Guinea is responding to a confirmed outbreak of measles in the Gaoual health district in Boké region. Gaoual is located 495km from Conakry and 160km from the border with Senegal (Diawambé).

The outbreak was confirmed on 5 February 2015 in a memo to the Minister of Health from the Director of the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention. On 6 February 2015, seven samples were taken from 56 individuals suspected of having measles in Gaoual and sent for testing at the Ebola laboratory in Donka. Of these seven, five proved positive for measles.

From Week One to Week Four of 2015, no health district in Guinea broke the threshold for a suspected outbreak of measles – that is to say the occurrence of five or more suspected cases of measles in one month per health facility or district.

The five samples that tested positive for measles came from the urban commune of Gaoual; two of the samples came from people who had been vaccinated.

Those in the 0-5 age group are most affected, accounting for 62 per cent of the cases. In the 6-10 age group, 35 per cent are affected.

Among the suspected cases, 70 per cent are women. The majority of cases are in Mandéki and Bendia in the urban district.
Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

- Of Guinea’s 38 prefectures, Gaoual (population 218,878) is one of five that has never had a case of Ebola. In November 2014, the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), with the support of UNICEF, WHO and Helen Keller International, organized a one-week immunization campaign in the area.

Response

- As soon as UNICEF learned of the outbreak, staff met with the national EPI management to come up with intervention strategies.
- A UNICEF team is already on the ground and is providing support to the health district.
- UNICEF has transferred USD 30,000 to the EPI and has also provided a stock of Vitamin A.
- The district health authorities, with the support of UNICEF, will start a new vaccination campaign on 19 February 2015 targeting 76,607 children between 6 and 10 years of age (100% target).
- In advance of the official launch, health authority officials have begun a widespread sensitization campaign on 13 February 2015. They initially approached 200 opinion leaders and social mobilizers and explained the benefits of vaccination. These individuals will in turn spread the message, reaching an intended target of 8,000 members of the local population.

With the support of UNICEF, the district health authorities are:

- Providing information to partners;
- Offering free health care to measles patients in district health facilities;
- Stepping up surveillance, including early case detection; recording and transmission of data; extension of surveillance at community level; analysis and interpretation of data and the systematic investigation of all cases in all health facilities; vaccination of the population around the infected people. So far, 129 children have been vaccinated following strong community sensitization;
- Testing for measles.

Funding Needs

<table>
<thead>
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<th>UNICEF Funding Needs for Measles Response in Gaoual</th>
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