



SITUATIONAL REPORT

13th Edition

Source: County Health Teams including Sitrep

Unexplained Cluster of Health Event: Sinoe County, 7 May 2017

New Update

- As of 7th May 2017, the cumulative case count is 31, including 13 deaths from three counties.
- One new case reported from Grand Bassa today, with reported symptom onset on 30 April 2017.
- Two cases remain hospitalized in Sinoe and Grand Bassa.
- The three specimens sent by MSF to Institute Pasteur in France tested for Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (VHFs) all tested negative.
- Autopsy on two deceased cases was conducted and waiting for the report.
- The last death occurred on 2nd May 2017 with reported date of symptom onset on 27th April 2017
- A total of 110 funeral attendees from 6 counties (Sinoe, Montserrado, Maryland, Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru and Grand Bassa) and 207 contacts of cases in Sinoe (150), Montserrado (40) and Grand Bassa (17) have been identified and are being followed up on a daily basis.

Situational Overview

On Tuesday, 25th April 2017 at 10:30 GMT, Sinoe County Health Team (SCHT) notified the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) and the Ministry of Health (MoH) of a cluster of unexplained health events involving 14 cases with 8 deaths in Greenville City. According to SCHT, cases presented with headache, diarrhea, mental confusion, weakness, vomiting and abdominal pain. Many of the cases reported onset of symptoms following attendance at a funeral event (wake, burial, reposs) on the 21st and 22nd of April 2017.

On 26 April 2017, the National Rapid Response Team (NRRT) along with partners (WHO, CDC, AFENET) was deployed to Sinoe to support the county-led response.

Public Health Actions and Thematic Updates

Coordination

- Ongoing coordination at both national and county level (NEPRC/CEPRC)
- Sinoe CHT has capacity to continue response efforts, with remote support from the national RRT, CDC and WHO. Routine health services are still being provided in the counties.

Surveillance and contact tracing

- One new case reported today, with onset of symptoms 30 April 2017.

- Cumulative case count is 31 cases, including 13 deaths in Grand Bassa (1), Sinoe (10) and Montserrado (2) counties. The CFR is 41.9%
- Two patients remain hospitalized in Sinoe and Grand Bassa.
- All cases are linked to attendance at a funeral event (wake, burial and reposs) in Sinoe county on the 21st and 22nd of April 2017.
- A total of 110 funeral attendees from 6 counties (Sinoe, Montserrado, Maryland, Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru and Grand Bassa) and 207 contacts of cases in Sinoe (150), Montserrado (40) and Grand Bassa (17) have been identified and are being followed up daily.
- Active case search is ongoing in counties with funeral attendees.
- Heightened surveillance at community and health facilities in all counties.
- Ongoing updating of line list

Case Management

- Two patients remain hospitalized.
- Nine bed isolation facility prepared for response in Montserrado county: Redemption(5), ELWA(4)

Social Mobilization and Community engagement

- Ongoing health education in five schools in Sinoe county
- Visited two communities(Farmersville and Red Hill) in Sinoe county to provide health education
- Encouraged all affected communities to report all sick patients to the hospital
- Community engagement meeting is still ongoing at the districts level.

Laboratory investigation

- A total of 51 specimens collected from 26 cases.
- Twenty-five (25) suspected cases tested **negative for Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and Lassa fever**
- Ongoing/ pending testing
 - 6 blood culture
 - 6 CBC
 - 2 Blood chemistry analysis (plain blood)
 - 2 CSF
- Aliquots of 10 specimens and 3 plasma specimens shipped to CDC-Atlanta and MSF-F for investigations.

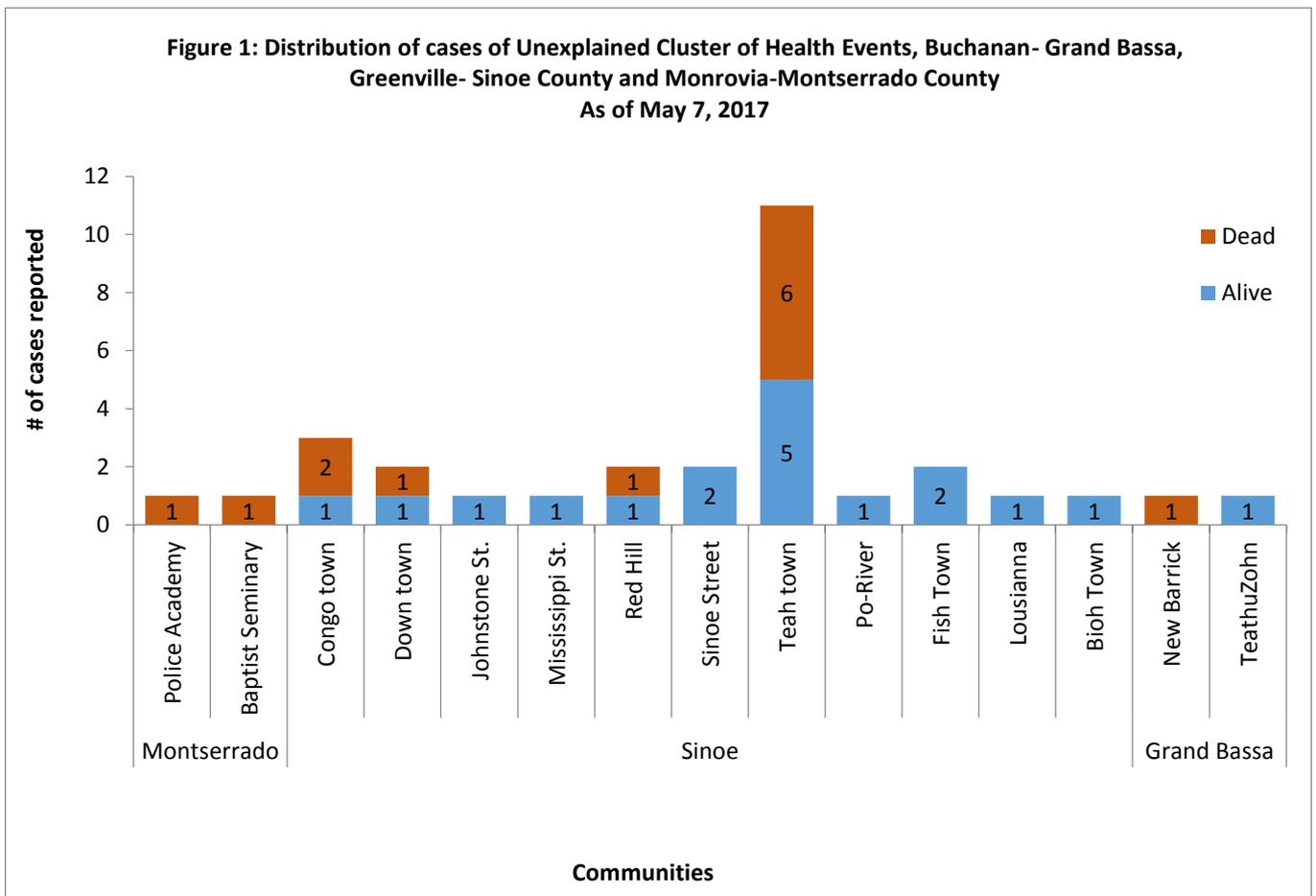
- Aliquots of specimens to be shipped to WHO regional lab in South Africa for further investigations
- Pathologist conducted autopsy on 6 May 2017, specimens collected to be shipped to reference labs (WHO, CDC) for further molecular, histological and toxicological investigations.

Dead body management

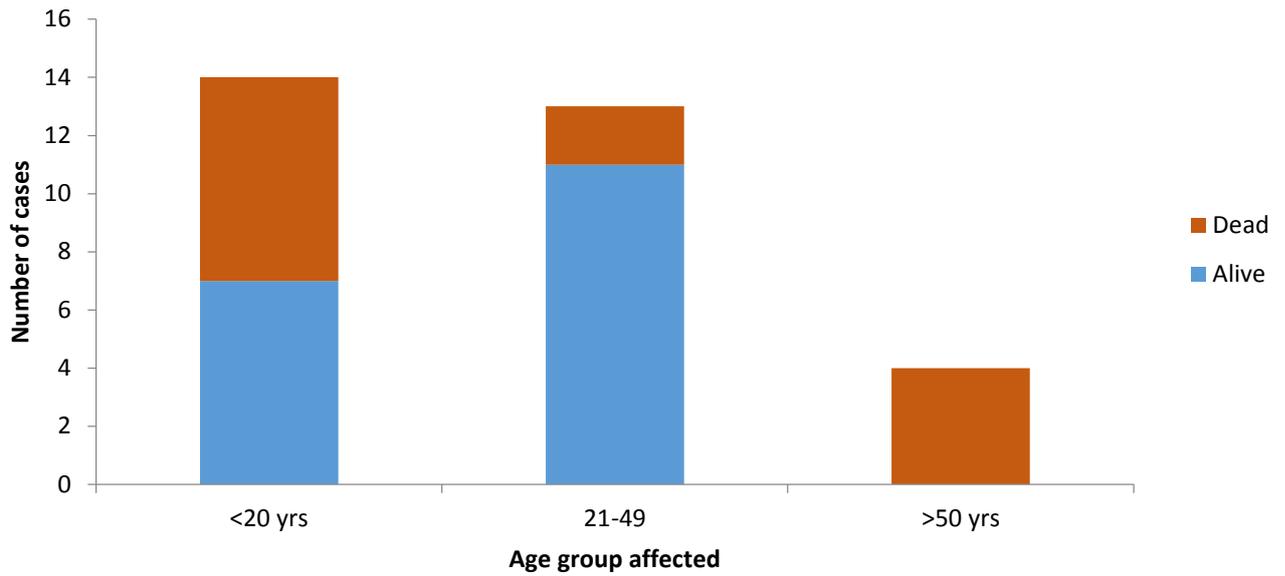
- The two bodies are being preserved in Montserrado awaiting safe and dignified burial.

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

- IPC standards and protocols have been emphasized in the affected counties
- Assessment for availability of adequate IPC supplies in hospitals and isolation wards



**Figure 2: Age Distribution of cases of Unexplained Cluster of Health Events, Buchanan- Grand Bassa, Greenville- Sinoe County and Monrovia-Montserrado County
As of May 7, 2017**



**Figure 3: Distribution of cases of Unexplained Cluster of Health Events, Buchanan- Grand Bassa, Greenville- Sinoe County and Monrovia-Montserrado County
As of May 7, 2017**

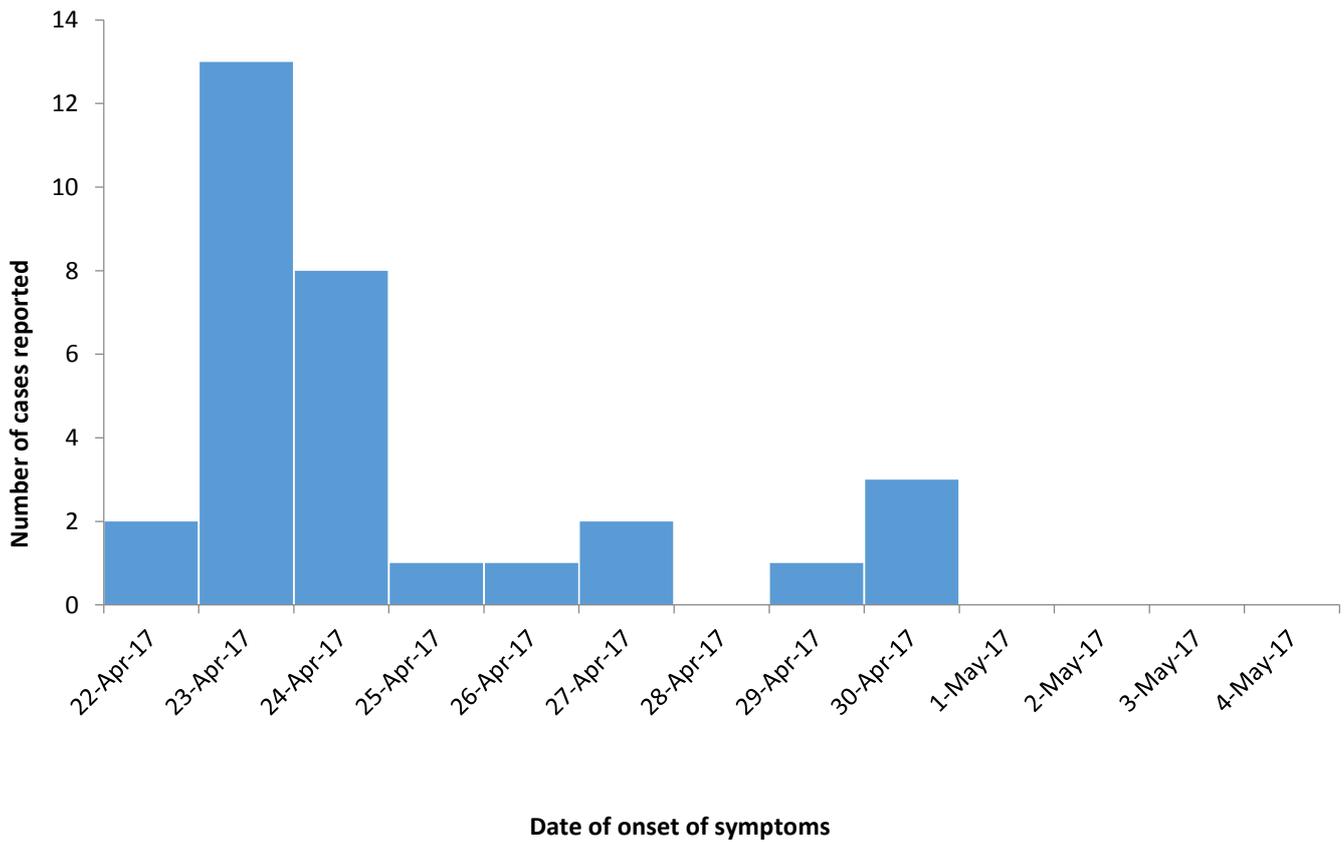
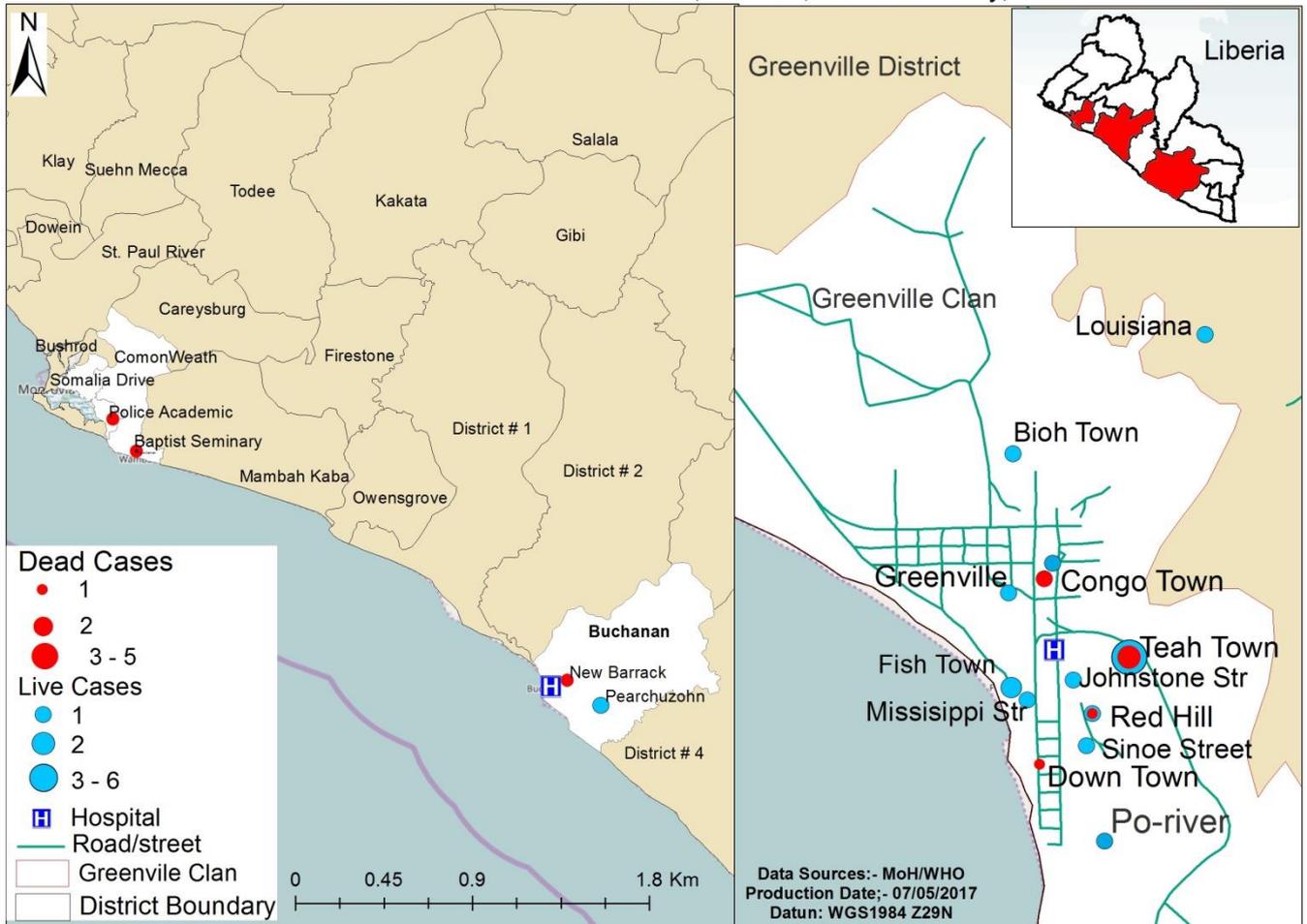


Figure 4. Geographical distribution of reported Unexplained Cluster of illness and deaths in Montserrado and Sinoe Counties, Liberia, as of 07 May, 2017



Planned Action Points/Recommendations

County

- Community leaders, School authority, Spiritual leaders and the public continue to be sensitized to minimize fear and panic.
- Traditional, and Spiritual healers to coordinate with the county health team in responding to this event
- Community engagement and reinforce of hand washing within affected communities
- Management of live cases in the hospital as well as proper protection of the health workers

National

- National team to disseminate laboratory results in timely manner
- Conducted press briefing to update media houses and ensure consistent messages to minimize fear and panic.

- Continue to provide technical, operational and logistical support for the on-going response in Sinoe, Grand Bassa and Montserrado Counties.
- Work with counties to update contacts and attendees
- Additional Laboratory testing is required to identify other potential causative agents of event.

Challenges

- Establishing a full list of all attendees from outside and within Sinoe County who participated in the burial events.
- Inadequate disclosure of information related to the burial event by family members and residents in Sinoe County

Summary table of unexplained illness and death as of May 6, 2017

	Sinoe	Montserrado	Grand Kru	Grand Gedeh	Maryland	Grand Bassa	Total
New Live Case/s May 6, 2017							
New Case/s (Suspected)	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
New Case/s (Confirmed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total suspected cases	27	2	0	0	0	2	31
Cumulative	27	2	0	0	0	2	31
Newly Reported Cases in HCW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumulative cases among HCW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newly Reported deaths in HCW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumulative deaths among HCW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New admissions in Treatment Unit today	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total no. currently in Treatment Units	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Total discharges, alive(outpatient and in-patient)	12	0	0	0	0	0	12
Cumulative admission/isolation, alive	13	0	0	0	0	1	14
Newly reported deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumulative death in suspected cases	10	2	0	0	0	1	13
Case fatality Rate (CFR)	37%	100%	0	0	0	50%	41.9%
Specimens collected (May 7, 2017)	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Specimens pending for testing	16	0	0	0	0	1	17
Total specimens tested	28	4	0	0	0	2	34
Total sample tested for EVD and Lassa Fever	23	4	0	0	0	2	29
Total specimens collected(as of May 6, 2017)	44	4	0	0	0	3	51
New Contacts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total contacts	150	40	0	0	0	17	207
Total contacts followed	150	40	0	0	0	17	207
Contacts lost to Follow-up	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New attendees identified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total attendees identified	60	21	4	3	18	4	110

For comments or questions, please contact

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