillar who considers these in different communication activities.

• Jingles, radio slots in six local languages & songs continue to be developed and aired on national and key community radio stations across the country.

Surveillance/Contact tracing:
• UNICEF is supporting DHMTs in Kailahun & Kenema with 242 Peripheral Health Units staff and 1,245 community health workers/volunteers (Kenema) and 210 volunteers (Kailahun). This should improve understanding and knowledge on Ebola among the affected communities facilitating improved contact tracing.

• Discussions with INGOs are ongoing on possible collaboration to scale-up contact tracing and community awareness building.

• UNICEF has drafted a plan to roll out contact tracing in four additional affected districts – pending funding availability.

Logistics
• UNICEF has supported the logistics pillar members to assess malfunctioning ambulances and other hospital vehicles in all districts in order to identify possible vehicles that might be repaired/ refurbished and used in all districts for Ebola response.

• Supplies including intravenous fluids, gloves, facial masks, disinfectants and goggles were distributed to the affected districts and will continue to be distributed as required.

• In order to address ongoing stock-outs in clinics UNICEF has started during the past week to contact District Medical Stores and District Hospitals in order to monitor stock-levels at sub-national level.

Child Protection
• UNICEF is working with Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs, Save the Children and Goal to identify, register and assist children affected by Ebola.

• A mapping of CP agencies engaged in Ebola response ‘Who is doing What, Where’ (3W) has started to help identify resource gaps and interventions needs.

• A report on a Rapid Assessment (RA) of the impact of the Ebola Outbreak on Children and their communities in the two most affected districts (Kenema and Kailahun) was finalized.

• The content of five relief packages (food and non-food items) for five vulnerable groups have been developed in collaboration with Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs (MSWGCA), nutrition department of the MoHS and WFP. The EOC approved distribution.

WASH
• UNICEF met on 15th August with 35 implementing Partners in WASH sector to discuss impact of Ebola on ongoing programmes at community level. Partners view the incorporation of Ebola prevention activities as an opportunity to scale up routine WASH activities, particularly promotion of hand washing.

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3 (i) Discharged patients (survivors); (ii) Families of Ebola patients who have died; (iii) Quarantined families/Isolated Individuals having had contact with Ebola positive patients; (iv) Children affected/abandoned as a result of Ebola death in family in interim care centres/ residential care homes; (v) Orphaned or abandoned children placed in kinship care/ foster families.
washing with soap and use of latrines. Implementing partners also agreed to participate in the Ebola task force meetings in their respective districts.

- The Hand washing protocol was revisited and improved and ready for dissemination.

**Challenges**

- Inadequate financial resource (including technical, materials and human resources) is a major constraint to the fight against Ebola.
- Continued denial and myths surrounding Ebola seriously affect prevention and mitigation measures.
- The cases of affected people escaping from treatment centers continued. 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.
- Refusal by health workers to work in isolation wards and Ebola treatment hospital.

**Human Resources and Surge Capacity**

- Three additional international emergency experts are expected to join the team the coming week. There is a continued need for an additional Child Protection in Emergencies expert.

**Media and communication**

- Interviews were conducted with The Guardian, New York Times, El Pais, NOS. UNICEF continues to respond almost daily to relevant media enquiries.

**Funding**

- Within the broader framework of the National Accelerated Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak Response Plan, UNICEF Sierra Leone Country Office (SLCO) has identified a number of key priority thematic areas: Coordination, logistics, surveillance, Social Mobilization/public information, and child protection which it seeks to support through financial and technical support as well as through provision of supplies.
- The current total estimated funding requirements for UNICEF are US$ 3,499,706 to offer comprehensive support to the five pillars: (i) Coordination, (ii) Supplies and Logistics, (iii) Social Mobilization, (iv) Surveillance and Contact Tracing; (V) Child/Social Protection. Since the beginning of the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone, UNICEF has received a total amount of US$ 856,248 which includes; US$ 200,000 (OFDA), US$ 131,248 (CERF), and US$ 200,000 (UNICEF Global - Thematic Humanitarian Response - WCARO), US$ 300,000 US Funds, and US$25,000 (Dawnus). The current funding gap is US$ 2,643,458. Keeping in view the fast spread of Ebola additional interventions/support are required, hence the funding requirements are being revised and will go up.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country Office</th>
<th>Ebola Response Requirements (US$)</th>
<th>Funds Received (US$)</th>
<th>Funding Gap (US$)</th>
<th>% Funding Gap</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
<td>3,499,706</td>
<td>856,248</td>
<td>2,643,458</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>US$ 200,000 (OFDA), US$ 131,248 (CERF), US$ 200,000 (UNICEF Global - Thematic Humanitarian Response - WCARO), US$ 300,000 (US Fund for UNICEF), and US$25,000 (Dawnus).</td>
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On Monday 18 August the United Nations Country Team in Sierra Leone will launch a UN Emergency Appeal to Combat Ebola in Sierra Leone – The requested amount will be US$ 18 million.

Most Urgent Humanitarian Needs

In order to be more effective in the Ebola response there is an urgent need for the following:

- Additional Health Workers (doctors & nurses),
- Transport – Ambulances (4x4), Pick-ups (4x4), motorcycles,
- Medical supplies (including personal protective equipment),
- Nation-wide community outreach/social mobilization programmes,
- Scaling-up of Contact Tracing,
- Support to survivors & affected communities (including Family Tracing & Reunification and Psycho-Social Support).

Impact

- This week the Government announced that the Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) and the re-opening of schools have been postponed indefinitely.
- Reports from the field indicate that women and children are not accessing basic health services and there is an increase in non-Ebola related child morbidity and mortality. A systematic assessment is urgently needed to get a full understanding of the overall impact of the outbreak on access to basic social services and overall economy.

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