



UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Orlando Bloom reads to students at Jene Wonde Central Public School @UNICEF/2015

# Liberia Ebola Situation Report no. 78

25 March 2015



## HIGHLIGHTS

- One new confirmed case of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) was reported from greater Monrovia in the week to 22 March 2015: the first such case for over three weeks.
- The Government of Liberia has identified 4,175 children (2,176 girls and 1,999 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/primary caregivers due to EVD. More specifically, the total number of children registered by social workers as having lost one or both parents/primary caregivers due to EVD is 2,951 (754 having lost both parents and 2,197 having lost one parent).
- In response to the recent confirmed EVD case in Caldwell district of Monrovia, UNICEF responded by deploying 20 additional general community health volunteers (gCHV) to conduct a mop-up campaign in the hotspot and neighboring communities.
- UNICEF-supported social workers are visiting the house of the woman diagnosed with EVD and surrounding households in Caldwell daily to provide psychosocial support to family and neighbours.
- On March 23 2015, UNICEF conducted an assessment at SIMS Community School in Caldwell after discovering that the woman who tested positive for Ebola last Friday was a food vendor at the school. The team met with the Principal and the Registrar to implement infection prevention and control measures in the school.
- UNICEF conducted trainings on cross-border EVD prevention protocols. The meeting was attended by 130 individuals: district commissioners, chairs of local Ebola Task Forces, local traditional leaders, and personnel from national and international organizations.
- During a special measles immunization campaign conducted by the Ministry of Health and partners in Peace Island in Monrovia, UNICEF estimates that 93 per cent (699) of target children were vaccinated. Prior to the campaign, UNICEF carried out intensive community engagement to mobilize parents to have their children immunized. UNICEF is providing the same support in Grand Basse County in response to the measles outbreak.
- Preparations are on track for the planned measles campaign (integrated with oral polio vaccines (OPV), Vitamin A and deworming tablets) in May 2015 for children under 5. Micro-planning sessions have now been concluded in 14 of 15 counties and teams of cold chain technicians have been dispatched this week to commence repairs on faulty cold chain equipment in the counties.

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

**As of 24 March 2015<sup>1</sup>**

**9,800**

Cases of Ebola  
(3,150 confirmed)

**4,334**

Deaths

**4,175**

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 24 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

One new confirmed case was reported from the greater Monrovia area of Montserrado County in the week to 22 March 2015: the first such case for over three weeks. The patient self-presented to hospital triage on 19 March 2015, and was laboratory confirmed as EVD positive on 20 March 2015. The patient is not a contact associated with the country's last confirmed case, who tested negative for EVD for a second time on 3 March 2015. Investigations into how the patient was exposed to EVD are ongoing. At the time of writing, 71 contacts have been identified and are being monitored for follow-up. Heightened vigilance is being maintained throughout the country. In the week to 22 March 2015, a total of 238 new laboratory samples were tested for EVD.

No other counties have reported a confirmed case within the past 21 days. All contacts associated with the previously last known chain of transmission have now completed 21-day follow-up.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Education

The Back-to-School Call Center – staffed jointly by 11 personnel from the Ministry of Education and 15 National Volunteers from UNICEF's Learning for Peace program – completed its first round of data collection, verifying school reopening indicators directly through outreach to more than 1300 principals and education officers.

Key findings include:

- 98 per cent of schools contacted (1344 of 1367) reported that they have opened with teachers and students attending classes.
- 98 per cent of schools responding have likewise received Back-to-School infection prevention and control (IPC) kits distributed by UNICEF and Education/Logistics Cluster partners.
- Enrolment reports from the schools reached indicate that approximately 87 per cent of children who were enrolled in 2014 have already returned to school in 2015, with registration ongoing for the next month at most schools.
- Attendance sampling indicated that at least 85 per cent of registered students are attending classes each day.
- The 1,367 schools reached during the first round of data collection represent 34 per cent of the 4,038 total schools targeted for IPC kit delivery by the MoE/UNICEF during the first phase of school reopening. The random sampling of urban and rural schools in all 15 counties provides a strong indicative representation of the overall back to school picture. However, opening/enrolment percentages are subject to change pending ongoing data collection/verification.

### Social Mobilisation

- In response to the recent EVD case in Caldwell district of Monrovia, UNICEF responded the following day after the case was announced by deploying additional 20 gCHVs who are conducting a mop-up campaign in the hotspot and neighboring communities.
- During a special measles immunization campaign conducted by Ministry of Health and partners in Peace Island in Monrovia, UNICEF estimates that 93 per cent (699) of target children were vaccinated. Prior to the campaign, UNICEF carried out intensive community engagement to mobilize parents to have their children immunized. UNICEF is providing the same support in Grand Basse County in response to the measles outbreak.
- UNICEF conducted training on cross-border EVD prevention protocols. The training was attended by 130 people (district commissioners, chairs of local Ebola Task Forces, local traditional leaders, and personnel from national and international organizations). In addition, it participated in inspection visits at the Yekepa and Ganta border posts.
- Door-to-door visits reached 11,104 households in 13 counties (excluding Grand Bassa and Grand Cape Mount). 532 community meetings and group discussions on EVD and Back-to-School messages reached 20,062 men, 19,623 women, 21,099 children and 1,600 community leaders and elders.

## Child Protection

- Social workers are visiting the house of the woman diagnosed with EVD and surrounding households daily in Caldwell, Montserrado, to provide psychosocial support to family and neighbors. The psychosocial support activities for children under observation include stress management, coping techniques and resilience building activities. UNICEF is supporting social workers in providing child-centered psychosocial interventions and in organizing community dialogue activities in the communities affected.
- The Government of Liberia has identified 4,175 (2,176 girls and 1,999 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/primary caregivers due to EVD. More specifically, the total number of children registered by social workers as having lost one or both parents/primary caregivers due to EVD is 2,951 (754 having lost both parents and 2,197 having lost one parent).
- Of the 2,951 registered children who have lost one or both parents/primary caregivers due to EVD, to-date 2,218 children have received a one-off financial cash grant of USD 150 through the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (representing 76 per cent of registered children). Household visits of cash grant beneficiaries confirm the importance of the cash grants for children and families affected by EVD: Two families visited last week by UNICEF staff used the cash grant to support their small businesses. Both households lost their primary caregiver due to EVD and the cash grant supported the mothers in maintaining their charcoal and fish selling businesses while also providing for their five and eight children respectively. All children are attending school again after the school re-opening last month. In order to sustain the positive impact of the emergency grant, UNICEF is advocating for the caregivers (extended family or foster families) of children receiving the one-off cash grant to be included into and supported through the World Bank funded Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection Social Protection cash transfer program.
- The training of government and NGO social workers on the updated tracking and follow up forms was completed last week for Bong and Margibi counties and the follow up of all children affected by EVD will start this week. Since the completion of trainings in Montserrado, 329 children were followed. During the follow up process, social workers also identified 49 previously not registered children who lost their parent/caregiver due to EVD. UNICEF supported the social workers in following up and completing the forms and transporting, and referring child protection concerns to relevant partners.
- In Montserrado, UNICEF continued the assessment of orphanages. The assessment aims to address concerns that EVD-affected children (particularly those who have lost one or both parents or primary caregivers due to EVD) are being placed in institutional care. As reported last week, approximately 96 children were identified in a facility that is not an accredited institution. The assessment also highlights the need to address insufficient living conditions in some of these institutions.

## Health and Nutrition

- Preparations are on track for the planned measles campaign (integrated with OPV, Vitamin A and deworming tablets) in May 2015 for children under 5. Micro-planning sessions have now been concluded in 14 of 15 counties and teams of cold chain technicians have been dispatched this week to commence repairs on faulty cold chain equipment in the counties (expected to be completed by 20 April 2015).
- As part of the restoration of essential health services process, UNICEF is participating in a four-day workshop this week organized by the Ministry of Health to review priorities of the health system investment and transitional plans post-Ebola. In addition, UNICEF last week handed over six ambulances to the Ministry of Health (part of 19 in the pipeline) to support referrals for maternal and child health services in the health facilities.
- Sixty severely malnourished children from Nimba County were admitted in the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) Program last month.

### *Trends, gaps and milestones*

- County nutrition work plans for Bomi and Bong counties were revised and finalized.
- Preparations are underway to scale up IMAM sites in Sinoe County.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- At the Redemption Hospital in Monrovia last week, UNICEF reviewed the site-specific guide for decontamination of healthcare waste. The pits have been accumulating such wastes for over 10 years. This hospital is amongst 50 regular health facilities that are benefitting from UNICEF's WASH interventions.
- A refresher training for the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation crew on infection prevention and control measures and personal protective equipment was held last week. The training emphasized on behavioral change towards proper hygiene beyond Ebola sewage desludging activities.
- On March 23 2015, UNICEF conducted an assessment at SIMS Community School in Caldwell, Monrovia, after discovering that the woman who tested positive for Ebola on 20 March 2015 was a food vendor at the school. The team met with the Principal and the Registrar for implementing infection prevention and control measures in the school. The team recommended that the school should be supported to improve its sanitation situation by constructing latrines to cater for more than 1,500 students and teachers. It was recommended that the existing unfinished latrine (6 cubicles) be completed; additional 8 latrine cubicles be constructed; two hand washing facilities be installed close to the latrines; and the existing well to be rehabilitated.

## Supply and Logistics

- The distribution of the second quarter of nutrition supplies to all counties for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition completed last week. The 7 metric tonnes of supplies will ensure uninterrupted delivery of nutrition services to 91 malnutrition treatment centers nationwide.
- Upon confirmation of a positive EVD case, 300 kilos of chlorine have been delivered to the Redemption Hospital for purposes of decontamination.
- 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 the household level as well as for schools, Community Care Centers (CCC), Ebola Treatment Centers (ETU), Rapid Isolation and Treatment of Ebola (RITE) sites, Interim Care Centers, Transit Centers and health facilities.

## Partnership and Humanitarian Coordination

The UN Country Team (UNCT), through the UN Resident Coordinator, has the 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*

- A Rapid Nutrition Assessment was conducted in six counties (Montserrado, Bomi, Margibi, Lofa, Bong, and Nimba) last week. Preliminary results were shared with the Technical Working Group for validation.

### *Education Cluster*

- Developed through intensive consultation with Cluster partners and the Ministry of Education, *The Education Cluster Strategic Recovery Plan* has been distributed for review and inputs before finalization this week. The plan is meant to capitalize on the first phase of the education response to the Ebola Crisis by ensuring students, educators and schools have the skills, plans and resources necessary to cope with and mitigate future shocks.

## Media Coverage

- UNICEF Representative Sheldon Yett on [World Water Day](#) (Liberian News Agency)
- UNICEF Representative Sheldon Yett on [World Water Day](#) (All Africa)
- C4D Specialist Adolphus Scott on [Social mobilization when the outbreak started up until now](#) (NHPR)
- UNICEF Global Ebola Coordinator Barbra Bentein on [Ebola report](#) (All Africa)
- UNICEF Global Ebola Coordinator Barbra Bentein on [Ebola report](#) (Front Page Africa)
- WASH Specialist Michael Forson on [World Water Day](#) (Huffington Post)
- UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Orlando Bloom's visit to Liberia:

[Liberia News agency](#), [ABC News](#), [Just Jared](#), [Wn.com](#), [Gossip Central](#), [Ebola tracker](#), [X17](#), [Amazon Herald](#), [R7](#) and [Executive](#)

## 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	12,906,895	9,681,462	43
Nutrition	7,289,263	10,736,999	3,861,988	6,875,011	64
Health and HIV/AIDS	25,546,857	70,812,058	46,018,910	24,793,148	35
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			1,909,163	-1,909,163	
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 25 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>	-	-	75/9764	75/9764	0.77%	0.77%
<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%

<sup>1</sup> Report based on MoH SitRep # 311 covering the week March 16 - 22 released on 23 March 2015. There is only 1 confirmed case in the week after >3weeks of no cases. The CO is recommending to drop this indicator and to come up with a better indicator to track the progress made thus far in tackling EVD in the country.

<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.

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)	2 <sup>4</sup>	2	13.3%	13.3%
<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>5</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 TCs, 2 ICCs)	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%	100%	12 <sup>6</sup> /12	22/22	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>7</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>8</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>9</sup>	100%	100%	4,175	4,175	56%	56%
Percentage of children who are without a primary care giver due to EVD reintegrated with their families or provided with appropriate alternative care. <sup>10</sup>	100%	100%	62/64	62/64	97%	97%

<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.

<sup>4</sup> Recent incidents of refusal to cooperate were recorded in Montserrado and Bomi counties.

<sup>5</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>6</sup> All completed CCCs were put up following community dialogue process.

<sup>7</sup> The denominator is based on the updated approved number of ICCs, RITEs and other similar facilities being planned by the MoH.

<sup>8</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>9</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 2,951 - 754 having lost one parent and 2,197 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>10</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>11</sup>	250,000	368,931	148%
<b>HEALTH</b>			
Ebola treatment/care centers equipped with medical supplies <sup>12</sup>	52	26	50%
Health facilities equipped with essential commodities for maternal, new-born and child health care and infection prevention and control <sup>13</sup>	470	270	57%
<b>NUTRITION</b>			
Percentage of Ebola patients who received nutrition support in UNICEF supported ETUs and CCCs <sup>14</sup>	94%	938/1,088	86%
Percentage of children residing in Ebola hotspots admitted for SAM treatment <sup>15</sup>	4,000	2,270	57%
<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>16</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>17</sup>	100%	2218/2,951	75%

### Next SitRep: 1 April 2015

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<sup>11</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>12</sup> No new deliveries of medical supplies to ETUs or CCCs have been recorded recently.

<sup>13</sup> Facilities covered by UNICEF PCAs supplied with essential commodities.

<sup>14</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>15</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 were recorded during the height of the EVD crisis. Of the total SAM cases admitted in February, 60 are from Margibi; in March, 16 are from Grand Cape Mount.

<sup>16</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>17</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.