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 458 while confirmed death is 153 with a Case Fatality Rate (CFR) based on confirmed cases of 33.4% (26/07/14).

- Eighty two (82) patients are currently admitted at the Kailahun and Kenema Isolation Units with cumulative discharges of 116.

- Total number of contacts listed is 1435: Kailahun (728), Kenema (449), Port Loko (52), Kambia (10), Bo (79), Bombali (24), Bonthe (21) and Western Area (72). 547 have completed 21 days and are dropped off from follow up.

- WHO has upgraded the Ebola response in West Africa to a Grade 3, the highest level emergency response.

- A special Development Partners Coordination meeting chaired by President Ernest Bai Koroma and attended by cabinet ministers and heads of development agencies was convened to discuss Ebola Response Plan - Budget USD 22 million.

- UNICEF participates in the Ebola Operations Centre. The EOC will serve as the Sierra Leone National Central Command and Control Center for Outbreak Response activities and meets every day. Office of National Security will join the EOC the coming week.

- DHMT-WA/UNICEF launched a large social mobilization campaign in Freetown/Western Area on 25th July 2014 with 10 mobile teams. Ten vehicles with mounted PA systems are manned by trained volunteer mobilizers. Each team is provided with megaphones and a variety of IEC/BCC materials (Ebola fact sheets, leaflets on Ebola key messages and the two types of Ebola poster).

- UNICEF met with the Chief/President of the Islamic religion for Sierra Leone to strategize activities leading up to Eid. Eid sermons will include key messages on Ebola, IEC materials were provided as well as supporting the Chief with radio interviews and outreach messages.

- UNICEF in collaboration with Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children Affairs (MSWGCA) and Save the Children has completed a rapid needs assessment on Child Protection in Kailahun and Kenema districts to determine needs of children impacted by Ebola, and are finalizing the report. Initial findings reveal that, there are 58 affected children (26 Girls, 32 Boys) registered in the past 2 weeks in Kailahun district and 29 in Kenema district (17 Girls, 12 Boys).
Since the beginning of the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone, UNICEF has received a total amount of US$ 331,248 which includes; US$200,000 (OFDA) and US$131,248 – CERF. All these amounts have been fully utilized. The current gap is estimated at US$ 3,168,458.

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 interventions it seeks to support through financial, technical support and through provision of supplies. All activities are part of the broader national plan.

UNICEF Sierra Leone Country Office has prepared an Ebola response plan with funding requirements which covers a period of six months from July to December 2014. This emergency funding appeal to local donors amounts to USD 3,499,706 to offer comprehensive support to the six pillars: Coordination; Social Mobilization; Surveillance and Contact tracing; Supplies and Logistics; Child Protection; and WASH. The amount pledged or received is US$ 331,248 and the current gap is US$ 3,168,458.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country Offices</th>
<th>Ebola Response Requirements (US$)</th>
<th>Funds Received/pledged (US$)</th>
<th>Funding Gap (US$)</th>
<th>% funding gap</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
<td>3,499,706</td>
<td>331,248</td>
<td>3,168,458</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>CERF USD131,248 and OFDA USD200,000</td>
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SLCO Ebola response:

Coordination

- UNICEF is participating in the daily meetings held at the Emergency Operation Center where updates on Ebola are shared and immediate actions are taken.
- National Task Force on Ebola continued to meet with a focus on resource mobilization and the updated national response.
- UNICEF supports and participates in five Coordination Pillars that are set up for the fight against Ebola as follows; Coordination, Logistics, Social Mobilization, Child Protection and Social Protection, Surveillance and Laboratory pillar.
- 8 UNICEF staff (4 NOs and 4 Drivers) deployed to epicenter (Kailahun/Kenema). Additional staff have been assigned to District Emergency Operations Centres in Western Area, Bo, Makeni, Port Loko and Kambia to strengthen coordination for Ebola response. Two international (C4D and Emergency Coordination) brought on board. Additional international experts in process of being recruited.

Social Mobilization

- Ebola capital-wide social mobilization commenced on 25th July in Freetown/Western Area. For one week ten mobile teams will reach out to all areas of Freetown. Ten vehicles with mounted PA systems are manned by trained volunteer mobilizers. Each team is provided with megaphones and a variety of IEC/BCC materials (Ebola fact sheets, leaflets on Ebola key messages and the two types of Ebola posters).
- UNICEF facilitated the orientation of 15 staff from 117 (Sierra Leone National Emergency Call Center) to be able to respond correctly to callers on Ebola.
- IEC materials on Ebola have been reviewed, developed, printed and now the distribution is ongoing. The materials include; 100,000 posters, 75,000 fact sheets, 73,000 key messages, FAQs 5000, and 900 banners.
UNICEF organized a comprehensive introductory training for 30 Journalists in Freetown on Ebola, Psychosocial support and Behaviour Change theory.

- 70 lecturers from 6 teacher training colleges in Western Area (2), Bo district (1), Bombali District (1), Port Loko District (1), Kenema District (1) were trained on Ebola prevention at Freetown Teachers College in Freetown.

UNICEF is facilitating the development of a documentary film for social mobilization against denial/myths surrounding Ebola and radio outreach programmes for both Clinical and Social Survivors of Ebola in Kailahun.

- A rumor bank has been established (rumors are collected from the community and the social mobilization pillar develops accurate factual responses and circulates to the media).

- Jingles, radio slots in six local languages and songs have been developed. They are being aired on national and key community radio stations across the country especially in the Ebola affected districts.

- Radio Moa and Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) continue to host discussions & air the MOHS jingles on Ebola. Discussions on embarking on outreach with support from UNICEF in Kailahun continues.

- Luawa Action Group, WHO and UNICEF in Kailahun had a Community Engagement at Geima, Mamuto and Mano Sewalu and Yabeima with chiefs and community members – Total number of people engaged were 96.

- Outreach activities by community mobilizers going door to door in Kailahun and Kenema is being monitored.

**Surveillance/Contact tracing:**

- A Training Guide for community mobilizers has been finalized for use by volunteers who facilitate contact tracing in the communities.

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

- UNICEF drafted a plan to roll out contact tracing in four additional affected districts.

**Logistics**

- Supplies including intravenous fluids, gloves, facial masks, disinfectants and goggles were distributed to the affected districts.

**Child Protection**

- The National task Force has established a 6th pillar for child protection/social protection co-chaired by UNICEF.

- UNICEF supported MSWGCA to deploy staff to Kailahun and Kenema to conduct an assessment of the situation of children affected, the capacity of district ministry staff to handle the situation, interim care centers, and to establish linkages with MoHS in the districts for collaboration on Ebola response.

- Child Protection in collaboration with the MSWGCA has developed a draft plan to respond to Ebola. UNICEF will support the Ministry and partners to implement Family, Tracing & Reunification (FTR); psychosocial support and social mobilization/ awareness raising.

- UNICEF identified additional staff to support Kailahun & Kenema districts on Child Protection issues.
WASH

- Implementing Partners in WASH from affected and non-affected districts have been trained on Ebola and will engage in Social Mobilization activities in their catchment districts.
- A protocol for all Ebola hand washing stations requiring that they have stickers listing educational messages for illiterate population and teaching proper hand washing techniques is being developed.
- Hand washing facilities with Ebola messages are expected to be installed in district hospitals and major markets.

Challenges:

- Denial and myths surrounding Ebola seriously affect prevention and mitigation measures.
- There have been cases of affected people escaping from treatment centers. Some infected people are disappearing with their families, leading to fear and tension in the communities and great uncertainty in the control of the disease. This was a variable that was not anticipated, given some of these people are medical personnel.
- Inadequate financial (including technical and human resources) is a major constraint to the fight against Ebola. This is evidenced in the contact tracing ratios comparing visited contacts to non-visited contacts.
- Level of awareness of Ebola and misconceptions is unclear impeding effective social mobilization and identification of priority messages about Ebola.

Way forward:

- In addition to mass sensitization on Ebola, UNICEF plans to put more effort into targeted Social Mobilization activities in areas where a portion of the population has been reluctant to collaborate with Contact Tracers and Outreach Workers.
- UNICEF is planning to request for additional International staffing support in areas of; Coordination, C4D and Child Protection/Psychosocial Support.
- SLCO is waiting response from local donors on its appeal for funding. Once the funding has arrived, UNICEF will be able to offer comprehensive support to the six pillars: Coordination, Social Mobilization, Contact tracing, Child Protection, Supplies, and WASH

Staff wellbeing:

- The UN Medical Doctor in Sierra Leone conducted a session on Ebola for all UNICEF staff as well as support staff. The session was participatory and the clarifications were provided for questions raised. Staff were informed that the UN clinic has put in place minimum level of preparedness including; installation of hand washing facilities at the clinic; a checklist is administered for all patients at the clinic and a temporary isolation unit is set up while waiting for proper diagnosis. Staff were encouraged to go to the clinic immediately they fall sick.

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