UNICEF Situation Report # 02 – EBOLA Virus Disease (EVD)
November 3, 2014
Burkina Faso

Highlights

- Burkina Faso on heightened alert in view of the recent EVD case in neighboring Mali; to date, no confirmed Ebola case has been recorded in Burkina Faso.
- The Government of Burkina Faso and its partners revised (20-24 November) the country’s Ebola preparation and response plan with focus on improving key areas, including: reinforcing epidemiological surveillance, the capacity of labs; better coordination of interventions
- One suspected case was investigated and confirmed free of EVD infection
- UNICEF will support training of social workers on rapid psychosocial aid for children and women affected by potential Ebola outbreak; UNICEF is seeking 1 MUSD to support the mentioned activities.

Coordination and Partnerships

- The response is led by the Minister of Health through weekly coordination meetings of the National Committee of Epidemiological Management. More than ten partners are part of the coordination mechanism, including: UNICEF, WHO, Medecins du Monde (MDM), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), Terre des Hommes, USAID and the European Union.

UNICEF Response

Social Mobilisation /Health Promotion

UNICEF’s continues to support the implementation of the national communication plan, with focus on strengthening interpersonal communication mechanisms. This includes:
- All community radio stations in the eight regions are broadcasting 5 programmes, public service announcements per day on Ebola prevention, mainly in local languages.
- 500 community mobilization units carried out sensitization activities, including door-to-door campaign, in 800 villages.
- To date, the social mobilization activities reached 6 million people with key messages on the importance of adhering to hygiene practices. The main objective of the activities is to strengthen the knowledge of the population on Ebola prevention, including promotion of safe hygiene practices.

Health

UNICEF continues to:
- Support the government in implementing of its preparation and response plan. The recently revised national plan focuses on: improvement of epidemiological surveillance; social mobilisation /health promotion, training of health workers, provision of protection equipment and antiseptic products; and establishing of isolation/treatment centers
- One suspected EVD case was investigated, and confirmed free of EVD infection.

Education

- To raise awareness about Ebola and how it can be prevented, 62,200 posters are being printed for distribution in 14,700 schools (pre-primary, primary and post-primary). 500
posters have already been distributed in schools, on 11 October in a national ceremony to mark the International Day of the Girl.

**WASH**
- Procurement of 2,500 hand washing kits and 1,000 boxes of soap is underway. These will be distributed in health centres and schools.
- One standby agreement is being established with Oxfam so that UNICEF and its partners can respond to WASH needs in case of an EVD outbreak.

**Child Protection**
- UNICEF has signed a pre-agreement with the Burkina Faso Red Cross focused on how to address family separation, psychosocial distress of children, women and staff in case of an epidemic outbreak, as well as other crises which may impact the contract.

**Funding and other resources**
- Implementation of the UNICEF preparation and response plan will require an estimated budget of US $1,000,000. To date, funding of US$100,000 has been received from UNICEF Netherlands, which will go towards the purchase of hand washing, sensitisation equipment and products for schools.

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