



A teacher checks the temperature of a student before she enters her classroom at a school in Monrovia @UNICEF/2015

# Liberia Ebola Situation Report no. 77

18 March 2015



## HIGHLIGHTS

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

- No new confirmed cases were reported in the week to 15 March 2015. This is the third consecutive week in which no new confirmed cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) have been reported. 15 March 2015 was day 12 since the final patient in Liberia had a second negative test for EVD: 42 days must elapse before transmission can be considered to have ended. Once the 42-day period has elapsed, continued vigilance will be required until both Sierra Leone and Guinea are also declared Ebola-free.
- The Government of Liberia has identified 3,979 children (2,070 girls and 1,909 boys) as directly affected by EVD. The Government has defined the number of children directly affected as quarantined, orphaned, unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), in treatment and discharged. The total number of children registered to date by social workers as having lost one or both parents/primary caregivers due to EVD is 2,781 (712 having lost one parent/primary caregiver and 2,069 having lost both parents/primary caregivers).
- 3,974 (98 per cent) out of 4,038 target schools have received back-to-school kits containing infection prevention and control (IPC) supplies through Education Cluster partners.
- 3,460 (86 per cent) of 4,038 target schools have had a teacher, administrator and Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA) members trained in the Safe School Reopening protocols through Education Cluster partners.
- 605 additional schools in Montserrado County have been identified to be included in the distribution of IPC kits.
- Fears of Ebola transmission are keeping some parents/caregivers from sending their children to school. UNICEF and key partners are addressing this through mass media and community engagement activities.
- Reports of 20 suspected cases of measles in two districts of Grand Bassa are currently being investigated. At the same time, preparations for the upcoming countrywide measles campaign are underway.
- In response to the measles outbreak in Monrovia and Grand Bassa, UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Health's special immunization campaign through its frontline mobilisers with the aim to educate the general public about the importance of immunization and get community buy-in.
- According to recent data, 2,210 severely malnourished children from six priority counties were admitted into the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition Programme between September 2014 and February 2015.

**As of 17 March 2015<sup>1</sup>**

**9,718**

Cases of Ebola  
(3,149 confirmed)

**4,304**

Deaths

**3,979**

Children registered as directly  
affected by EVD

**2 million+**

Children living in affected areas

**372**

Cases and 180 deaths among  
health care workers

**UNICEF funding needs until June  
2015**

**USD 187.1 million**

**Funding gap**

**USD 55.1 million**

<sup>1</sup>Data are based on official information reported by the Liberian health ministry up to 17 March 2015. These numbers are subject to change due to on-going reclassification, retrospective investigation and availability of laboratory results.

## Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

No new confirmed cases were reported in the week to 15 March 2015: the third consecutive week in which no new confirmed cases have been reported. 15 March 2015 was day 12 since the final patient in Liberia had a second negative test for EVD: 42 days must elapse before transmission can be considered to have ended. Once the 42-day period has elapsed, an additional period of heightened vigilance will be required.

No counties have now reported a confirmed case within the past 21 days. All contacts associated with the last known chain of transmission have now completed 21-day follow-up. Surveillance and early warning systems detected 125 suspected cases in the week to 15 March 2015, none of whom have tested positive for EVD.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Education

- 3,974 (98 per cent) out of 4,038 target schools have received back-to-school kits containing infection prevention and control (IPC) supplies through Education Cluster partners.
- 3,460 (86 per cent) of 4,038 target schools have had a teacher, administrator and PTA member trained in the Safe School Reopening protocols through Education Cluster partners.
- 605 additional schools in Montserrado County have been identified to be included for the distribution of IPC kits.

### Social Mobilisation

- In response to the measles outbreak in Monrovia, UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Health's special immunization campaign through its frontline mobilisers with the aim to educate the general public about the importance of immunization and get community buy-in.
- UNICEF continues to play a key role in cross-border interventions. Last week, UNICEF participated in the finalization of UNMEER-coordinated Border Coordination Group strategy implementation toolkit as well as in the training of county officials and partners in Grand Cape Mount County.
- UNICEF and its partner IREX are conducting three regional trainings across the country meant to further equip 30 community radio stations in the production and airing of spot messages, skits and content related to EVD.

### *Trends, gaps, milestones*

- Across all counties, door-to-door visits reached 9,215 households. 367 community meetings and group discussions on Ebola prevention reached 16,860 men, 19,502 women, 14,759 children and 1,227 community leaders and elders.
- Fears of Ebola infection are keeping some parents/caregivers from having their children immunized and from sending them to school. UNICEF and key partners are addressing this through capacity building, mass media and community engagement activities.

### Child Protection

- Of the 2,781 registered children who have lost one or both parents/primary caregivers due to EVD, to-date 1,555 children have received a one-off financial cash grant of UDS 150 through the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (representing 56 per cent of registered children). The payment of cash grants for an additional 605 registered children in Montserrado County that started last week continues. Since children who have survived or lost one or two parents/caregivers due to EVD are still being identified, the number of children receiving the one-off cash grant is also expected to increase. All children are verified by the county-based government Social Workers for verification. To ensure that all children who survived or lost parents due to EVD receive the one-off cash grant, and noting that for some children and their caregivers (especially if they were affected by EVD earlier in the outbreak and may not have all the necessary documentation as 'proof'), Social Workers triangulate information from a variety of sources, including interviews with community leaders, county health officials, etc. for cross-checking and verification. UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection for expediting the process. In order to support the verification and follow-up process in Montserrado, UNICEF is renting two additional vehicles for the use by Social Workers.
- The registration of children affected by EVD into the new Child Protection Information Management System based at the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection continues. This is a time-consuming process, and given the previous backlog of data to be entered from the then-Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and forms still coming from the counties, it is taking more time than initially expected.

- The training of government and NGO Social Workers on the updated tracking and follow up forms was completed last week for all four districts of Montserrado County. While roll-out of the new 'follow up' forms for children in Monrovia will be completed by the end of this week, the high number of cases combined with the distances in the outer districts of Montserrado will require more time for identification, registration and verification. The rollout of the revised registration and new follow-up forms and the training of Social Workers on these forms in the heavily affected counties of Bong and Margibi will start this week and in Lofa next week. UNICEF will support the Social Workers with logistics and material (i.e. tracking and follow-up forms, etc.).
- UNICEF is currently signing partnership agreements with several NGOs for a variety of psychosocial activities for children and communities in areas heavily affected by EVD (including child and adult survivors of EVD). The programmes include children's clubs, community dialogue sessions, and sports and recreation therapy. Caregivers of children who lost one or both parents or primary caregivers due to EVD will be supported in stress management, positive parenting and managing family conflicts.

#### *Trends, gaps and milestones*

- The registration process is on-going: Children having lost one or two parents or caregivers due to EVD are still being identified and registered in the counties that were affected by EVD. This may in part be due to reductions in fear and stigma due to EVD, increased comfort of reporting and increased mobility of social workers that has them more regularly in the field. It may also be in part due to the package of services being provided to children who have lost one or both parents or caregivers due to EVD which necessitates verification processes and triangulation of information to be sure that the beneficiaries are entitled to the package. Further, with schools re-opening, social workers have learned of unregistered cases through the school system and are following up.
- As part of follow-up work initiated by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection to check Child Welfare Institutions for EVD-affected and other vulnerable children, approximately 96 children were identified the previous week in a facility that is not an accredited institution. The Ministry is also following up on the individual cases as well as at institution level.
- The one-off financial cash grant of USD 150 administered by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection has not yet reached all eligible children. Some children eligible for the one-off cash grant were not yet registered and are only now being identified and registered. For some children who survived EVD or who have lost one or two parents/caregivers due to EVD, documentation is missing. In these cases the Social Workers triangulate information from a variety of sources including through interviews with community leaders, neighbours and family members

### Health and Nutrition

- Reports of 20 suspected cases of measles in two districts of Grand Bassa County are currently being investigated. At the same time, preparations for the upcoming countrywide measles campaign are underway.
- UNICEF is supporting the production and airing of messages on community radios relating to the upcoming door-to-door distribution of long lasting insecticidal nets used for malaria prevention.
- UNICEF is supporting the combined training on Newborn Resuscitation/Helping Babies Breathe/Essential Care for Every Baby (ECEB) for health workers in Sinoe and Grand Gedeh Counties.
- According to recent data, 2,210 severely malnourished children from six priority counties were admitted into the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition Programme between September 2014 and February 2015.
- 40 county health team officials and implementing partners in Bong were provided training on nutrition protocols for EVD and non-EVD patients.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Installation of two small water treatment units was completed in two Community Care Centers (CCC) - one in John Logan Town (Grand Bassa County) and the other in Kpayeakwelleh Clinic (Gbarpolu County).
- Nine motorbikes were provided to NGO partners to be used for supervision and monitoring of implementation of WASH activities in health and care centers and in communities, at district level.
- The water supply system in Gbarzon CCC (Grand Gedeh County) is complete and almost complete at the Gbeapo Health Centre.
- The assessment of water supply systems, hygiene and sanitation facilities in health facilities is complete and awaiting validation by respective County Health Officers in the individual counties.

## Supply and Logistics

- The distribution of the second quarter of nutrition supplies for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition commenced last 5 March 2015. 4,220 cartons of ready to use therapeutic food, 49 cartons of F-75, 32 cartons of F-100, and 2,965 packs of Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tape will be distributed to all 15 County Health Offices to ensure uninterrupted delivery of nutrition services to 91 nutrition treatment centers nationwide.
- As part of UNICEF's overall response to the EVD outbreak, 1,200 kilos of chlorine was delivered last week to an NGO partner, Global Communities, to aid in the management of dead bodies.
- Since the beginning of the outbreak, UNICEF has brought in 12,623 cubic meters or USD 29.3 million worth of life-saving aid to Liberia for EVD prevention and treatment at household level as well as for schools, CCCs, Ebola Treatment Units (ETU), Rapid Isolation and Treatment of Ebola sites, Interim Care Centers, Transit Centers and health facilities.

## Partnership and Humanitarian Coordination

The UN Country Team (UNCT), through the UN Resident Coordinator, has responsibility for coordinating the inter-agency support to the Government. This includes activating the humanitarian clusters necessary to coordinate support to specific sectors. Within this cluster framework, UNICEF is the lead UN agency for the Social Mobilization, WASH and Education clusters, as well as the Nutrition and Child Protection sub-clusters of the response. Some of the achievements from this week include:

### *Nutrition Sub-Cluster*

Eight county nutrition supervisors, eight county Monitoring and Evaluation officers, eight supervisors from government and technical nutrition partners were trained on the Rapid Nutrition Assessment Methodology from 12 to 14 March 2015. Pre-testing of assessment tools was done in two communities in Monrovia namely PUCC and Peace Island last week. Assessment teams have started the data collection process in six counties highly affected by Ebola.

### *WASH Cluster*

25 Environment Officers from Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were trained on educating the public about possible health effects of using waste oil in toilets and septic tanks. The officers were also trained in alternative methods to improve hygiene.

### *Education Cluster*

The Education Cluster, through consultation with the Ministry of Education and Cluster partners are finalizing a Cluster Strategic Recovery Plan for implementation of emergency, preparedness and resilience programming in Liberian schools.

## Media Coverage

- UNICEF Representative Sheldon Yett on [immunization](#) (Scientific American)
- UNICEF Representative Sheldon Yett on the [need for immunization to continue](#) (Toronto Star/The Record)
- UNICEF Representative Sheldon Yett on [support to community leadership initiatives to maintain zero Ebola cases in Liberia](#) (All Africa)

## Funding

Funding Requirements, as defined in Humanitarian Appeal of December 2014 (for 6 months)					
Appeal Sector	Ebola Requirements Sept 2014 (USD)	Revised Ebola Requirements Dec 2014 (USD)	Funds received*	Funding gap	
				\$	%
C4D/Social Mobilization	12,915,145	22,588,357	12,606,895	9,981,462	44
Nutrition	7,289,263	10,736,999	3,861,988	6,875,011	64
Health and HIV/AIDS	25,546,857	70,812,058	45,088,939	25,723,119	36
WASH	22,405,806	45,378,144	29,778,211	15,599,933	34
Child Protection	8,079,681	12,239,127	13,310,179	-1,071,052	-9
Education	4,593,643	14,532,090	8,956,460	5,575,630	38
Cross Sectoral	4,981,002	7,667,614	4,155,675	3,511,939	46
Cluster/Sector Coordination	0	3,117,296	2,178,655	938,641	30
Funds under allocation			3,139,134	-3,139,134	
Recovery cost			8,938,121	-8,938,121	
<b>Total</b>	<b>85,811,397</b>	<b>187,071,685</b>	<b>132,014,256</b>	<b>55,057,429</b>	<b>29</b>

\*Programmable amount

\*\*UNICEF received from OFDA a total of USD 47,863,314 specifically for Health and WASH support to ETUs and CCCs. These figures are reflected above in Health and WASH sectors.

## Programme Results

UNMEER and UNICEF Results 18 March 2015	TARGETS		TOTAL RESULTS		% TARGET REACHED	
	UNICEF	Pillar/ Sector	UNICEF	Pillar /Sector	UNICEF	Pillar /Sector
<b>INDICATORS</b>						
<b>EPIDEMIOLOGY</b>						
Percentage of EVD cases with onset in the past week <sup>1</sup>	-	-	119/9384	119/9384	1%	1%
<b>COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT</b>						
Percentage of county Social Mobilization taskforces (SMT) reporting on the dashboard each week	100% (15)	100% (15)	13	13	87%	87%
Percentage of counties with list of identified key religious leaders (including priests, imams, pastors, tribal leaders) or community groups who promote safe funeral and burial practices according to standard guidelines <sup>2</sup>	100% (15)	100% (15)	15	15	100%	100%
Percentage of counties with at least one security incident or other form of refusal to cooperate in past week	0% <sup>3</sup> (0/15)	0% (0/15)	1	1	7%	7%

<sup>1</sup> Report based on MoH SitRep # 290 released on 3 March 2015. No new update for this week on account of bank holiday yesterday.

<sup>2</sup> Trained members of the Inter-Religious Council of Liberia (IRCL) are now actively promoting safe funeral and burial practices in 15 counties.

<sup>3</sup> Target has been revised for this indicator as incident(s) of refusal or non-cooperation has been maintained at very low levels as a result of social mobilization activities, and in at least five weeks of (non-consecutive) reporting had zero incident.

<b>CCC</b>						
Percentage of Community Care Centers (CCCs), Rapid Isolation Treatment for Ebola (RITE)/ Mobile CCC, Interim Care Centers (ICC) and Transit Centers (TC) functional against target set for the current reporting period <sup>4</sup>	100% (13 CCCs, 19 RITEs, 2 ICCs, 2 TCs/ holding facility)	100% (26 CCCs, 19 RITEs, 4 ICCs, 4 TCs/ holding facility)	35/36 (19 RITE kits, 2 ICCs, 2 TCs, 12 CCCs)	45/53 (22 CCCs, 19 RITEs, 2 TC, 2 ICC)	97%	85%
Percentage of Community Care Centers (CCCs) established after a community dialogue process aligned with Global SOPs or according to norms established in country	100% (13 CCCs)	100% (26 CCCs)	12 <sup>5</sup>	22	100%	100%
<b>WASH</b>						
Percentage of all Community Centers (CCCs), Rapid Isolation Treatment for Ebola (RITE), Interim Care Centers (ICC) and Transit Centers (TC) provided with essential WASH services <sup>6</sup>	100% (27 ETUs, 13 CCCs, 19 RITEs, 2 holding centers/TC, 2 ICCs)	100% (27 ETUs, 26 CCCs, 4 ICCs, 19 RITEs, 4 TCs /holding centers)	41/61 (8 ETUs, 19 RITEs, 2 holding centers, 12 CCCs) <sup>7</sup>	56/80 (13 ETUs, 22 CCCs, 19 RITEs, 2 holding centers)	67%	70%
<b>PROTECTION</b>						
Percentage of EVD-affected children provided with care and support, including psychosocial support <sup>8</sup>	100%	100%	3,979	3,979	53%	53%
Percentage of children who are without a primary care giver due to EVD reintegrated with their families or provided with appropriate alternative care. <sup>9</sup>	100%	100%	62/64	62/64	97%	97%

<sup>4</sup> Changes in the numbers is brought about by the last approved number of ICCs, RITEs and other similar facilities planned by the MoH. The sudden increase of RITE facilities is triggered by government decision to add an additional 9 RITEs for the prepositioning and/or immediate deployment and set-up of EVD treatment operation in smaller outbreak areas in the counties. A slowdown in the construction of CCCs has been noted in the past weeks as plans are underway to convert CCCs to support the restoration of health services in the country as one of the highly affected public social services during the height of Ebola, now that infections are down to zero.

<sup>5</sup> All completed CCCs were put up following community dialogue process.

<sup>6</sup> The denominator is based on the updated approved number of ICCs, RITEs and other similar facilities being planned by the MoH.

<sup>7</sup> UNICEF supports the installation of WASH facilities in CCCs and other Ebola facilities that are not necessarily built by UNICEF but by other partners.

<sup>8</sup> The Government of Liberia has identified 3,979 (2,070 girls and 1,909 boys) as affected by EVD. The Government has defined the number of children affected as quarantined, orphaned, unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), in treatment and discharged. Orphans are children who have lost one or both parents due to the Ebola virus Disease. To-date, a total number of children registered by the Ministry social workers as having lost one or both parents/primary caregivers due to EVD is 2,652 - 712 having lost one parent and 2,069 having lost both parents. This number is expected to still increase as social workers of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in the counties are still identifying orphans. Data entry and backlog of forms is still ongoing, which includes children registered by NGOs and not yet verified and captured by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection database. The status of all children currently being transferred to the database is being followed up and verified by government social workers.

The current denominator being used is estimated using the following assumption: for every adult that dies 3 children are orphaned [Liberia's fertility rate is 5 children per woman], with 2,500 adult deaths to date, the number of orphaned children is estimated to be around 7,500.

<sup>9</sup> The denominator has been stable for the last six weeks as there have not been any new registration of EVD affected children without primary caregiver. But additional children has been provided or reunited with caretakers in the community.

## UNICEF Liberia Humanitarian Performance Monitoring Indicators

Indicator	Target	TOTAL UNICEF RESULTS	
		Results	(%)
Households reached by social mobilization teams <sup>10</sup>	250,000	357,827	143%
<b>HEALTH</b>			
Ebola treatment/care centers equipped with medical supplies <sup>11</sup>	52	26	50%
Health facilities equipped with essential commodities for maternal, new-born and child health care and infection prevention and control <sup>12</sup>	470	270	57%
<b>NUTRITION</b>			
Percentage of Ebola patients who received nutrition support in UNICEF supported ETUs and CCCs <sup>13</sup>	94%	849/986	86%
Percentage of children residing in Ebola hotspots admitted for SAM treatment <sup>14</sup>	4,000	2,210	55%
<b>WASH</b>			
Households equipped with hygiene kits in Ebola-affected areas	150,000	55,380	37%
<b>EDUCATION</b>			
Teachers trained on Ebola awareness and prevention	11,000	5,995	55%
District Education Officers (DEO) trained on the use of the EVD Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) kits for the safe reopening of schools <sup>15</sup>	98	98	100%
<b>CHILD PROTECTION</b>			
Percentage of registered children who have lost one or both parents/primary caregivers due to EVD provided with one-off financial cash grant <sup>16</sup>	100%	1,555/2,718	56%

### Next SitRep: 25 March 2015

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**Who to  
contact for  
further  
information:**

**Sheldon Yett**  
Representative  
UNICEF Liberia  
Cell: +231-770-26-7100  
Email: [syett@unicef.org](mailto:syett@unicef.org)

**Fazlul Haque**  
Deputy Representative  
UNICEF Liberia  
Cell: +231-770-26-7400  
Email: [fhaque@unicef.org](mailto:fhaque@unicef.org)

**Aanchal Khurana**  
UNICEF Liberia  
Cell: +231-770-26-7956  
Email: [akhurana@unicef.org](mailto:akhurana@unicef.org)

<sup>10</sup> Numerator has now exceeded old target, as social mobilization activities get underway in more areas with the mobilization of district level coordinators in all 15 counties. A revised target is still being studied along with new targeted C4D communication strategies for the transition phase.

<sup>11</sup> New deliveries of medical supplies to four ETUs have been recorded in the last 24 days.

<sup>12</sup> Facilities covered by UNICEF PCAs supplied with essential commodities.

<sup>13</sup> 11 out of 14 ETUs provided with appropriate nutrition supplies. Grand Cape Mount, MMU and Chinese ETU have their own procurement and do not receive nutrition supplies from UNICEF. The target for this indicator was revised based on the Nutrition Results Matrix.

<sup>14</sup> While Ebola hotspots are now mostly concentrated in Margibi and Montserrado counties, they are both part of the six (6) priority counties for SAM treatment, which includes Bong, Nimba, Grand Cape Mount and Lofa. These are the original six counties where high number of EVD cases where recorded during the height of the EVD crisis. Of the total SAM cases admitted in March, 16 are from Grand Cape Mount.

<sup>15</sup> This indicator is developed in conjunction with the Education intervention on the rollout of the "Protocol on for Safe School Environments in the Ebola Outbreak in Liberia".

<sup>16</sup> Since children who have survived or lost one or two parents/caregivers due to EVD are still being identified, the number of children receiving the one-off cash grant is also expected to increase and so is the total denominator. All children are verified by the county-based government Social Workers. This is to ensure that all children who survived or lost parents due to EVD receive the one-off cash grant, and noting that for some children and their caregivers (especially if they were affected by EVD earlier in the outbreak who may not have all the necessary documentation as 'proof'), Social Workers triangulate information from a variety of sources, including interviews with community leaders, county health officials, etc., for cross-checking and verification.