



Doctor Mamadou Péthé Diallo, Minister of Health, vaccinating Amadou 14 months old boy, during the launch of the vaccination campaign in Siguiri, September 8th, 2023. (©UNICEF/UNI433643/Desjardins)

Guinea Country Office UNICEF's polio response

Situation Report No.1
September - October 2023

Highlights

- 11 cases (7 cases of acute flaccid paralysis, 3 contacts and 1 environmental surveillance case) of a variant type 2 poliovirus (cVDPV2) were recorded in Siguiri (Kankan region), while 2 cases of PV2 samples are being sequencing as of October 13, 2023, including a case in Conakry.
- In support of the Guinean government's efforts, and in close coordination with WHO and other partners, UNICEF is contributing actively to the national Polio response Plan. Some 683,168 children aged 0-59 months (117% of the 581,649 children) were vaccinated during the Round 0 of the campaign, targeting the health districts in the areas affected by the resurgence of cases. In addition, 3,180 children received catch up Penta 3 vaccination, a little more than the expected 3,125 (102%).
- Some 224,900 households (with 589,478 people effectively present during the visits) received timely information about the campaign and improved their understanding for the vaccination in the 5 targeted districts.

Situation Overview

In 2023, 11 cases of cVDPV2 (7 cases of acute flaccid paralysis, 3 contacts and 1 environmental surveillance case) were recorded in Siguiri (Kankan region), while 2 cases of PV2 samples are being sequencing as of October 13, 2023, including a case in Conakry.

The first suspected case of poliovirus, a 2-year-old child who suffered paralysis of the left leg, was notified by the Siguiri prefectural hospital on June 22, 2023.

The risk of poliovirus spreading within the country and to neighboring countries remains high. A genetic link was established with the virus detected in Algeria in July 2023, confirming the potential spreading inside Guinea and among the neighboring countries. Limited vaccination coverage and access to health facilities increase this risk.

Following the Round Zero in the targeted district, Round 1 of the vaccination campaign is scheduled for October 27th-30th, 2023, and Round 2 for November 2023, and will cover all 38 health districts of the country. Concerns over raising numbers of diphtheria and whooping cough cases justified the integration of the Penta vaccination in the campaigns.

UNICEF's Response

Health & Immunization

UNICEF supports the Guinean government's polio response plan in coordination with WHO and relevant partners. UNICEF Guinea contributes significantly to the immunization campaigns, supports routine immunization activities and health services, and is engaged in vaccination awareness raising and community mobilization. UNICEF procures the vaccines and provide logistical support to ensure vaccines reach all children, throughout the country. The National Plan objective is to end the circulation and transmission of cVDPV2 by the end of 2023.

Three rounds of vaccination were planned:

- Round 0, was run on September 8th to 11th, and covered all health centers in Siguiri, and the surrounding districts of Kankan, Dinguiraye, Kouroussa, Mandiana.
- Round 1 will be run, simultaneously with Mali and Cote d'Ivoire, October 27th-30th, 2023, and Round 2 in November 2023 (exact date to be confirmed) and will both cover all the 38 Health Districts of the country.

During the campaigns the Penta 3 vaccine is also administered. An additional vaccination campaign is planned for December 2023 and will include nutrition (vitamin A supplementation) and birth registration activities.

During Round 0, a total of 683,168 children aged 0-59 months were vaccinated (out of 581,649 initially estimated). Vaccination coverage resulted as follows: Siguiri (137%), Mandiana (120%), Kouroussa (117%), Kankan (98%), and Dinguiraye (94%). With a 117% coverage, it should be noted that i) targets were based on population projections, but the last census dates from 2014 and no campaign were conducted last year; ii) there is no formal verification of the age of the children during the vaccination, only a statement from the parents and some ad hoc measurement; and iii) the five districts are close to the border with Mali and mining areas which creates localized population fluctuations.

UNICEF, in coordination with WHO and partners, supported the government in the development of the National Response Plan and the operationalization of the supplementary vaccination activities, including coordination meetings and development of operational documents (such as vaccine distribution plan and communication products). In addition, with the Global Poliomyelitis Eradication Initiative (GPEI) support, UNICEF funded the operational costs for the communication and logistics components, procured the 775,000 doses of nOPV2 for Round 0, and participated to field supervision missions in the 5 health districts.

During the Round Zero campaign, some twenty UNICEF staff were deployed in the five health districts and supervised the activities to ensure that the 683,168 children received the doses of vaccines needed. For Round 1 and R2, UNICEF will have its staff deployed to 20 of the 38 Health Districts to supervise the vaccination of the targeted 3,133,136 children for 0 to 59 months.

Finally, UNICEF Guinea has called upon the Agency' surge mechanism to boost its technical and human resource capacity through the provision of five additional staff from other Country Offices in the region who are supporting the implementation of the Polio Response Plan.

Communications for Social Behavior Change (SBC)

UNICEF mobilized relevant players, secured communities' commitment to immunize children aged 0-59 months against polio and other diseases. Some 589,478 people (from 224,900 households) were directly contacted during the campaign (R0), around 60% of the projected target, and received timely information about the campaign and improved their knowledge on the need to get vaccinated against polio, as well as other diseases such as diphtheria, whooping cough and measles, in the 5 districts.

There were only 50 refusals notified, and 82% of which were lifted (41 cases) thanks to the community engagement activities. Direct dialogue through advocacy meetings with religious leaders, gold miners, and political and administrative authorities were key in keeping refusals low, and in getting children vaccinated even around mining areas. SBC activities aim at reducing the share of refusals below 5%, which was largely met for this round. Nevertheless, further reinforcement of the local committees managing the refusals in Kankan and Siguiri districts is planned to get the numbers as close to zero as possible during Round 1 and 2.

Partnerships

In addition, UNICEF developed a partnership with the Guinean Red Cross, which is deploying staff for vial management. They are in charge of monitoring, coordination, and supervision of the vaccine vials for the 3 rounds (round 0, round 1 and round 2) of the response campaign in all 38 health districts of the country. The Guinean Red Cross is involved in the preparation and implementation of logistical activities for the response to the cVDPV2 epidemic, to ensure permanent availability of vaccines, traceability, and recovery of all mOPV2 vials.

In the area of communication for social and behavioral change, the Guinean Red Cross will:

- Inform parents and care givers about the vaccination campaign (target population, dates etc.).
- Identify children inadequately vaccinated through routine immunization.
- Strengthen the capacities of front-line players (social mobilizers/criers, media, communication focal points, etc.), on messages dissemination, identification of non-vaccinated children, management of reluctance and rumors, and supervision of communication activities.
- Boost the commitment, support, and participation of women's and youth associations and movements' leaders, gold miners, political and administrative authorities, and the media in vaccination activities.

The partnership includes the provision of vehicles, communication tools and the expertise of the Guinean Red Cross in the conduct of response vaccination campaigns. They constitute real added value in achieving results.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

In support of the Guinean government's efforts to respond to the polio epidemic, UNICEF is actively participating in various national and regional coordination platforms, operating under the leadership of the Ministry of Health, alongside with WHO and partners, within the framework of the National Response Plan.

In order to ensure effective, coordinated and harmonized action to achieve rapid results, these platforms involve a wide range of players, including authorities at all level (Ministry of Health through the polio response unit, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization, the Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and Vulnerable People, the Ministry of Pre-University Education), WHO, UNICEF, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Center for Disease Control, Rotary International and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, media, civil society organizations, and the private sector, etc.

In addition, UNICEF has been supporting the decentralized coordination platforms, facilitating weekly meetings for the coordination and the implementation of the response plan, in coordination with WHO and partners, through its three field offices (Labe, Kankan, Nzerekore).

Funding requirements

UNICEF needs US\$ 4.5 M to scale-up its humanitarian response for five months (September -December 2023) as detailed in the response plan. The funding gap to date is 60%. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all donors notably the GIEP for their support. More than ever, UNICEF needs flexible and timely funding to respond where the needs are the greatest as the situation unfolds.

Budget USD	Funding \$	Funding Gap \$	Funding Gap %
4,515,209.00	1,799,468.00	2,715,741.00	60%

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Photos [UNICEF We share - Launch of Round 0 Siguiri](#) & [Flickr - Launch of Round 0 Siguiri](#)

Facebook

[Aujourd'hui Mariame, Amadou, Mohamed et Saran ont rencontré le ministre de la Santé pour recevoir leur dose de vaccin lors du lancement des campagnes nationales de vaccination contre la poliomyélite à Siguiri.](#)

Twitter

[Mariame rencontre le Ministre de la Santé pour sa vaccination contre la polio Siguiri.](#)

[Mariame, 2 months, meets the Minister of Health for her polio vaccination à Siguiri. Launch of national polio immunization campaigns. Guinean gover. & partners of Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which includes UNICEF, are working to eradicate polio.](#)

["Vacciner nos enfants aide à prévenir des futures maladies, impliquons-nous dans leur vaccination" Mohamed #EndPolioNow](#)

[Guinean government, UNICEF, WHO, IOM and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative partners are working to #EndPolio in Guinea. Coordination with artisanal gold-mining leaders to promote childhood immunizations #Siguiri](#)

[#polio epidemic is currently declared in Guinea Sekouba Bambino UNICEF Guinea Nat. Ambassador reminds us how important it's to #vaccinate children against polio.](#)

Instagram

[Today, Mariame, Amadou, Mohamed and Saran met with the Minister of Health to receive their dose of vaccine at the start of the national polio immunization campaign in Siguiri guinea.](#)

YouTube

[Lancement des journées nationales de vaccination contre la polio à Siguiri MHSP.](#)

Guinean press : [Mosaique Guinée - Siguiri : lancement de la campagne de vaccination contre la poliomyélite.](#)

Next SitRep: 30 October 2023

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Annex A: Summary of Programme Results

(Ministry of Health, September 2023)

Sector	UNICEF and IPs response			
	Indicator	Total needs	2023 target	Total Results Sept 2023
HEALTH				
Number of children 0-59 months vaccinated with NVPO2	581,649	581,649	683,168	▲
Number of zero-dose children vaccinated (Penta 3)	12,500	3,125	3180	▲
Percentage of zero-dose children vaccinated		25%	101%	
CROSS-SECTORAL (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)				
Number of people reached	1,000,000	1,000,000	589,478	▲
Number of refusals notified	/	/	50 (41 cases were lifted)	▲
Percentage of refusals lifted	100	100%	82%	▲