



GUINEA

Measles

Situation Report

24 March 2015



HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 100 new suspected cases of measles were reported in Guinea in the week 9 to 15 March 2015, bringing the total number of suspected cases since 1 January 2015 to 491. 39 cases are confirmed.
- Suspected measles cases have been reported in 20 health districts. The number of suspected cases has surpassed the threshold at which an outbreak is declared in 15 health districts.
- There were no deaths resulting from measles reported this week. Since the start of the outbreak there have been three deaths.
- Gaoual has registered the highest number of suspected cases (151) with two deaths. Guéckédou has the second highest number of cases (54). No deaths have been recorded there.
- UNICEF, with the support of its partners, conducted a vaccination campaign in Gaoual and Koundara in February 2015, reaching 100,000 children between the ages of 6 months and 10 years (95 per cent of the targeted children).
- UNICEF took the lead in an immunization campaign in four villages hardest hit by measles in Lola prefecture, N'Zérékoré region.
- UNICEF, the Ministry of Health and partners are planning to extend the measles campaign to cover 13 health districts including Kankan where forty-six suspected cases of measles were reported.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

From 1 January to 18 March 2015

491 Suspected cases of measles

39 Total confirmed cases of measles

20 Health districts reporting suspected cases since 1 January 2015

15 Health districts that have passed outbreak threshold

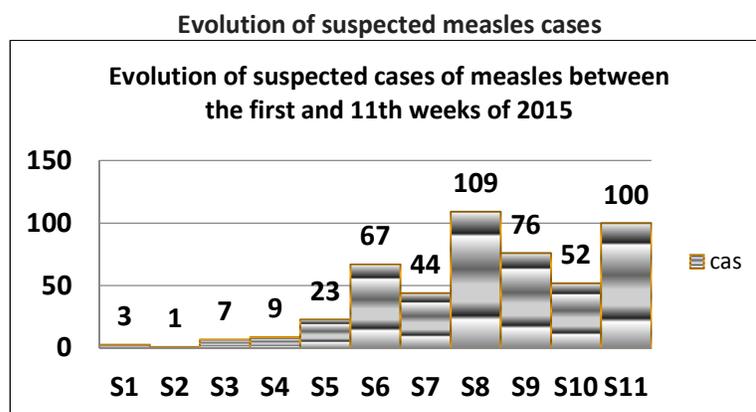
3 Deaths resulting from confirmed cases

100,000 Children vaccinated in Gaoual and Koundara in 10 days

1.7 million Children to be vaccinated in April and May 2015

Situation Overview

Routine vaccinations have been greatly affected by the Ebola outbreak and vaccination campaigns have not occurred in the second half of 2014 leaving children more vulnerable. UNICEF and partners have conducted sensitization activities to alleviate fears in areas where Ebola has led to community mistrust and hesitancy towards immunization.



Response

- UNICEF and the Ministry of Health completed two measles vaccination campaigns in Gaoual and in Koundara in February 2015. They are planning to extend the measles campaign to 13 other health districts: Dinguiraye, Kankan, Kouroussa, Siguiiri, Mandiana, Mali, Lola, Yomou, Téliimélé, Guéckédou, Beyla, Nzérékoré and Macenta. The campaign aims to immunize at least 1.7 million children (95 percent of the target) between the ages of six months and 10 years against measles.
- UNICEF and the Ministry of Health also intend to administer vitamin A to every child vaccinated.
- Throughout the campaign and after, the Government will also:
 - Conduct regular technical consultative meetings with partners including WHO and UNICEF;
 - Provide support for health facilities in affected areas that will treat measles patients;
 - Strengthen surveillance;
 - Deploy teams to investigate and monitor suspected cases
 - Inform the public about the dangers of measles and the importance of immunization, particularly where the Ebola outbreak has led to community mistrust and hesitancy towards immunization.
- Guinea is expecting 1,500,000 measles vaccines on 30 March 2015. The campaign will begin during the week of 30 March 2015.
- Guinea has also planned a nation-wide follow-up measles vaccination campaign for the third quarter of 2015 targeting children aged nine months to 59 months with financial support of the Measles and Rubella Initiative (M&RI).

Results

- A vaccination campaign was organized in February 2015 as part of the measles response in Gaoual and Koundara targeting children aged between six months and 10 years old. A total of 100,000 children have now been vaccinated.

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