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 is **1,276** (157 new cases since last week). The number of confirmed deaths is **426** with a Case Fatality Rate (CFR) based on confirmed cases of **33.4%** (6th September 2014).
- Of the Ebola confirmed cases around 22% are children (0-17 years).
- One hundred twenty (120) patients are currently admitted at the Kenema (67) and Kailahun (53) isolation Units with cumulative discharges of 269 (survivors).
- The total number of contacts currently being followed is 3370: Kailahun (153), Kenema (538), Kono (95), Kambia (18), Bombali (406), Tonkolili (311), Port Loko (1069), Pujehun (54), Bo (150), Moyamba (75), Bonthe (6), Western Area Urban (339) and Western Area rural (156). A cumulative of 4309 have completed 21 days and are dropped off from follow-up.

✓ **UNICEF/World Bank airlift 48 metric tons of medicines and equipment in support of Government efforts to fight Ebola.**

✓ **Presidential Taskforce announce House to House Family Sensitization on Ebola Campaign - ‘Ose to Ose Ebola tok’ – 18-21 September 2014.**

**Funding requirements (Summary)**
- The current total requirements for UNICEF are US$12,446,731 to offer comprehensive support to the six pillars: Coordination; Social Mobilization; Surveillance and Contact tracing; Supplies and Logistics; Child Protection; and Case Management. This also includes WASH, Nutrition, and Education.

**UNICEF SLCO Ebola response**

**Social Mobilization**
- Mapping of social mobilization partners and child protection partners has been completed indicating ‘**Who is doing What, Where’ (3W)** to further improve coordination and prioritization of activities. This mapping will continue to be updated on weekly basis.
- The preparations are in full swing for a **nationwide flagship house to house campaign ‘Ose to Ose Ebola tok’** scheduled for 18 – 21 September that will enhance interpersonal communication and engagement of communities in fight against Ebola (see Box below). Four committees with participation from Ministry of Health, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Local Government and many civil society partners are preparing for the campaign: (i) Coordination/Planning/Budget; (ii) Social Mobilization; (iii) Training and material development; and (iv) Supplies and logistics.

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1 The Social Mobilization meets daily at UNICEF. It is co-chaired by the Health Education Department of the Ministry of Health & Sanitation and UNICEF.
House to House Family Sensitization on Ebola Campaign (‘Ose to Ose Ebola tok’)

**WHAT:** Trained teams (health workers, community volunteers and NGO/CBO partners) will move from house to house to disseminate information on Ebola Virus Disease and enlist family/community support and participation to the response.

**WHEN:** 18th -21st September 2014.

**WHY:** There are 5 specific objectives:
1. To reach 100% of households with correct information on Ebola
2. To increase community acceptance of Ebola affected persons especially children
3. To promote hand washing with soap at household level (1.5 million bars of soap will be distributed)
4. To rebuild public confidence and trust in the health system
5. To install neighborhood watch structures at community level

**HOW:**
- On 18th September the campaign will kick off with a Presidential speech to the nation providing an overview of the Ebola situation and government response. He will officially declare a ‘sit at home’ days (19-21) for family reflection, prayers and education while families will be visited by campaign teams. Council Chairmen, paramount chiefs and town chiefs will replicate the presidential speech at various levels
- From 19-21st September - Every household/family in the country will be visited. Teams of 3 persons will engage families through a 6-step approach of Inspire (‘apologize’), Listen, Acknowledge, Empathize, Inform, and call to action at HH level. More specifically the teams will:
  a. Find out family knowledge and concerns on Ebola and provide correct information
  b. Answer any questions on Ebola and dispel rumors
  c. Explain the need for avoiding contacts with body fluids of infected persons/dead bodies
  d. Explain what to do when family member is sick during the Ebola outbreak and the need to report early to Health facilities
  e. Promote hand washing with soap
  f. Pasting and distribution of IEC materials
- About 7,000 teams of 3 (21,408) trained volunteers will be involved in the house to house sensitization activity. The training will incorporate safety measures for the teams. The community volunteers will be selected and deployed with the teams in their own communities and eventually constitute the teams for their local community neighborhood watch. Training will be conducted at national, district and chiefdom levels to enhance quality.

Measures put in place to address increased demand for health services include:
- Expansion of holding centers
- Increased logistics support (Vehicles and ambulances)
- Increased supplies of PPEs to Health facilities (both complete and light (gloves/masks) protective equipment)
- Training and re-orientation of health workers
- A team of neighborhood watch community members (youths) will be installed to continue support response issues in their communities

**What if Ebola cases are found at household level?**
- Likely Ebola cases identified, or dead bodies will be referred to contact tracing, referral or burial teams
- Sick persons not compliant with case definition will be referred to health facilities.
Abacha Street Market women started their stall-to-stall awareness raising and education campaign on Ebola prevention as they mobilized and reached out to hundreds of their peers and customers in the market.

This week UNICEF reproduced existing assorted IEC materials (Bumper stickers: 5,000, posters: 40,000, fact sheets: 40,000, T-shirts: 5000, FAQs: 10,000, key messages: 3000 and brochures for airport: 5000).

Two types of additional IEC materials have been designed and ordered in collaboration with SLFA (T-shirts-3000 and Posters-3000). In addition flyers for check points (50,000), flyers for departing international passengers (10,000) are being produced.

A one day sensitization session was conducted for 25 commercial bike riders on Ebola in collaboration with UNDP to further enhance the knowledge on Ebola prevention.

A national Ebola communication strategy and action plan have been drafted and are currently in the process of finalization by the Social Mobilization Pillar.

Surveillance/Contact tracing:

- UNICEF is supporting the National Malaria Control Programme to link malaria prevention and control messages in community sensitization sessions for Ebola.
- UNICEF is supporting children affected with HIV/AIDS in four districts affected by Ebola to ensure access to continued care and support.

Child Protection

- A rapid assessment has identified 666 children (348 girls and 318 boys) affected by Ebola including 245 quarantined, 263 orphaned, 95 separated, 29 in treatment and 34 deceased. This data is collected from 7 Family Tracing and Reunification partners in 8 districts (Kenema, Kailahun, Bo, Tonkolili, Moyamba, Port Loko, Western area rural & Bonthe) and information is still being sourced from 6 remaining districts. The rapid registration is used to trigger a response from Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender & Children’s Affairs (MSWGCA) and civil society partners.
- UNICEF is supporting the MSWGCA to adapt a Psychological First Aid Manual with pretesting taking place next week with an NGO partner (Restless Development) for roll out to districts. Five NGO partners (Goal; Restless Development; Enabling Access; Plan International; and Save the Children) are part of the PSS sub-cluster which will roll out training.
- Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) partnerships are being finalized with UNICEF to strengthen FTR services to affected children.
- FTR relief packages (1200) are in process of being ordered for distribution through FTR partners.
- Child Toll Free line 116 run by Don Bosco provides telephone counselling and support to victims of violence. The line will be adapted to receive referrals for Ebola affected children.

Logistics

- UNICEF has taken up the responsibility for the procurement and supply management of medicines, consumables, including protective gear for the Ebola response. It is working closely with Central Medical Store to ensure timely availability at district and facility level.
• Staff from Central Medical Stores, MSF, WHO, WFP, USAID/OFDA/DART, and UNICEF constituted a sub-logistics group on pharmaceuticals and consumables.

• **UNICEF/World Bank airlifted 48 metric tons of medicines** and equipment in support of Government efforts to fight Ebola. The supplies include latex gloves, intravenous fluids, assorted antibiotics and personal protective equipment—supplies that are urgently needed to fight the Ebola epidemic.

• A new distribution plan was developed and distribution to different district commenced on 5 September.

• Daily monitoring by District Logistical Officers of stock levels of Ebola supplies at District Medical stores/Facilities continued this week.

• UNICEF/WFP finalized **assessment of non-functional ambulances** in the districts and repairs of vehicles with minor mechanical problems is expected to start soon.

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**WASH**

• 37 UNICEF/WASH NGO implementing partners participated in different district and chiefdom Ebola task forces. All partners are involved in Social Mobilization activities.

• UNICEF assisted MoHS with the installation of extra toilet facilities at Lakka Holding Center in order to meet minimum standards and allow the center to open.

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**Education**

• Due to Ebola, a large number of children have been affected by the two postponed 2014 National Examinations: **Basic Education Examination (2014):** 91,391 (M 47,892; F 43,499); **West African School Certification Examination (2014 Private WASCE):** 17,183 (M 9,723; F 7,460).

• For the review of the situation arising from the school closure due to Ebola, UNICEF Representative had a meeting with the Minister of Education, Science & Technology (MEST) & team and discussed options for continued learning for the students as the schools will remain closed for indefinite period. The following action points were agreed:
  ➢ UNICEF has agreed to support the reactivation of MEST’s School Broadcasting Radio Station, which will 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.
  ➢ **A meeting of the Education Development Partners (EDP)** has been scheduled for next Tuesday, 9th September and it is expected that MEST will present an Education in Emergency (EiE) Ebola Response plan at the meeting.

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**Challenges**

• The 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.

• Ebola referring (holding-centers) are 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
• Twenty UNICEF staff directly working in the field on Ebola attended a stress management and psychosocial support session on Wednesday this week as part of UNICEF staff wellbeing program which aimed at helping staff in coping with the stress/pressures on the job and everyday life. Participants expressed satisfaction in the exercise.
• Country office received human resources surge capacity during the reporting week from UNICEF Supply division and CANADEM who will assist the office in the area of procurement and logistics, C4D and Epidemiology respectively.

Funding
• The current total estimated funding requirements for UNICEF have now increased to US$ 12,446,731. Since the beginning of the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone, UNICEF has received a total amount of US$1,095,820 [US$ 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 (Dawns), US$50,348 (SLFA), US$ 100,000 (Government of Japan), The current funding gap is US$ 11,350,911. No Regret allocation of US$1.0 million was received from UNICEF Emergency Programme Fund (EPF).

Media and communication
• UNICEF continues to provide interviews to international news media (Algemeen Dagblad, New York Times, Bloomberg) and facilitating their visits to its activities on Ebola. This week UNICEF facilitated the visit of Spanish Television to the Abacha Street Market Women as they go about their sensitization activities using the stall-to-stall approach in Freetown.

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