

SIERRA LEONE

Ebola Response

United Nations Development Programme



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Background

The Ebola virus disease (EVD) epidemic in **Sierra Leone** has seen a sharp rise and is now prevalent in densely populated urban areas, which is putting pressure on health services and could threaten peace and stability. In addition, the impact on the economy has been considerable. For instance, agriculture, which makes up 57% of Sierra Leone's GDP, has suffered due to movement restrictions, limited access to markets and reduced investments. As a result, cocoa and coffee production, which account for 90% of agricultural exports, has declined and so has activity in mining and the services industry. With increased unemployment, household incomes have dropped by 29.7% in six months, exacerbating poverty and putting additional stress on women who are often responsible for taking care of families and communities.

UNDP response

Service Line 1: Strengthened coordination and delivery of the immediate response

Output 1: Strengthen essential services for Ebola response infrastructure and crisis coordination: i) assist authorities in delivery of services aimed at fighting the disease, including equipment, supplies and infrastructure; ii) procure medical equipment and supplies for an Ebola treatment center; iii) train and equip the security sector for border screening to better contain EVD spread; iv) improve communications, in particular for police; v) set up Observation Units for new prisoners and provide training to prison officials and prisoners on hygiene and protection; and v) support national authorities' capacities to monitor and mitigate the economic impact of the crisis.

Output 2: Strengthen healthcare system through immediate cash transfers to formal and volunteer health workers: i) set up and strengthen mechanisms for cash transfers and build capacities to run the transfer mechanisms; and ii) support effective healthcare systems through the provision of cash incentives for formal health sector personnel, burial teams and community engagement agents.

Output 3: Appropriate disposal of contagious Ebola treatment materials/protective wear through waste management facilities/ autoclaves.

Service Line 2: Stronger community engagement

Output 4: Enhance community engagement, with a particular focus on vulnerable and at-risk groups such as women and youth: i) mobilize volunteers to undertake awareness campaigns that promote hygiene initiatives in urban and rural areas; ii) provide solidarity packages for survivors; iii) support the local media for consistent and constructive Ebola response; and iv) map key community, religious and traditional leaders and subsequent plan for their interactions at district level.

UNDP IN ACTION

- Reaching over 500,000 people through community engagement and advocacy and prevention campaigns.
- Working with local radio stations on Ebola prevention broadcast messages and providing school lessons.
- Procurement of "solidarity kits" containing basic goods (blankets, mattresses, personal hygiene goods, food) to assist survivors rebuild their lives.
- Working with local partners on tailored EVD prevention messages for people living with disabilities.

Service Line 3: Recovery from socio-economic impacts of Ebola

Output 5: Stabilize livelihoods and strengthen resilience of Ebola-affected families and most vulnerable households: i) stabilize livelihoods through enterprise recovery for vulnerable households, including temporary employment (20,060); ii) enterprise recovery with a specific focus on women through access to financial opportunities for women market traders through cash transfer systems as an evolving fund that will enable them to sustain and continue their businesses and remain self-reliant; and iii) social cash transfers to vulnerable households (18,000).



Memuna, an Ebola prevention volunteer in Mabella, Sierra Leone.
Photo: Lesley Wright/UNDP

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November 2014