

This is a situation report by the Interagency Collaboration on Ebola replacing situation reports previously produced by UNMEER. The report is produced by OCHA Regional Office for West and Central Africa in collaboration with WHO and humanitarian partners. It covers the period from to 24 to 30 August 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 8 September.

Highlights

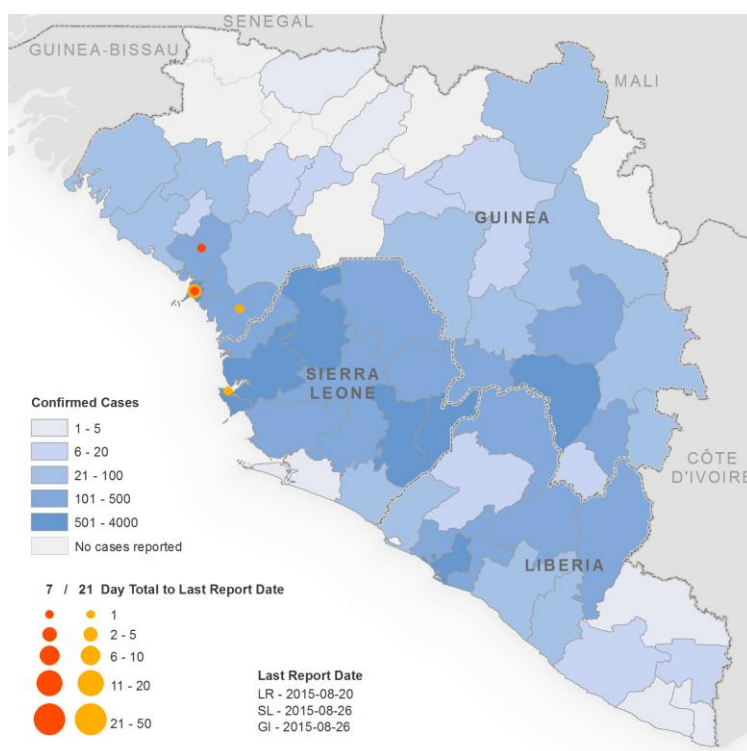
- For the week of 24 – 30 August, two cases have been reported, in Conakry in Guinea. One case was reported in Sierra Leone
- Following the release of the last person undergoing treatment for Ebola in Sierra Leone on 24 August, a further case was identified on 30 August from a post-mortem swab. This highlights the need for ongoing vigilance.

Epidemiological status and response efforts

- For the week of 24 – 30 August, two cases have been reported, in Conakry in Guinea. The first case was a 9-month-old baby who was symptomatic for approximately one week before she died. The source of infection is currently being investigated and contacts are being identified. The second case was a community death that was a known contact.
- In Sierra Leone one case was confirmed. The case was a community death of a 67-year-old woman from the district of Kambia, Tonko Limba chiefdom, who tested positive on 29 August from a post-mortem swab.
- No new cases were reported in Liberia. The last two confirmed patients were discharged after completing treatment and testing negative for Ebola for a second time on 23 July.
- Overall case incidence has been three or fewer confirmed cases per week for four consecutive weeks. In addition, the number of contacts under observation continues to fall, from over 800 on 16 August to approximately 600 on 23 August throughout four prefectures in Guinea and two districts in Sierra Leone. There still remains a significant risk of further transmission and countries and agencies remain vigilant.
- Whole blood samples from suspect cases and swabs from dead bodies continue to be tested for EVD. WHO and partners continue with active case searching, supervision and mentoring of contact tracers and contact tracing activities.

Cross-border collaboration

- In Kambia, the UNICEF child protection team participated in the continuous assessment of official and non-official crossing points, especially around the Bramaia, Gbinle Dixing and Samu chiefdoms. A community engagement plan is being drawn up to strengthen the Ebola alert system engaging communities in the surveillance activities.



- The Border Coordination Group (BCG) in Liberia prepared an EVD preparedness contingency plan in the event of cross-border movements following the October elections in Guinea. The plan focuses on preparedness and response at major points of entry, border crossing points, health facilities near the borders and within border communities. It also includes a plan for transit sites and camps, should the need arise.
- The BCG also finalized a 6-month plan for BCG and Ministry of Health coordination and support to the implementation of county-level cross-border operational plans.
- In order to strengthen the monitoring of passengers, IOM will deploy 42 officers in charge of registration and awareness of passengers at three border points (Pamelape, Dakhagbe, Layah). On both internal road checkpoints on national N°1 linking Conakry to Freetown, IOM has placed corridors, tents, water tanks, hand washing materials as well as equipment for community health workers. CDC Atlanta has organized the second wave of training for health workers on flow monitoring and computer recording at disease control points.

Guinea

Two confirmed cases have been reported in Guinea. A 9-month old baby from Dubreka who tested positive in Ratoma. She was symptomatic for approximately one week before she died. This case has been classified as a community death and was not on a contact list. The second case is a 56 year old male from Ratoma, Conakry, who was a known contact of a community death.

Community engagement and social mobilization

- During the event to celebrate the release of 352 medically monitored contacts from Bouramayah, communication and social mobilization teams launched a large-scale awareness campaign on strengthening community-based surveillance.
- Action Contre la Faim (ACF) provided personal protective equipment, construction materials, hygiene kits and bottles of chlorine to checkpoints and communities in Forecariah. It also organized focus groups and outreach visits to raise awareness about hand washing and drinking water chlorination techniques.



Conakry, Guinea. MSF hosts safety training at Nongo Ebola Treatment Center, a permanent health center built by WFP and managed by MSF. Credit: WFP/Oumar Diogo Diallo.

Protection

- Save the Children and the Ministry of Education's National Institute for Pedagogical Research and Action (INRAP), with UNICEF funding, will train more than 100 trainers from Coyah, Boffa, Dubréka, Forécariah and Kindia – prefectures badly affected by Ebola – in the provision of psychosocial support. These trainers will educate more than 7,000 teachers in the five prefectures before schools reopen on 5 October. In total, the programme aims to train 11,390 teachers.
- UNICEF and partners this week organized 1,145 play sessions; made cash transfers to 82 caretakers of 291 orphans; and provided 13,457 family hygiene and dignity kits to five protection partner NGOs in N'Zérékoré, Kankan, Conakry, Mamou, Kissidougou and Guéckédou, being distributed to children who have lost one of both parents to Ebola and their families.

Food Security

- On 25 August, WFP distributed 723 MT of food to 8,000 households in the prefecture of Koubia in the Labe region, benefitting 40,000 people. The prefecture was selected based on the European Food Safety Authority results, which indicated that 41 per cent of households in Koubia were food insecure. This event marks the first of WFP's distributions in the Labe region.

- WFP school feeding activities continue in all four administrative regions of Guinea.

Nutrition

- The results from the SMART Survey, funded by UNICEF and WFP, are now available, indicating that the chronic malnutrition rate is at 25.9 per cent and the global acute malnutrition rate at 8 per cent, with nearly 230,000 children under age 5 suffering from moderate acute malnutrition. The severe acute malnutrition rate is at 2 per cent. According to the results, young children aged 6 – 23 months are twice as likely to suffer from acute malnutrition than children aged 24 – 59 months. In total, 8,208 households were evaluated from 5 – 18 July 2015.
- The official handover ceremony for the Japan food grant of USD \$3 million was held on 19 August, at the Ministry of Cooperation in Conakry. With the Government of Japan's contribution, WFP will be able to provide meals to 54,600 children in 394 primary schools in seven prefectures at the start of the new school year from October 2015 to June 2016.

Preparedness

- UNDSS will hold regular meetings of United Nations agencies safety focal points, NGOs and movements of the Red Cross including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The first meeting will take place on 16 September. Thereafter, and throughout the duration of the government electoral process, UNDSS will convene this meeting on a weekly or ad hoc basis depending on the situation.

Education

- Education programmes continued to be broadcast by 22 radio stations in Guinea, transmitting key Ebola sensitization messages and catch-up lessons in mathematics and French. These programmes allow children to continue learning during the school holidays.
- UNICEF supplied 995,000 bars of soap to the communal directorate for education in Ratoma, Conakry and the prefectural directorate of education in Siguiri, ensuring hygiene supplies are in place well in advance of the start of the 2015 school year in October.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- From 24 - 28 August, ACF provided 14 blocks of latrines, including 12 rehabilitated and two new constructions to officials of Health Centres and Posts in Forécariah.

Sierra Leone

Following 22 days of no reported cases, the laboratory in Kambia reported an EVD positive swab on 30 August. This resets the countdown to 42 days with no cases, and highlights the need for ongoing vigilance, social mobilization, and active case finding. The continued support for districts with no reported EVD transmission gains importance with this new case.

Operations

- The WHO Western Area IPC team provided technical support for the decontamination and decommissioning of the ADRA ETC. Support for and follow up with the decontamination and decommissioning plans for the Newton Clinic HC and Kissy Psychiatric Hospital HC are ongoing. Rokupa Hospital holding centre reopened and accommodated suspected cases during the week.



Adama Sankoh receives a survivors re-integration kit from UNICEF in Massesebe village, Port Loko District. With the reporting of a new case this week, confirmed post-mortem, a new 42-day countdown has started. Credit: UNICEF Sierra Leone/2015/Kassaye

- WHO continued to provide technical and financial support to the MOHS for Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) scale-up country wide. District training on IDSR targeting health-care workers in hospitals and public health units in four districts (Bo, Kono, Kenema and Moyamba) was concluded. A total of 433 health workers were trained with support from the WHO epidemiologists.

Health

- This week, WHO assessed five laboratories (NICD, DTRA, Kerry Town, Hastings and China Lab, Jui) in Western Area of Freetown, focusing on capacity and turnaround time. Installation of the Gene-Xpert machine in Port Loko was finalized.
- The Comprehensive Package for EVD survivors in Sierra Leone was refined to include a role for survivors to provide outreach services to peers in need of clinical and psychosocial care. The package was presented to the NERC coordination group for endorsement.
- UNDP participated in a two-day workshop to finalize the health-care waste management policy and strategic plan rolled out by the MOHS. The installation team arrives in early September to complete the installation of the final four autoclave units for Sierra Leone.
- During the week, 65 Peripheral Health Units (PHU) were assessed for quality improvement and IPC measures. External quality improvement assessments were conducted at seven Ebola care centres (PCMH EHC, 34 Military, Mateneh IMC, Kambia IMC ETCs and Mambolo, Kabaya, Kanku Bramaia CCCs).
- WHO IPC teams continue to provide technical support to check points, government hospitals and peripheral health units (PHUs) in Bombali, Kambia, Port Loko and Tonkolili. Nearly 200 health-care workers were given basic IPC training. Refresher training on safe burials was provided for burial teams in Port Loko. Technical support is also being provided for the decontamination and decommissioning of the ADRA ETC, Newton Clinic HC, and Kissy Psychiatric Hospital HC.

Research and development

- Following a request from the Government of Sierra Leone for the extension of the Guinea Ebola Ring Vaccination trial to Sierra Leone, WHO, in collaboration with Guinea Ebola Ring vaccination team has been training 18 local Sierra Leoneans on implementation of the protocol to ensure teams are prepared to vaccinate following correct trial protocols should a new case be confirmed.

Community engagement and social mobilization

- IOM mobile teams concluded three separate trainings on community engagement across Bombali district for 108 participants coming from community task forces, Sierra Leone Armed Forces and Police, DHMT health screeners, the motorcycle drivers' union and the Ministry of Health and Sanitation.
- This week 190 health-care workers were given basic infection prevention and control training by WHO. Refresher training on safe burials was provided for 17 members of burial teams in Port Loko.

Contract tracing/surveillance

- On 25 August, the Government of Sierra Leone, UNFPA and partners, held a one-day workshop to validate data collected through the GoSL/UNFPA Rapid Assessment of Pregnant Girls in Sierra Leone survey. The purpose of the rapid assessment was to map and identify adolescent girls of school age who became pregnant between May 2014 and early August 2015; and to inform future interventions in supporting their education, health and social welfare needs.
- In Community Event Based Surveillance in Port Loko district, Red Cross community volunteers reported a total of 50 notifications that meet case definition (fever and other related signs) for further follow up and investigations.

Safe and dignified burials

- The NERC CEO during his weekly press conference on 19 August declared that the Safe and Dignified Burials SOP will continue. Family members of the deceased can choose from the list of 16 cemeteries in the western urban area, and all burials must be carried out within 24 hours with the exceptions of Medico Legal and

Repatriated corpses. – that is, people who died under suspicious circumstances which require investigation, and for those who die abroad and their body is repatriated for burial in Sierra Leone.

- Sierra Leone Red Cross is training an additional six SDB teams to bring their capacity to 61 teams nationwide. The remaining teams are from the Ministry of Health and Sanitation supported by a consortium consisting of Concern Worldwide, CRS, World Vision and CAFOD. An additional eight female burial team members have been trained.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- As part of the exit strategy for Massesebe quarantined village, UNICEF conducted an assessment of the village water supply, and arrangements are being made to rehabilitate two existing shallow wells and restore the piped water supply to the village.
- UNDP is providing technical support to the waste management technical working group on the disposal of solid and liquid waste, including health-care waste.

Protection

- UNICEF in partnership with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs and with implementing NGOs reached 5,698 children in the reporting period with support, including recreational activities, counselling and cleansing ceremonies, and individual/group counselling. Five children were reunified with their families from the Western Area Observational Interim Care Centre (OICC).

Liberia

There are no new cases of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Liberia. As of 31 August, 39 days have passed since the last case was discharged. There are no remaining contacts under follow up.

Operations

- To promote IPC practices and safe school environments, IOM has supported WASH infrastructure upgrades with hand pump repairs completed in 7 schools in Grand Cape Mount, 4 in Grand Bassa and 10 in Bomi County.



UNWomen staff distributing Ebola prevention hygiene materials in Weala and Schefflin. Credit: UNWomen/Liberia

Health

- A comparative assessment of the labs done by the Ministry of Health (MoH) between February and July show that there are insufficient staff available, inappropriate infrastructure and insufficient technical capacity presently to meet the current demand of daily samples. For example, as of 20 August 500 samples were received for testing against the 252 daily surge capacity in three operational labs.
- An analysis of the specimen transport by Riders for Health indicated that 388 health facilities are yet to be covered needing additional 83 couriers.
- While the community health policy review is underway in Liberia, preparations for the MoH community health assessment, including mapping of Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) began last week. UNICEF is supporting this effort.
- Construction of semi-permanent triage and isolation facilities and upgrade of WASH infrastructure is ongoing in 10 facilities in Grand Bassa and will commence at 4 health facilities in Monrovia in the week commencing 31 August.
- IOM continues its support to County Health Team (CHT) health system restoration plans through two mobile clinics in Bomi and two in Grand Bassa offering primary health care and psychosocial support services as well as vaccinations in partnership with a CHT representative.

- IOM conducted a six-day county level Training of Trainers (ToT) on the Ministry of Health Safe and Quality Services training package in Sinje, Grand Cape Mount (GCM). The ToT reached 29 county-based IOM, JSI and PCI staff and County health officers who will form the core team training 600 health-care workers in Bomi and 400 in GCM on Clinical Infection Prevention and Control, Emergency Care and Psychosocial Support.
- UNWomen conducted a ToT workshop on anti-stigmatization of Ebola survivors and their families on 18 August, 16 community leaders were involved.
- WHO, UNICEF and UNOPS are supporting the installation of an incinerator in Monrovia to provide access to safe disposal of medical waste for multiple health facilities.

Community engagement and social mobilization

- UNICEF supported the Health Promotion Unit of the Ministry of Health, in organizing a communication stakeholders meeting regarding the possible post-trial deployment of the Ebola vaccine. Active and periodic research, early planning and robust community engagement were recommended as crucial to the success of the Ebola vaccine introduction.
- UNWomen distributed Information, Education and Communication materials which were used to carry out an anti-stigmatization campaign organized as a street parade in Weala, Shefflin, and Gbenbah Towns.

Protection

- UNICEF is supporting the government to clear the backlog in birth registrations by providing the necessary resources for mobile teams to go from county to county to register these children and issue them birth certificates. The Ebola outbreak disrupted birth registrations in Liberia, leaving thousands of children without citizenship and in danger of being trafficked or illegally adopted
- WHO, together with CDC and IOM, is providing technical and financial support for the piloting of electronic Disease Early Warning System (eDEWS), an early warning system for epidemic-prone diseases, including Ebola. The system consists of an electronic case based real time surveillance system that can trigger prompt public health interventions. The surveillance system will be used within the IDSR system and will employ the use of satellite phones.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- WASH in health facilities: UNICEF in Liberia is supporting the rehabilitation and improvement of WASH systems in health-care facilities, which aims to ensure Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) compliance.
- Concern is constructing 85 new wells and rehabilitate 40 existing wells in Grand Bassa. WASH committees are trained in all schools to promote sustainability. Construction is currently in progress in 17 sites.
- UN Women distributed Hygiene Ebola prevention materials in Weala and Schefflin.

High level meetings

- WHO will convene a high-level scientific meeting on new vaccines in Guinea from 18-20 September. Approximately 30 scientists are expected to attend the meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to call on the international community to develop vaccines for Ebola and other diseases common in Africa.

Funding

- According to the Financial Tracking System (FTS), the overall requirements for the Updated Overview of Needs and Requirements, as of January 2015, are US\$2.27 billion from October 2014 until June 2015, which includes US\$1.5 billion from October 2014 to March 2015 (initial Overview of Needs requirements). So far, US\$1.57 billion has been funded, which correspond to 69 per cent of the funding required for the Overview of Needs and Requirements.
- According to the fourth report of the 'Resources for Result' series, covering the period 1 September 2014 to 31 May 2015, published by the United Nations Special Envoy on Ebola, contributing partners pledged a total of US\$6.6 billion, of which US\$4.6 billion were disbursed. The top three donors according to amount pledged are

the United States (US\$1.6 billion), the United Kingdom (US\$691 million) and Germany (US\$224 million). Most of the disbursed funding has been allocated to Liberia (\$1.4 billion), followed by Sierra Leone (US\$920 million) and Guinea (US\$576 million). Regarding the expenditure of funds, as at 31 May 2015, nine recipient UN agencies (FAO, OCHA, UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women, UNHCR, UNFPA, WHO and WFP) and the IFRC have expended a total of US\$807 million to address the Ebola outbreak.