I. HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 4 October, the number of cumulative Ebola Disease Virus (EVD) cases was 3,921. Of those, 935 were confirmed.
- The national staff strike at the Bong County Ebola Treatment Unit has ended.
- The WASH Cluster has relocated to the Ebola Operations Centre (EOC)

I. General Situation Overview

- According to the latest data available from the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW), as of 4 October there were:
  - 3,921 cumulative EVD cases, of which 935 have been confirmed;
  - 448 EVD patients being treated in specialized units;
  - 1,711 people who have died in probable and confirmed EVD cases.

Seven counties did not provide data to the latest MoHSW Situation Report and, as a result, the number of cases can be higher than reported.

- In Grand Bassa County, the Aggrieved Bassa Citizens (ABC) group is reportedly demanding the resignation of County Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for Development, having accused them of corruption and mismanagement of funds and resources. The Assistant Superintendent for Development refuted the allegations as politically motivated.

- The situation in Nimba County remains worrying as many partners report high rates of EVD denial, stigmatization and low rates of compliance with prevention modules. Similar concerns have been raised with regards to Grand Kru County.

- On 6 October, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the use of Brincidofovir - an experimental drug which has successfully treated EVD in laboratory tests. The drug is not expected to become available for wide public use until late 2016.

- A delegation led by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning will present Liberia’s needs and its Economic Stabilization and Recovery Plan at the Annual Meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which will convene in Washington DC, United States, on 10-12 October.

- On 6 October, the Minister of Justice resigned from office, citing the hindrances in her ability to investigate cases of fraud as one of the reasons. She had officially chaired the inaugural Protection cluster meeting on 5 October.

- The outcomes of the four-day consultative meeting with traditional Chiefs in Bong County include a ten-point resolution, which commits the Heads of Chiefs from all 15 Counties to joining the EVD social mobilization and awareness campaign. The Chiefs also called on the Government of Liberia to train traditional midwives and youth volunteers in EVD prevention and response.

- The Senior Senator for Montserrado County has warned that holding senatorial elections during the EVD outbreak is not prudent.
II. General Coordination Overview

- Government officials and partners are working on the 90-day operational plan to be submitted to the President later this week. The plan includes clear deliverables and timelines.

III. Operational Considerations

- NTR

IV. Operational Coordination Overview

HEALTH

Situation

- The opening of the two new ETUs in Monrovia has been postponed. The MOD ETU will be completed in the week of 17 October, and the SKD ETU is scheduled to become operational in the week of 6 November.
- The strike of national health care workers at the Bong County ETU has ended, and they have returned to work. National staff had gone on strike to demand retroactive hazard payments, to cover their work prior to the opening of the ETU.
- Four new cases of health care workers contracting EVD were reported on 5 October. This is a se

Needs

- On 6 October, the need for ambulances in the Counties of Nimba, Margibi and Grand Bassa was highlighted during the Incident Management System meeting. Two ambulances are needed in each County. WHO and the Government of Liberia pledged two vehicles each.
- Concerns have been raised about the current state of health facilities in rural Montserrado County, which reportedly lack personal protection equipment (PPE) and essential medical supplies to cure treatable ailments, such as malaria and diarrhoea. Health care workers are reportedly not coming to the clinics as they perceive their working conditions as unsafe.

Response

- More than 14,000 EVD contacts have been documented since the outbreak; a third of them were followed up on. The ratio of contacts traced for each case has increased to five. Close to 30 per cent of traced contacts become EVD patients.
- Save the Children is looking to support the Margibi County Health Team in establishing ten Community Care Centre (CCC) in the county. The construction of the Ebola Treatment Unit (EVD) in Margibi County has begun, and Save the Children are now negotiating with Heart To Heart to manage the unit.
- Samaritan’s Purse are beginning to construct a CCC in Fishtown, River Gee County, and in Zorzor, Lofa County. Each CCC will have a capacity of 20 beds. Save the Children are looking to roll out the construction of ten CCCs in Margibi County. With an increasing number of actors involved in CCC construction and related programmes, an effective coordination structure becomes ever more important.
- A new reporting template has been rolled out in the ETUs in Montserrado County.
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**WATER SANITATION HYGIENE**

- The WASH Cluster is now located at the Ebola Operations Centre (EOC), where the coordinators of the cluster leads – UNICEF and the Ministry of Public Works – moved on 5 October.

**PROTECTION**

- The first Protection Cluster meeting will take place at 11.00 on 9 October at the Ministry of Justice.

**NUTRITION**

- The first Nutrition sub-cluster meeting will take place at 10.00 on 7 October at the UNICEF office in Mamba Point. A nutrition sub-cluster coordinator has now arrived in Monrovia.

**V. Bi-Lateral Response**

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA’s Financial Tracking System of cash contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org; and by registering information on in-kind relief aid at LogIK. Any comments or questions should be submitted to logik@un.org.

**VI. Contact**

**UNDAC**

Laurent Dufour, Team Leader
dufour@un.org, +231 (0) 770 180 350

**HEALTH**

Roderico H. Ofrin, Cluster Coordinator
hcclib_ebola@who.int, +231 (0) 886 092 804

**SOCIAL MOBILIZATION AND AWARENESS**

Satyajit Sarkar, Cluster Coordinator
sasarkar@unicef.org

**LOGISTICS**

Franck Aynes, Cluster Coordinator
franck.aynes@wfp.org, +231 (0) 776 500 287

Allen Barnes, Cluster Co-Coordinator
allenb@un.org, +231(0) 770 146 606

**PROTECTION**

Lucila Beato, Cluster Coordinator
beato@un.org, +231 (0) 770 319 082

**CHILD PROTECTION**

Andy Brooks
abrooks@unicef.org, +231 (0) 770 267 962

**EARLY RECOVERY**

Kamil Kamaluddeen, Cluster Coordinator
kamil.kamaluddeen@undp.org, +231 (0) 886 995 555
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WASH
Karine Deniel, Cluster Coordinator
kdeniel@unicef.org, +231 (0) 770 267 969

FOOD SECURITY
Emma Fitzpatrick, Cluster Coordinator
emma.fitzpatrick@wfp.org, +231 (0) 776 500 269

John Emmanuel Paivey
JohnEmmanuel.Paivey@fao.org, +231 (0) 776 737536

NUTRITION
Hélène Schwartz, Cluster Coordinator
hschwartz@unicef.org, +231 (0) 770 267 963

EDUCATION
Christine De Agostini
cdagostini@unicef.org, +231 (0) 770 267 550

For more information, please visit ReliefWeb and HumanitarianResponse.info.

To be added or removed from this Situation Report mailing list, please e-mail: undac.liberia2014@gmail.com

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