

## UNICEF-Liberia

### Ebola Virus Disease: SitRep #42

30 July 2014

*\*This report provides an update on UNICEF's response to the Ebola emergency in Liberia. All statistics, other than those related to UNICEF support, are from the SitReps issued by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare through the Ebola National Task Force.*

#### Summary

- Since 23 July, 94 additional suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases, and 40 additional deaths of suspected, probable and confirmed cases were reported in Liberia. The new cases include a suspected case in Grand Gedeh County, 13 additional health workers and two American aid workers. The additional deaths include the first Liberian doctor to die of Ebola since the epidemic began.
- As of 28 July, the cumulative number of suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases reported during Outbreak #2<sup>1</sup> in Liberia stood at 352; the total number of suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola deaths during Outbreak #2 stood at 170; and the total number of suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases reported among health workers since the epidemic began stood at 45.<sup>2</sup>
- To date, confirmed Ebola cases have been reported in Bomi, Bong, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado and Nimba Counties, and one suspected case has been reported in Grand Gedeh County.
- The WHO has upgraded the Ebola outbreak in West Africa to a Grade 3 Emergency.
- President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has declared a National Emergency due to the Ebola outbreak and has established a new Ebola National Task Force to coordinate the crisis. Under the new arrangement, the President will chair the Ebola National Task Force.
- The Government of Liberia has closed all borders except a selected number of major entry points, where preventive and testing centres will be established.
- Due to security and other concerns, Samaritan's Purse will no longer support the Ebola treatment units in the Country. Meanwhile, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has evacuated the Foya treatment unit, leaving a local team in place to manage it.
- In response to reports of a probable Ebola death among a staff member, the Ministry of Education is operating only with essential staff as of 29 July.
- UNICEF delivered an additional two cholera kits as well as beds, mattresses, bed sheets, gloves and digital thermometers to the MoHSW to support case management. The agency also additionally dispatched three 12-person teams of interpersonal communication (IPC) professionals to Bomi, Bong and Nimba to work alongside general Community Health Volunteers in raising awareness of Ebola.
- UNICEF's budget for the Ebola outbreak response is US\$ 1.59 million for the period between March and September 2014. The funding gap is US\$ 960,000.

#### National Response

- In her remarks at the Liberia Independence Day celebration on 26 July, President Sirleaf declared a National Emergency due to the Ebola outbreak and announced the establishment of a new Ebola National Task Force, which will be Co-Chaired by her and the Minister of Internal Affairs. This new Task Force will replace the previous Ebola National Task Force, which was headed by the Minister of Health.
- Under the new arrangement, the National Task Force will provide support to the Ebola Technical Team, which will be jointly headed by the Minister of Health and the WHO Country Representative. The previously established Incident Management System (IMS) will fall under this Technical Team, which will continue to be led by the Chief Medical Officer. The IMS will be composed of the various Sub-Committees as well as the following technical partners: the WHO, the US Center for Disease Control (CDC), UNICEF, MSF, USAID and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC).
- The IMS Sub-Committees will consist of: Logistics; Security; Case Management, under which Psychosocial will now fall; Laboratory; Epi-Surveillance; Contact Tracing; and Social Mobilization. The

<sup>1</sup> Outbreak #2 began on 29 May.

<sup>2</sup> All statistics are drawn from MoHSW Ebola SitRep #74, which reports cumulative cases as of 23:00 on 28 July.

Logistics and Security Sub-Committees will report directly to the CMO, while the other Sub-Committees will report to the Deputy IMS Chair.

- In an Executive Mansion Statement released on 27 July, the President further announced:
  - The closure of all Liberia's borders, with the exception of major entry points, including Roberts International Airport, where preventive and testing centres will be established.
  - The launch of a new travel policy by the Liberia Airport Authority under which all incoming and outgoing passengers will be tested. These measures come two days after a Liberian man died of probable Ebola in Nigeria after travelling to Lagos from Monrovia.<sup>3</sup>
  - The implementation of new restrictions on public gatherings.
  - The tasking of security forces to provide assistance to the Ebola Technical Unit.
- Two days after President Sirleaf declared a national emergency in Liberia, the WHO upgraded the Ebola outbreak in West Africa to a Grade 3 Emergency under its Emergency Response Framework.

### Situation Overview

- According to the MoHSW, between 23:00 on 23 July and 23:00 on 28 July, 94 additional suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases and 40 additional suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola deaths were reported in Liberia. Breakdown by County for additional cases and deaths is as follows:
  - Bomi: 14 probable cases and six (6) confirmed cases.
  - Bong: Six (6) suspected cases, four (4) probable cases and one (1) death.
  - Grand Gedeh: One (1) suspected case and one (1) death (*note that this is the same case*).
  - Lofa: Two (2) suspected cases, 36 probable cases, three (3) confirmed cases and 14 deaths.
  - Margibi: Two (2) suspected cases and two deaths.
  - Montserrado: Eight (8) suspected cases, six (6) probable cases, four (4) confirmed cases and 19 deaths.
  - Nimba: One (1) probable case, one (1) confirmed case and three (3) deaths.
- The additional cases include:
  - 13 health workers, including one (1) American doctor working for Samaritan's Purse who has tested positive for Ebola. This doctor was heading the Ebola Treatment Unit at ELWA Hospital in Montserrado County.<sup>4</sup>
  - A second American (non-medical) aid worker from the NGO Serving in Mission (SIM), who was working alongside Samaritan's Purse at ELWA, also tested positive for Ebola.
  - The first suspected Ebola case in Grand Gedeh County.
  - The District Health Officer from Kolahun, Lofa County, who tested positive for Ebola,
- The additional deaths include the first Liberian doctor to die during the epidemic. The doctor was working at JFK Hospital in Montserrado County, which used to house an Ebola Treatment Unit. Reports indicate that following his death, a majority of JFK workers, including medical staff, have failed to report to work, resulting in the partial closure of the hospital.
- With these additions, the total number of suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases reported in Liberia during Outbreak #2 now stands at 352,<sup>5</sup> including 101 suspected, 156 probable and 95 confirmed. Meanwhile, the total number of suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola deaths during Outbreak #2 stands at 170; the case fatality rate for probable and confirmed cases stands at 60 per cent; and the total number of suspected, probable and confirmed Ebola cases among health workers since the epidemic began stands at 45. Case breakdown by County is as follows:
  - Bomi: 15 probable and seven (7) confirmed.
  - Bong: 16 suspected, 13 probable and 10 confirmed.
  - Grand Gedeh: One (1) suspected.
  - Lofa: 54 suspected, 80 probable and 44 confirmed.
  - Margibi: Two (2) suspected, two (2) probable and two (2) confirmed.
  - Montserrado: 27 suspected, 44 probable and 29 confirmed.
  - Nimba: One (1) suspected, two (2) probable and three (3) confirmed.

<sup>3</sup> According to media reports, the deceased man may also hold American citizenship.

<sup>4</sup> The American doctor is the second international health worker and the first international aid worker to be infected with Ebola, the first being a Ugandan doctor who died earlier in the epidemic.

<sup>5</sup> As previously mentioned, all statistics are drawn from MoHSW Ebola SitRep #74, which reports cumulative cases as of 23:00 on 28 July.

- Bomi, Bong, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado and Nimba Counties remain the six (6) counties where confirmed Ebola cases have been reported. A suspected Ebola case has also been reported in Grand Gedeh County.
- Due to security and other concerns, Samaritan's Purse will not be involved in case management at the Ebola Treatment Units in Foya Borma Hospital in Lofa County, and at ELWA Hospital in Montserrado County. MSF has also evacuated from the Foya treatment unit. The MoHSW is working with the WHO to bring 11 clinicians (including doctors and nurses) from Uganda to work in the units.
- Lofa County is experiencing serious challenges to the Ebola response:
  - Another community has apparently been hiding Ebola cases and deaths. In Barkedou, up to 21 people have died and 24 are currently ill (*note that these cases are not yet classified as Ebola, but are under review*). The ill persons have been transferred to Foya for treatment.
  - Treatment and isolation units in Lofa are currently at capacity and straining to handle new cases.

### **UNICEF Response**

As a member of the Ebola National Task Force, UNICEF continues to provide critical social mobilization/communications, case management/health and logistical support to the national response.

#### **SOCIAL MOBILIZATION/COMMUNICATIONS:**

- UNICEF additionally dispatched three 12-person IPC teams from Development Communications Initiative (DCI), a local firm specialized in IPC outreach, to Bomi, Bong and Nimba Counties, respectively. These teams will work alongside general Community Health Volunteers to raise awareness of Ebola, especially in key affected areas. The agency will also soon re-deploy the IPC team to Lofa County.

#### **CASE MANAGEMENT/HEALTH:**

- UNICEF delivered an additional two cholera kits as well as beds, mattresses, bed sheets, gloves and digital thermometers to the MoHSW to support the Ebola response. The cholera kits were provided in view of the increasing need to support case management as the outbreak spreads in counties such as Bomi, Bong and Nimba.

#### **UNICEF Funding Needs:**

- UNICEF's budget for the Ebola response from March to September 2014 is US\$ 1.59 million. The following support has been provided to date: US\$ 306,355 in approved funds from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF); US\$ 100,000 from the Japan National Committee for UNICEF; US\$100,000 from the US OFDA (provided through the UNICEF Regional Office for West and Central Africa); US\$ 30,000 from the UK Department for International Development (re-programmed funds); and US\$ 93,000 from the UK Committee for UNICEF. The funding gap is US\$ 960,000.

### **UNICEF Contacts**

- **Sheldon Yett, Representative**  
Tel: +231-(0)770-25-7100 (office), +231-(0)770-26-7100 (mobile), Email: [syett@unicef.org](mailto:syett@unicef.org)
- **Dr. Fazlul Haque, Deputy Representative**  
Tel: +231-(0)770-25-7400 (office), +231-(0)770-26-7400 (mobile), Email: [fhague@unicef.org](mailto:fhague@unicef.org)
- **Prabhu Prabhakaran, Resource Mobilization Specialist**  
Tel: +231-(0)770-25-7103 (office), +231-(0)770-26-7103 (mobile), E-mail: [pprabhakaran@unicef.org](mailto:pprabhakaran@unicef.org)
- **Rukshan Ratnam, Communications Specialist**  
Tel: +231-(0)770-25-7110 (office), +231-(0)770-26-7110 (mobile), E-mail: [rratnam@unicef.org](mailto:rratnam@unicef.org)