

Number of expected live births (12months)

Guinea: 439,765
 Liberia: 155,001
 Sierra Leone: 213,281
Total: 808,047

Number of expected complications

Guinea: 65,965
 Liberia: 23,250
 Sierra Leone: 31,992
Total: 121,207

Number of women in need of family planning 15-49

Guinea: 505,875
 Liberia: 325,406
 Sierra Leone: 394,987
Total: 1,226,268

OVERVIEW



UNFPA estimates that in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, more than 800,000 women will give birth in the next 12 months. Without life-saving emergency obstetric care, more than 120,000 could face a complication that might be life-threatening. To mitigate this, UNFPA has been working closely with governments and partners to help health workers provide safe, compassionate care for women, through the provision of personal protection equipment (PPE),

disinfectant materials, and reproductive health supplies.

Access to essential normal and emergency obstetric and neonatal service delivery and care in an Ebola-free environment for women is crucial. **“The Mano River Midwifery Initiative”** is our response.

This \$50 million project will reinforce the healthcare systems in the wake of the Ebola epidemic. By devoting essential human resources, equipment, drugs and supplies, and building the capacity of national health professionals and community awareness, this project will set the ground for swift recovery. In each country, a quick assessment will establish the population distribution, the availability of health professionals and equipment, and the international support already in place. This will address the most critical needs while complementing ongoing efforts.



Ban Ki-moon, UNSG, Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, UNFPA Executive Director and Dr. Jim Yong Kim, the President of the World Bank during the joint mission. Credit: UN Photo.

Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, the UNFPA Executive

Director, participated in a joint mission to the Horn of Africa from 27 to 30 October, with the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the President of the World Bank Dr. Jim Yong Kim as well as Representatives of the Africa Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank and the European Union. Dr. Osotimehin has reaffirmed the importance of implementing the Mano River Midwifery Initiative in the three most-affected by the Ebola crisis.

A recent strategic meeting in Accra, Ghana, 30-31 October, identified gaps and challenges that need to be addressed in the coming

HIGHLIGHTS

UNFPA Priority areas

1. **Contact tracing** to control the spread of Ebola and identify cases
2. **Reproductive health (RH) services and midwives** for safe birth and family planning
3. **Personal protection supplies** for staff and health workers
4. **Social mobilization and community engagement** to prevent infection and increase the use of health services
5. **Monitoring and preparedness** for neighbouring countries

FUNDING

\$78 million
requested

Phase I \$28 million
 Contact tracing
 Community awareness
 Social mobilization

Phase II \$50 million
 Mano River Midwifery

weeks. Observation is favoured over the risky and unreliable temperature monitoring. However, strengthening local capacity, adapting protocols to local context and urban areas, and establishing a hotline are integral to scaling up surveillance efforts

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Contact Tracing and Surveillance Activities

UNFPA has been training and equipping a new breed of community health workers - 'Contact Tracers' - responsible for mapping and following up all contacts, to reduce and eventually curb the spread of Ebola. Contact tracing involves finding everyone who comes in direct contact with a sick Ebola patient. Contacts are watched for signs of illness for 21 days, and if symptoms develop they are isolated, tested and given care immediately. This surveillance offers an opportunity for early detection and treatment of Ebola. Improving the speed and coverage of Ebola identification and testing requires reaching symptomatic people in their homes.



Contact tracers attend a training at a UNFPA-supported workshop in Sierra Leone. They are playing a critical role in the public health response to the Ebola outbreak. Photo credit: UNFPA Sierra Leone video

Country	People trained	Surveillance
Guinea	n/a	Sierra Leone
Liberia	150	150 mobile phones
Sierra Leone	2,810	13 desktop computers
Total	2,960	13 printers
		13 uninterruptable power supply

Source: UNFPA

Provision of Reproductive Health Supplies and Services

UNFPA protects reproductive health provisions in emergencies, and is doing this through its efforts to restore essential health services and ensure infection prevention and control. UNFPA is supporting quality assurance monitors across all governmental and non-governmental facilities, whilst also ensuring that pregnant women have access to health services to deliver under hygienic circumstances. This includes the provision of basic emergency obstetric care and management of miscarriages at home, with a referral system to hospitals equipped for comprehensive obstetric care. As such, UNFPA has not only been supplying kits and drugs to facilities, and supporting the recruitment and training of supplementary healthcare staff, but has also equipped and trained a mobile reproductive health team for outreach activities.



Ms. Fayiah, her husband and their twin daughters are visited by Duworna Monibah (centre), the nurse assistant who aided Ms. Fayiah during delivery. Photo credit: UNFPA Liberia/Calixte Hessou

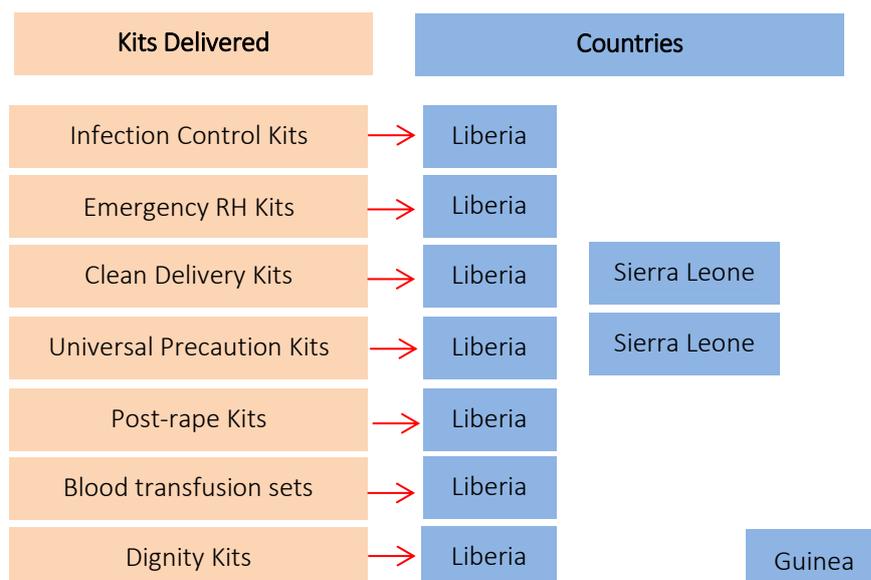
KEY MESSAGE

UNFPA is helping stop the outbreak by supporting contact-tracing to track and treat infected persons and refer them to the appropriate health facilities. It aims to increase the number of contact tracers in Liberia and Sierra Leone from the current 5,000 to around 20,000 in the next 60 days

The Mano River Midwifery Initiative is UNFPA's response to increasing access to reproductive health care in an Ebola-free environment for women

KEY MESSAGE

Pregnant women, in particular, face a double threat: dying from Ebola and from pregnancy or childbirth. UNFPA calls upon the international community to urgently address the unique needs of pregnant women and girls



KEY MESSAGE

More than **800,000 women** in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone will give birth in the next 12 months. They **will require antenatal, delivery and postnatal care and life-saving emergency obstetric support**

Of these women, **more than 120,000 could face obstetric complications** that may be life-threatening, if the required life-saving emergency obstetric care is not provided

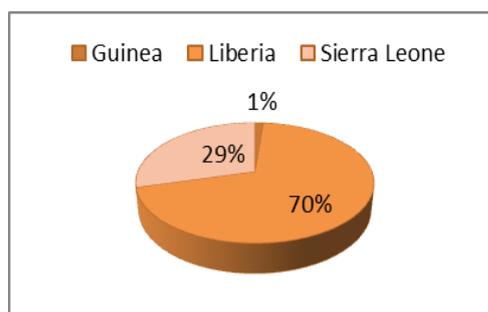
Capacity Building

UNFPA has responded to the Ebola outbreak with a capacity surge of 166 staff in total (39% females and 61% males), of which 20% is international and 80% is national.

Staff Deployed/ Staff Trained

Country	As of 22 Oct
Guinea	1
Liberia	50
Sierra Leone	21
Total	72

Source: UNFPA



Community Awareness

Country	Key Activities
Guinea	Broadcasting radio and television programmes on the Ebola disease
Liberia	1,500 brochures and 1,000 posters
Sierra Leone	Ebola jingle on 24 community radios nationwide for 30 days Printed 9,000 Ebola flyers and 6,000 Ebola factsheets A 2-minute infomercial on Ebola

Source: UNFPA

For further information, please contact:

Omar Gharzeddine, Media Specialist; +1 212 297 5028; gharzeddine@unfpa.org

Celine Adotevi, Communications Specialist; +1 212 297 5173; adotevi@unfpa.org