

**UNICEF-Liberia**  
**Ebola Virus Disease: SitRep #23**  
**13 June 2014**

**Key Points**

- The total number of suspected, probable, and confirmed Ebola cases reported in Liberia since the onset of the Ebola outbreak is 28 including: 7 suspected; 5 probable; and 16 confirmed. The total number of Ebola related deaths now stands at 16 including: 9 confirmed; 5 probable; and 2 suspected.
- 5 Confirmed new cases of EVD recorded: 2 in Foya, Lofa County and 3 in Monrovia, Montserrado.
- Results were received yesterday for 7 tested specimens: 4 are confirmed positive and 3 negative.
- 6 new contacts have been established from confirmed cases. New admission into treatment units remains now 9 with 1 in Monrovia, Montserrado County and 8 in Foya, Lofa County.
- Friday June 13, 2014, The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW) convened an emergency meeting to discuss confirmation of Ebola cases and deaths in New Kru Town community of Monrovia, Montserrado County.
- The MOHSW will provide official public notice of outbreak in Monrovia on key radio stations today and 1000+ posters were delivered to the Montserrado CHT today to support the meeting and sensitization today.
- The MOHSW and partners remain heavily engaged on Ebola response activities at the Liberia-Guinea border in Lofa County, with particular focus on Foya District.
- UNICEF delivered 3,500 posters to MOHSW yesterday and 14 mobilization teams will increase mobilization in all key towns along the border in Lofa beginning Monday June 16, 2014.
- UNICEF's current estimated funding requirement for Ebola-related C4D, Health and WASH interventions remains approximately US\$ 500,000. As of now, the County Office has received 313,000 from various donors. The funding gap as of today is \$187,000. The County Office will however revise funding requirements based the recent increase and spread of Ebola.

**Situation Overview**

- Friday June 13, 2014, The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW) convened an emergency meeting to discuss confirmation of Ebola cases and deaths in New Kru Town community of Monrovia, Montserrado County.
- Based on field investigation to date, a woman from Sierra Leone travelled through Foya, Lofa County to her family in New Kru Town (late May/early June 2014). She was sick on arrival, died and was buried in Liberia. Following this, a sick child relative of the woman also died and was buried in Liberia.
- On Wednesday, 11 June 2014, 4 persons (caretakers of the woman and child) in the New Kru Town household were sick. 1 was carried to a church for care (St. Moses) and died. The body was transported by taxi and wheelbarrow. Another died at the house in New Kru Town. The field investigation team met the family and was able to collect a specimen from the recently deceased for lab testing.
- 2 caregivers of the deceased have since reported sick, 1 male and 1 female. The male died in transport to ELWA Hospital. The female is currently under treatment at ELWA Hospital. Specimens were collected from both.
- 3 specimens collected from the 2 deceased and the 1 patient at ELWA hospital were found positive for Ebola.
- 12 contacts have been traced so far. A cook shop is operated from the house in New Kru Town where people have died and the need for intensified contact tracing is noted as critical.
- In response to the presence of the disease in Monrovia, the MOHSW has reactivated the ambulance team, a burial team, and are reactivating an alert team.

- ELWA Hospital has the capacity to care for confirmed cases, but another facility will need to be designated for suspected cases. JFK was proposed.
- Currently, tents and materials for isolation and care are stored at the Old MOHSW facility.
- A Community Representative from New Kru Town attended the emergency meeting to advise on community mobilization and establishment of quarantine in the densely populated urban community to minimize stigma and ensure cooperation.
- A subsequent technical group meeting was held at Montserrado County Health Team Offices to prepare for the meeting with community leaders and household members this afternoon.
- Following the meeting, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Dahn and members of the MOHSW National Division of Health Promotion, and others met with community elders and family members of the deceased in New Kru Town.
- Additionally the situation in Foya, Lofa county, the epicentre of the outbreak is also deteriorating. Of the 6 cases reported on Wednesday, 4 were confirmed positive and have been emitted to Foya's Ebola Unit.
- These recent developments bring the total number of suspected, probable, and confirmed Ebola cases reported in Liberia since the onset of the Ebola outbreak is 28 including: 7 suspected; 5 probable; and 16 confirmed. The total number of Ebola related deaths now stands at 16 including: 9 confirmed; 5 probable; and 2 suspected.
- 5 Confirmed new cases of EVD recorded: 2 in Foya, Lofa County and 3 in Monrovia, Montserrado county.

#### **UNICEF Response**

Through its Communications and Child Survival Sections, UNICEF continues to provide critical C4D and health sector support to the national Ebola response. This work is performed in coordination with the relevant national committees and working groups: namely the Social Mobilization Committee of the NTF; the Case Management Committee of the NTF; and the WASH Working Group.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT (C4D):**

- UNICEF delivered 3,500 posters to MOHSW on Thursday June 12, 2014 to support IPC and sensitization in border communities.
- 5000 revised posters are expected for delivery to UNICEF by close of business June 13, 2014 and 500 education flip charts are expected early the following week.
- UNICEF has contracted DCI to scale up IPC activities and mobilization in communities in Foya, Voinjama, Kolahun Vahun, Bakedu, Bollahun, and Zorzor Districts, Lofa County and New Kru Town, Montserrado County. Their collective outreach efforts have included regular attendance at Ebola coordination meetings in Foya; visits to local communities, including border towns, mosques, churches, schools and marketplaces; and meetings with local and traditional leaders and community groups.
- In response to Friday's request for additional support to intensify airing on FM stations made during the emergency meeting, UNICEF is currently outreaching to 9 FM station with spot messages and dramas.
- An additional 1000 posters were provided to MOHSW and CHT staff and given to community leaders, elders, and community members in New Kru Town Friday afternoon in meetings with the CMO.
- To further facilitate dissemination of the audio materials, UNICEF has extended its partnership with 30 existing community radio stations located across the country for the next quarter. Funds have also been made available to cover this partnership arrangement for the rest of this year (2014).
- Added support has been provided for community radio stations in Lofa County to increase air time and the roll out of Ebola messages. UNICEF plans to extend this support to stations in the other counties that share a border with Sierra Leone – namely Grand Cape Mount, Bomi and Gbarpolu.

- With confirmed cases coming out of Sierra Leone, audio productions (i.e., dramas and jingles) have also been produced in four languages spoken along the border between Sierra Leone and Liberia. These languages include Mende, Vai, Gola, and Belleh.

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

- UNICEF's current estimated funding requirement for Ebola-related C4D, Health and WASH interventions remains approximately US\$ 500,000. The office has received the following support to date: US\$ 100,000 from the Japan National Committee for UNICEF; US\$ 100,000 from the US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance/OFDA (provided through UNICEF Regional Office for West and Central Africa); US\$ 30,000 from the UK Department for International Development/DFID (re-programmed funding); and US\$ 83,000 from the UK Committee for UNICEF. The funding gap is US\$ 187,000. The County Office will revise funding requirements based the recent increase and spread of Ebola.

#### **National Task Force Updates**

##### **LABORATORY AND EPIDEMIOLOGY:**

- The lab team requested the MOHSW to designate 1 car for the transportation of specimens

##### **SOCIAL MOBILIZATION:**

- In addition to UNICEF several other partners continue to support social mobilization.
- Red Cross is training an additional 25 community mobilizers to work closely with the Montserrado County Health team.
- UNMIL has also committed their mobilization team to work closely with the Montserrado County Health Team to conduct sensitization in New Kru Town and nearby areas.
- Save the Children provided 15,000 copies of IEC materials to the MOHSW on Thursday June 12, 2014 to support sensitization activities along the border areas.

##### **INFORMATION AND REFERRAL MANAGEMENT:**

- The MoHSW remains the authority on Ebola statistics and continues to manage information via several channels and mechanisms, including: regular SitReps; periodic press releases; appearances on national radio and the UNMIL Radio-produced daily Ebola talk show; maintenance of Ebola Hotlines; and support for the press situation room at the Ministry HQ in Congotown, Monrovia. All informational material used for social mobilization for the outbreak should be cleared by the Ministry.

##### **COORDINATION WITH CHTS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND OTHER MINISTRIES:**

- At the national-level, coordination meetings for the NTF have increased to daily meetings. The Sunday meeting will be held at 2pm.
- In Foya District, Lofa County, daily meetings are reportedly ongoing between local government authorities and partners.

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