



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

United Nations Development Programme

MAY 2015 TO OCTOBER 2016

GETTING BEYOND ZERO

EARLY RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE SUPPORT FRAMEWORK:
GUINEA, LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE

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UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in more than 170 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

COVER: West Point market vendors have struggled with plummeting sales and rising costs of transporting goods since the Ebola outbreak and quarantine took effect in Monrovia, Liberia. Photo: Morgana Wingard/UNDP

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Suazion



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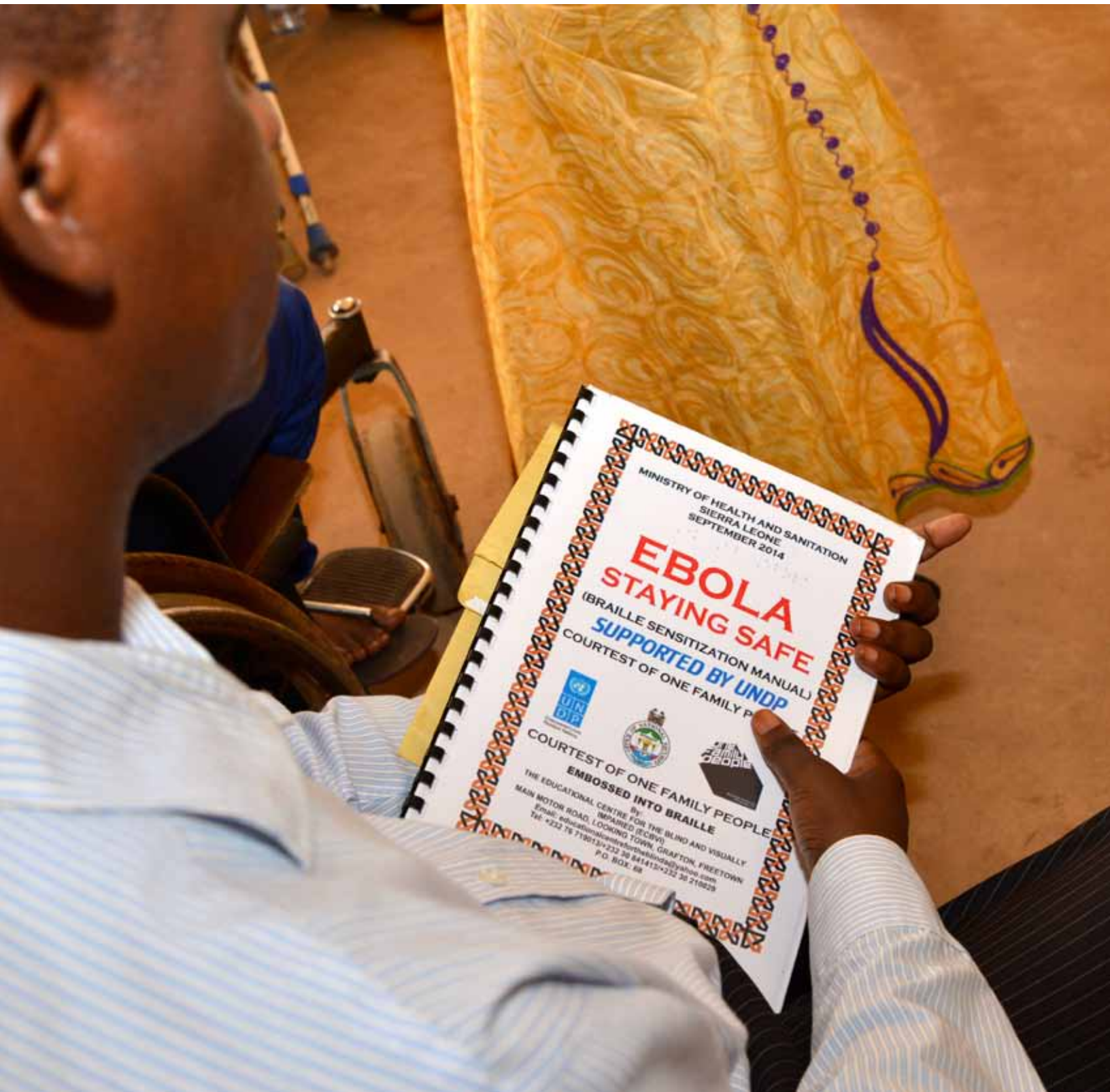
ACRONYMS

AfDB	Africa Development Bank
BTCA	Better than Cash Alliance
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EVD	Ebola Virus Disease
ERA	Ebola Recovery Assessment
ERW	Ebola Response Workers
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MGCSPP	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MIS	Management Information Systems
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOU	Memoranda of Understanding
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
MRU	Mano River Union
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PCNA	Post Conflict Needs Assessment
PDNA	Post Disaster Needs Assessment
PBSO	Peace Building Support Office
TOKTEN	Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMEER	United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization



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Vulnerable communities in Grey Bush and Congo Town – informal settlements in Freetown – receive Ebola manuals embossed into braille supported by UNDP. (Photo: Dylan Lowthian/UNDP)



1 THE CONTEXT IN THE THREE EPICENTRE COUNTRIES

A ‘mysterious’ disease began silently spreading from a small village in Guinea on 26 December 2013, but was not identified as Ebola until 21 March 2014. The outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD) in parts of West Africa is now the largest, longest, most severe and most complex in the nearly four-decade history of this disease. As of 10 April 2015, there were 25,556 reported, confirmed, probable and suspected cases of EVD in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, according to the World Health Organization, with 10,587 reported deaths; the outcomes for many cases are largely unknown.¹ Fortunately, the number of infections and deaths has fallen in 2015, especially in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The Ebola cases in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone are declining, but it will take some time for the three countries, supported by the international community, to bring the epidemic fully under control.

However, even with Ebola cases plateauing, the risk of a flare-up remains high. The suffering caused by Ebola is only the beginning of the story. The socio-economic impact will likely persist for up to a decade. The epidemic has affected virtually every economic sector in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, stressed social relationships and eroded people’s trust in their governments.

The only way to prevent future Ebola epidemics of this magnitude is to address the fundamental social and political vulnerabilities that have allowed the virus to flourish, such as weak health systems and local services, poor governance, chronic poverty, and a legacy of conflict and social division. The Ebola outbreak has highlighted the need to strengthen local service delivery and the authority of the state in locations away from the capitals. There needs to be a shift in the development approach, from one overly focused on the central state to one that strengthens the social contract among communities (horizontal) and between communities and the state (vertical).

While supporting ongoing efforts to reach zero cases, and stay at zero in the future, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is working with respective government counterparts in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to help the three most affected countries ‘build back better’, putting them in a better position to mitigate the impact of future crises.

The respective governments’ national recovery strategies provide the guide to UNDP’s Ebola recovery and resilience programming. The Ebola Recovery Assessment findings, lessons we have learned and the new knowledge and experiences with Ebola that UNDP has acquired in the past eight months are crucial contributions to the new framing of ‘recovery and resilience-building’ described in this document.

¹ World Health Organization, Ebola Situation Report, 18 February 2015.



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