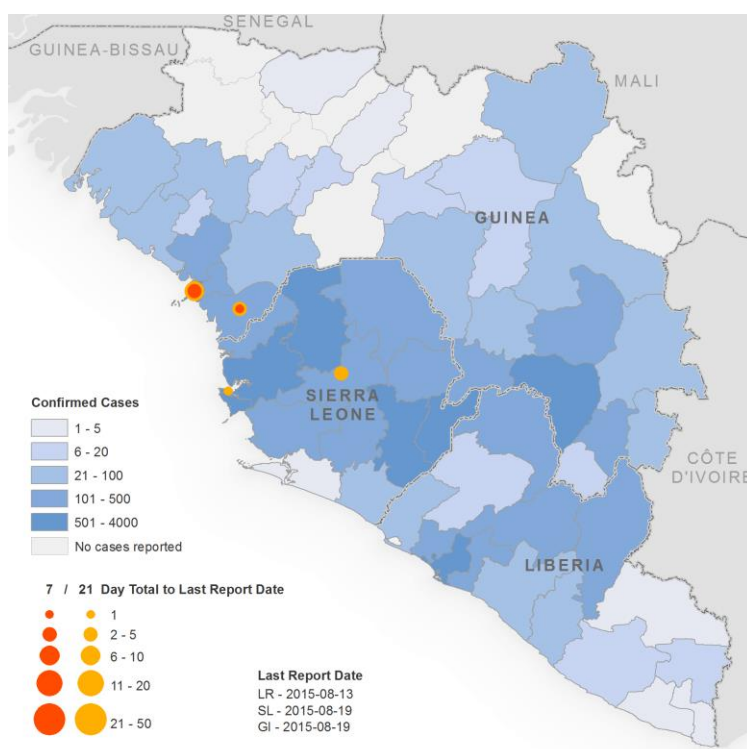


This is a situation report by the Interagency Collaboration on Ebola replacing situation reports previously produced by UNMEER. The report is produced by OCHA Regional Office for West and Central Africa in collaboration with WHO and humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 17 to 23 August 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 1 September.

Highlights

- Three new cases have been reported in Guinea this week. No new cases were reported in Liberia or Sierra Leone
- Sierra Leone's last confirmed case tested negative for the second time and has been released.
- Preliminary figures from the meningitis immunization campaign in Guinea supported by UNICEF show that 2,445,325 million children and young people under 30 years old were vaccinated.
- Ahead of schools opening on 31 August and 7 September in Sierra Leone and Liberia respectively, activities are taking place around hygiene, pedagogy and psychosocial support.
- The deteriorating political situation in Guinea-Bissau continues to delay the implementation of preparedness measures; however WHO is working with partners to conduct training and identify required resources in the absence of high-level sign off on protocols.



Epidemiological status and response efforts

- For the week of 17 – 23 August, three cases have been reported, all from Ratoma, Conakry in Guinea. No new cases have been reported from Sierra Leone (data up to and including 22 August) or Liberia (data up to and including 20 August).
- The last confirmed case in Sierra Leone tested negative for the second time and was released on 24 August. The outbreak of Ebola virus disease will be considered ended in any one of the three affected countries after 42 days have passed since the last confirmed case has tested negative twice for the virus in blood samples. After the 42-day period has elapsed, each country should maintain a system of heightened surveillance for an additional 90 days and ensure ongoing EVD surveillance and notification thereafter.
- WHO's work on Early Recovery is currently focused on supporting the WHO Country Offices of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone as they reactivate safe essential health services within the context of ongoing transmission and response activities. WHO has supported each of the three affected countries to develop national recovery and resilience plans that outline strategies for the safe reactivation of essential health services and longer term health systems functions.
- WHO continues to provide technical assistance to national authorities in developing national and sub-national operational plans, as well as refined costing for implementation. In consultation with national Governments, the

recovery effort at WHO is time bound and focuses on four interdependent technical action areas: infection prevention and control (IPC) and patient safety, surveillance, essential services and health workforce.

Cross-border collaboration

- The cross-border collaboration between Forécariah (Guinea) and Kambia (Sierra Leone) continued this week, engaging communities to intensify monitoring and surveillance. Cross-border movements have increased rapidly since the lifting of some Ebola restrictions in Sierra Leone. IOM Bombali's Flow Monitoring Point (FMP) and two vehicle checkpoints in Sella Limba and Tambaka chiefdoms screened an average of 2,100 travellers per day crossing to and from Guinea and Sierra Leone over the past week. The Kambia Gbalamuya international crossing and Freetown seaport FMPs average more than 100,000 crossings per month.
- The Red Cross organizations in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia are working on cross-border initiatives leading to a common regional strategy focusing on disease surveillance, and early warning and response to epidemics and natural disasters.
- In Guinea training of 120 screening officers and the establishment of entry corridors is underway, in collaboration with IOM, the gendarmerie and the police.

Guinea

Community engagement and social mobilization

- The campaign focusing on the transportation of bodies and safe and dignified burials with the Ministry of Interior and Security continued for a second week in Conakry. It has resulted in the police checking around 8,500 cars and over 600 boats for sick passengers and corpses.
- In the week of 17 August, social mobilizers in Boffa, Boké, Conakry, Coyah, Dubréka, Forécariah and Fria conducted 3,568 door-to-door visits and held 46 educational talks on Ebola sensitization.
- Action Contre La Faim (ACF) has pursued the implementation of community plans with a strategy focusing on community involvement and participation in Forécariah and Conakry (Matoto and Ratoma communes).
- From 20 – 22 August, UNFPA organized a capacity building workshop on management of micro projects, targeting widows and survivors of Ebola. A total of 15 women were selected to participate in this training in Kindia.

Health

- Preliminary figures from the meningitis immunization campaign supported by UNICEF show that 2,445,325 million children and young people under 30 years old were vaccinated.
- WHO continues to assist the government in training non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to comply with national IPC and triage standards. Operational planning for the health sector recovery plan is ongoing at the national and district level. From 25 – 30 August, a consolidation workshop will take place with the aim of merging 38 district and 8 regional plans into a harmonized national implementation plan.
- WHO is currently spearheading a mission on rapid response training for Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) from 17 – 21 August.
- ACF has provided protective equipment (boots, raincoats and hydro-alcoholic gel) to community workers involved in contact tracing in Allassoyah (Forécariah). It also provided computer equipment to the Direction Préfectorale de la Santé (DPS) of Labé in order to strengthen surveillance. ACF conducted coaching sessions for health professionals trained in prevention against infections in the prefecture of Labe.
- International Medical Corps (IMC) continued routine medical, WASH, construction, and community engagement activities for the Ebola Response in Boké, Conakry, Coyah, Dubréka and Kindia.

Protection

- UNICEF and partners registered 19 children who have lost one or both parents due to Ebola, bringing the total number of orphans registered to 6,179 so far. Cash transfers were made to 264 caretakers of 1,057 orphans, bringing the total number of orphans who have received transfers to 5,352. UNICEF and partners also

organized 1,076 play and recreation sessions, in which 1,628 children who had not previously taken part participated. To date, 108,820 children have received psychosocial support.

Preparedness

- The government of Guinea and its international partners are working on improving preparedness for dealing with future outbreaks of major diseases including Ebola, cholera, measles, meningitis and polio. The National Coordination and partners met from 13 – 15 August to develop a national guide for a community-based surveillance system based on the sentinel model. Drawing on lessons learned during the Ebola response, the guide sets out the roles of actors in the health system hierarchy from national to community levels.

Early recovery

- Guinea's investment agency has suggested that the country's economy is showing signs of recovery after the devastating effects of the Ebola virus. A key element in these signs of improvement may be the recent changes to the processes for starting a new business. Guinea's government has reduced the time it takes to start up a business from weeks or even months, to just 72 hours.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- ACF is currently carrying out construction and rehabilitation of water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure in Forécariah health facilities in order to encourage good hygiene practices and contribute to the control and prevention of disease-related infections and Ebola.

Sierra Leone

Health

- The Ministry of Health in Sierra Leone held its mid-year review this week in Freetown. The focus of the review was on building a resilient health care delivery system in the country, early recovery activities and restoring essential health services.

Community engagement and social mobilization

- An active case finding mini-surge was launched in Western Area on 16 August across the seven high-risk wards. Intensive social mobilization and community engagement activities including house-to-house, street-to-street announcements, community meetings, manning of check points and screening of commuters were conducted.
- In Western Area (in and around the capital Freetown), UNICEF facilitated the orientation of all Social Mobilization (SM) pillar partners, including WHO, USCDC, Social Mobilization Action Consortium (SMAC), Health For All Coalition (HFAC) and Sierra Leone Red Cross (SLRC) on the standard operating procedures on the community engagement component of Operation Safeguard Western Area (OSWA).
- In collaboration with the Psycho Social Pillar at the District Ebola Response Center (DERC), WHO provided technical support in identifying and training four psychosocial support officers per ward in the seven high-risk wards in Western Area.
- The Red Cross trained 200 of its volunteers and 700 community volunteers in Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) and Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) in four districts (Bombali, Kambia, Kono and Pujehun).

Safe and dignified burials

- The Red Cross continues to carry out around 50 per cent of burials across the country. It has received requests to scale up the current number of Safe and Dignified Burial (SDB) teams in six districts (Bo, Kambia, Kailahun, Kenema, Koinadugu and Pujehun), due to deteriorating road conditions during the rainy season in already hard to reach areas.

Early recovery

- UNDP and IFRC are working on an initiative to reintegrate around 800 people who took part in SDB practices and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) activities around the country. The 12-month post-Ebola project seeks to rehabilitate and reintegrate the teams into their communities and help them with psychosocial counselling, and vocational and skills training.
- UNMEER handed over the Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) portfolio to UNDP. The project, funded by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), seeks to address critical gaps and activities in the response against the Ebola epidemic.

Contract tracing/surveillance

- UNFPA supports a total of 1,233 enhanced contact tracers and 235 supervisors in Sierra Leone. On 14 August, 595 contacts were released from quarantine from Masessebe Village of Tonkolili district and as of 17 August, only 72 contacts were being monitored from two districts in the country (Tonkolili and Western Area Urban).
- The Red Cross is implementing Community Event Based Surveillance (CEBS) in Port Loko with 24 supervisors and 801 volunteers covering the 11 chiefdoms.

Protection

- UNDP in collaboration with the Japanese State Department addressed the large backlog of remand cases within detention in Sierra Leone. This was partially a result of the Ebola crisis, as several courts were not sitting during the height of the crisis. It is also supporting the Judiciary, Law Officers Department and justice actors in clearing the backlog of criminal cases in coordination with the DFID-funded Access to Security and Justice Programme (ASJP).
- UNDP's support has included outreach of the courts and legal aid to defendants as well as court monitoring and support to victims. Further support was provided to the justice actors to ensure effective coordination, communication and collaboration.
- The Red Cross distributed 200 survivor kits in Kono and Bo to community members who have been successfully treated for EVD. Follow up is being offered through community psychosocial support interventions focusing on orphans, vulnerable children, survivors and their families.
- This week, UNICEF and partners reached a total of 1,631 Ebola-affected children with psychosocial assistance, including individual or group counselling, as well as play, recreation activities, dance and drama. Furthermore, 13 children were successfully reunified with their families while 20 other children were placed in alternative care whilst efforts to trace their families continue.

Research and development

- A team comprising of Sierra Leone MoHS, CDC and WHO visited the Ebola vaccine trial site in Guinea from 13 – 17 August, where discussions were held on the extension of the Guinea Ebola vaccine trial protocol to Sierra Leone which will be implemented concurrently with the on-going CDC-COMAHS-MoHS Ebola vaccine trial in health care workers.

Operations

- The WHO IDSR team provided technical support to the IDSR roll out in four districts (Bo, Kenema, Kono and Moyamba), as well as to two workshops organized by Transition Technical Working Group (TTWG). To date, a total of 8 districts out of 13 have been trained up to DHMT level while 7 districts have been trained up to health facility level.
- A screening and triaging assessment tool is still being piloted in three hospitals in Bo; one hospital, four PHUs and one EVD survivors' clinic in Bombali; two PHUs in Kailahun; and three PHUs in Pujehun.

Education

- With schools set to open on 31 August for the second semester, UNICEF is ensuring that children go back to schools which remain safe from Ebola. This week, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) and partners, UNICEF is collecting data using RapidPro SMS technology from all schools

across the country to verify the readiness of schools in terms of hygiene supplies. Supplies and learning materials are being provided to schools, students and school aged children in quarantined households.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- UNICEF has been providing potable water to quarantined households in Tonkolili, as well as to the hospital, with the support of the Sierra Leone Water Company and PACT. Households received hygiene supplies (kits), water storage containers and water tanks. Fuel for power generation at the quarantined Massanga hospital was also provided.

Liberia

Operations

- IOM continues to provide operational support and mentorship to County Health Teams (CHTs) and border screening in Grand Cape Mount county. In the past week, on-the-job training was provided at seven border crossing points and two county checkpoints to ensure proper screening, IPC compliance and accurate reporting. IOM and Global Communities also expanded operations to establish two additional screening points in Grand Cape Mount (Kru Town and Robertsport) which will be supported with further training and supplies.
- To support Grand Bassa CHT efforts to ensure minimum IPC standards in public health facilities, IOM completed construction of triage and isolation facilities at the Liberia Government Hospital in Buchanan.
- WASH infrastructure upgrades to promote IPC practices and a safe school environment are ongoing, with hand pump repairs completed in three schools in Grand Cape Mount County and four in Bomi County.

Nutrition

- The Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) program discharged 585 severely malnourished children by the end of July, 95 per cent of whom were cured while 1 per cent died, 2 per cent defaulted, and 2 per cent did not respond to treatment. Last month, 71 severely malnourished children were admitted to the IMAM program in the six counties worst affected by EVD.

Health

- With the support of CDC and partners, two additional laboratories should be operational by the end of the month: Redemption hospital and ELWA3 ETU in Monrovia.
- This week the Montserrado EVD Consortium has continued to support the county's case investigation, dead body management, and psychosocial support activities.
- Under the Ebola Emergency Response Project's infrastructure component, UNOPS has contracted and started working in 20 health facilities around the country; the scope of these works is focused on triage construction and upgrade of basic utilities.
- IOM continues its support to CHT health system restoration plans through three mobile clinics in Bomi and three in Grand Cape Mount offering primary health care and psychosocial support services to communities, during the reporting period.
- A Rapid Isolation and Treatment for Ebola (RITE) response plan is in place between the Grand Bassa health team and INGO Concern to ensure that the county is prepared for any future suspected outbreak.
- In Grand Cape Mount County, the implementation of the Google Project by UNFPA has led to increased antenatal care attendance and health facility deliveries with a concomitant decrease in number of deliveries in the communities. The project has deployed five midwives in three health facilities.
- UNFPA and WHO trained about 600 community health workers in Nimba county along with the CHT in Intensive Community Event Based Surveillance (ICEBS). The training gave the health workers the skills to pick up and transmit alerts through the national surveillance system.
- WHO is assisting the MOH in building national capacity in infection, prevention and control (IPC) standards through the successful roll-out of the Safe Quality Service Package to trainers. Operational planning for implementation at the district level continues with the majority of counties having completed operational plans.

- With the assistance of WHO, Liberia is undertaking several activities to build a resilient health system. The immediate priorities are: conducting a fiscal space analysis; strengthening supply-chain systems; and assessing the national pool fund.
- A meeting with senior members of the Ministry took place on 11 – 12 August to discuss the concept of establishing a national Public Health Institute (PHI). The MoH with assistance from WHO is planning a study tour to Ethiopia, Norway, South Africa, Thailand and the United States to examine structures and processes in place for establishing a national PHI.

Education

- Ahead of the reopening of schools in the new calendar year scheduled for 7 September, the training of 10,000 teachers and 5,000 Parent Teacher Association members on pedagogy and psychosocial support by the Ministry of Education supported by UNICEF began on 16 August with the training of National Level Master Trainers.

Logistics

- WFP Common services and the Logistics cluster are working with the Ministry of Health to accelerate the dispatch of medical items which are still stored in five Forward Logistics Bases (FLBs) throughout the country.

Accountability

- The Liberia Media Centre, in cooperation with INGO IREX, is working on an accountability network on EVD funds for response. This network will include a network of 27 community radio station partners which will conduct opinion polls via an SMS platform to gauge their listeners' views on accountability related issues.

Preparedness / Other countries

- The deteriorating political situation in Guinea-Bissau continues to delay the implementation of preparedness measures, however WHO is working with partners to conduct training and identify required resources in the absence of high-level sign off on protocols. WHO priorities in Guinea-Bissau are partner coordination, IPC, surveillance, and logistics.
- As a measure of preparedness and in response to Ebola, education and health security protocols were developed by Guinea Bissau's ministries of Education and Health, with support from UNICEF and partners Fundação Fé e Cooperação (FEC) and People-to-People Development Agency. The education protocol refers to Ebola education for school-age children. The second protocol, on health security, refers to actions to be taken by schools under several Ebola infection scenarios.

Upcoming events

- Starting 25 August, IOM will conduct a six-day Training of Trainers (ToT) in Sinje, Liberia. The Ministry of Health's Safe and Quality Services training package will then be rolled-out to over 1,000 health workers in Grand Cape Mount, Bomi and Grand Bassa. The ToT will target CHTs, county-based partners and IOM field staff tasked with equipping health workers in the areas of clinical IPC, surveillance and psychosocial support.
- The National Coordination for the Ebola Response in Guinea is planning a workshop to elaborate a national strategy for Ebola survivors before the end of this month. The "survivors" technical group met this week to agree on the terms of reference of the workshop.
- In Forécariah, Guinea OCHA facilitated preparatory meetings of the prefectural workshop for a Contingency Plan at the prefectural level. The workshop is scheduled for the end of August. The structures involved in prevention, the reduction of major risks and disaster management, including technical services of the state security forces, police, gendarmerie, NGOs, UN agencies and civil society, will attend this workshop.

Funding

- Following the International Ebola Recovery Pledging Conference in New York in July, UNDP shared with the government of Sierra Leone an updated pledging matrix (that included all donor contact details) and also discussed with them the need to establish a financing mechanism to manage the pledges.
- The overall requirements for the Updated Overview of Needs and Requirements (ONR) (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 ONR requirements).
- According to a recent review undertaken by the Office of the Special Envoy on Ebola, a total of US\$ 294.4 million will be needed for the period from July to October 2015, to undertake critical activities in furtherance of the Ebola response. Moreover, the review also reports that the UN Agencies, IOM and IFRC have so far secured US\$ 129.7 million.