



 @ UNICEF Guinea/Aboubacar Sidiki Diallo

Epidemiological situation

(as of 18 March 2021)


14 confirmed cases

5 deaths

8 people recovered

1 region affected


 Situation Overview

- The Government of Guinea, through the Ministry of Health (MoH), declared on February 14 an epidemic of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in the municipality of N'zérékoré, sub-prefecture of Gouécké (45km north of N'zérékoré).
- As of March 18, 2021, 14 cases of Ebola were confirmed in Guinea, including 5 deaths, 8 recoveries, and 1 hospitalized the N'zérékoré Epidemiological Treatment Center (EPI-TC).
- 3,632 people have been inoculated since the official launch of vaccination on February 23, 2021. As a result, the Government has stepped up its efforts to contain the outbreak.
- The Head of State has extended the State of Health Emergency for an additional period of 3 months given the overlap between the recent EVD outbreak and the current COVID-19 situation in the country. All other control measures taken by the Guinean government remain in place until further notice, including the current curfew from 11 pm to 4 am. Concerts, fairs and other events leading to large gatherings have been cancelled.
- UNICEF in support to the Guinean government works closely with the Ministry of Health (MoH) through the National Health Security Agency (ANSS) on the country's response plan in a context of a double health crisis caused by both the COVID-19 and the Ebola epidemics.

UNICEF's Response

UNICEF is working alongside national and regional sectoral commissions to support coordination and promote synergies between the interventions. Emergency prevention and preparedness activities will be implemented in the neighbouring municipalities at risk.

In alignment with the national response plan from the National Health Security Agency (ANSS), UNICEF has developed its response strategy plan which focuses on the following areas, with national pillars these are contributing to in brackets:

- i. Support to coordination (Pillar 1);
- ii. Risk Communication and Community Engagement (CREC) (Pillar 2);
- iii. Psychosocial Support and Child Protection (Pillars 2, 7);
- iv. Integrated social science operational analyses under Integrated Analysis Unit (MSP-WHO and partners) (Pillar 3);
- v. Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), in health facilities and in the community (Pillar 6);
- vi. Medical and Nutritional care for patients and children orphaned and separated as a result of EVD (Pillar 7);
- vii. Meeting specific basic needs and continued access to basic social services (Pillar 9);
- viii. Cross-cutting issues;
- ix. Operations and response support.



Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)/Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH)

Promptly after the first cases of Ebola was detected in February 2021 in Gouécké, UNICEF supported the Government by setting up and building water systems and by running a regional coordination of WASH-IPC sub-pillar of the National Health Security Agency's response plan. UNICEF has also actively participated in the implementation of Regional Commission's operational tools and guidelines.

In collaboration with partners, UNICEF conducted rapid WASH-IPC needs assessments in 4 rural communities, 55 health facilities and 173 schools to facilitate the planning and execution of the interventions.

With regards to the access to drinking water, UNICEF has drilled two boreholes (including a mechanical borehole in Gbahaye sector and one manual borehole at the Banzou-Nord health post) and rehabilitated two other boreholes in central Gouécké, enabling 900 people to have access to safe drinking water.

The rehabilitation of the drinking water supply system at the health post of Banzou-Nord and at the epidemiological treatment centre will continue to contribute to the improvement of safe access to drinking water and therefore, by strengthening infection prevention and control measures.

UNICEF has also distributed 200 hygiene kits in 89 schools benefiting 36,364 students (including 13,159 girls); 95 hygiene kits in 15 health facilities and 1,528 hygiene kits were distributed to 1,528 contact and neighbouring households benefiting 7,840 people (including 4,234 women). 16 large 100-litre handwashing kits were distributed in public places (such as public administrations and places of worship) benefiting approximately 4,500 people in Gouécké, Womey, Kokota and in the urban commune of N'Zérékoré.



Health

UNICEF is directly contributing to the regional response plan development for the health component with the health district management team.

UNICEF supported the Regional Hospital by providing personal protective equipment consisting of the following: 60 pieces of household gloves, 6,000 pieces of examination gloves, 2,300 pieces of sterile gloves, 500 pieces of coveralls, 2,000 pieces of disposable gowns, 2,000 pieces of disposable aprons, 10 pieces of thermometers, 2,000 pieces of bibs, 500 face shields and 1 rubber of 45kg of hypochlorite. The delivery of the EPPs to 78 health structures in N'Zérékoré region is underway with the Central Pharmacy of Guinea and the National Health Security Agency.

For the children affected by the EVD, UNICEF has initiated discussions with the regional health authorities and CSOs to support the construction of a day-care centre near the EPI-TC in N'Zérékoré for the children infected with the Ebola Virus Disease. In collaboration with WHO, UNICEF facilitated the orientation of 12 health workers at the Regional Hospital of N'Zérékoré on the Ebola case definition and screening form management.

UNICEF is supporting 6 social mobilizers that have been already trained to integrate the immunization teams in contact tracing and community mobilization.



Nutrition

UNICEF supported the development of the response plan for the nutrition component of N'Zérékoré's health district. An identification of needs for specific drugs and nutritional inputs for continued provision of services in the Ebola context was conducted in collaboration with the Regional Health Department. In response to the need for inputs, UNICEF provided the EPI-TC in N'Zérékoré with nutrition supplements to ensure care of the first child admitted to EPI-TC. A shipment of nutritional inputs stored at the UNICEF warehouse in Conakry (ATPE-F100-F75-Resonal) is also underway.



Response to specific basic needs and continued access to basic social services, including Education

UNICEF provided 207 primary and 47 secondary schools in Gouécké, Soulouta, Kokota, and the urban commune of N'Zérékoré with handwashing kits (400), thermometers for regular temperature measurement of students (401), bottles of hydrogel (268) and 334 boxes of soap. To reinforce the information on preventive measures against Ebola in schools, 254 flyers with appropriate messages were distributed in schools.

To date, 2,843 students, including 1,121 girls, have been sensitized in schools in the N'Zérékoré region on the protocol to fight EVD, rapid referral of suspected cases, and acceptance of response teams in families. A series of orientation sessions for facilitation of sensitization sessions in schools is envisaged for over 600 members of the Parents' Association and Friends of School, 254 teachers (based on an official note on EVD issued by the Ministry of Education) and 1,481 teachers on psychosocial support approach.



Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Within the framework of Gender-based Violence (GBV) and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) risk mitigation, UNICEF supported the training of 20 actors of the Regional Inspectorate of Social Action, 30 internal staff and 12 partners from civil society organizations on PSEA and GBV management during emergencies and psychosocial care techniques.

An orientation session helped equip 18 social workers deployed with data collection and reporting tools. Furthermore, an implementation of an accessible channel to families also became available so reports can be made on cases related to sexual exploitation and abuse.



Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

UNICEF as the co-lead of the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) pillar with the communication department of the National Health Security Agency (ANSS) facilitated the development of a communication plan and strategy, including the mapping of the field actors involved in the response to the current EVD outbreak. This plan was informed by the lessons learned from the 2013-2016 epidemic in the N'zérékoré Region. UNICEF is also supporting the revision and harmonization of key messages of Ebola prevention campaign with all the relevant stakeholders.

For this reporting period and as part of the community engagement, the social mobilizers deployed in field made 930 household visits, reaching 6,859 people, including 4,035 women, in priority health areas of Samoé, Gouécké, Womey and the urban area of N'Zérékoré, in accordance to the "*health area*" approach. These social mobilizers led 24 discussion sessions with 72 people (including 22 girls/women) on ensuring non-stigmatization of affected children in Gouécké and in the commune of N'Zérékoré. They were supervised in their activities by 40 local supervisors.

UNICEF also supported the participation of 550 school children (including 186 girls) in a public education session on handwashing, rapid referral of alerts to health facilities and acceptance of response teams. 40 journalists from private and public press from digital and audio-visual media in N'Zérékoré region were equipped with crisis communication tools in response to the current EVD outbreak. They will continuously contribute to the dissemination of prevention messages for populations in the region.

To ensure that concerns and perceptions of communities are effectively considered in our interventions, UNICEF also supported the implementation of a digital platform to collect, analyse and to respond to the rumours. UNICEF has also initiated the supervision of the key actors working on those priority areas.

In N'Zérékoré, a specific working group has been set up within the communication sub-commission, and is in charge of reporting, collecting, analyzing and suggesting ways to address rumors collected on EVD and the overall outbreak response. The suggestions of appropriate messages to address the rumors are finalized in consultation with the members of this working group and endorsed by the communication sub-commission. Eventually, the working group identifies the most appropriate channel to spread the messages that have been designed to address the rumors identified



Psychosocial Support and Child Protection

UNICEF in collaboration with the Regional Inspectorate for Social Action and Children, has identified, trained and deployed 18 social workers (including two women) to provide psychosocial support to infected, affected and at-risk children and families in areas affected by the EVD (Gouécké, Womey, Kokota and the urban area of N'Zérékoré). These social workers, deployed in mobile teams in the health areas, reached 72 households by providing psychosocial support to 44 Ebola orphans (including 16 girls), 93 contact children (including 27 girls) and 198 affected children (including 112 girls).

Psychosocial care has been extended to patients admitted to EPI-TC and those discharged and cured from EVD. A database was developed for collection and analysis of information on different categories of children affected by the disease. 120 individual kits were assembled, 10 of which were given to 10 children including 4 girls (contacts and Ebola orphans) in the rural community of Samoe. This process will be extended to 50 children in urban communities including 25 girls; 50 children in Gouécké including 25 girls, and 10 children in Samoe including 5 girls.



Coordination

UNICEF co-leads, with WHO, the Ebola response under the ANSS leadership at national and regional levels in N'Zérékoré. Specifically, UNICEF co-leads in Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), IPC/WASH, Psychosocial Support and PSEA. UNICEF also actively engages in the coordination meetings of the various sectoral sub-commissions related to our programming commitments.



Adaptations to ongoing UNICEF programmes

With the official declaration of the Poliovirus outbreak in Guinea by the Ministry of Health on August 7, 2020, 4 new cases of the Poliovirus were notified on February 19, 2021 by the laboratory of the Pasteur Institute of Dakar in health districts of Kissidougou (1), Gueckedou, (1), Macenta (1) and Boké (1), bringing the total number of Polio cases notified throughout the country since 2020 to 43.

As part of the response to this epidemic, partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, including UNICEF, have mobilized to organize vaccination campaigns in two rounds of two batches in 18 Districts by the end of 2020 and in 20 Districts by 2021. The use of monovalent Type 2 vaccine (mVPO2) has been recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) covering a total target of 2,512,126 children aged 0-59 months for the entire country. The first two vaccination rounds in the 2 batches reached a total of 2,454,662 children aged 0-59 months.

In collaboration with SNAPE (the Guinean National Rural Water Agency), UNICEF is currently constructing 3 solar-powered water systems in the regions of Nzerekore and Labe. These water systems have been financed by UNICEF USA and will serve over 6,000 people in safe water.

For the nutrition component, UNICEF assessed the needs of country's health structures and developed a plan to replenish supplies of ready-to-use therapeutic foods and therapeutic milk for the care of acutely malnourished children.

UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education on a digitalization work that has been launched, benefiting from the expertise from Cambridge Education. It shall lead to an integrated and detailed roadmap aimed at digital learning, resource management and a robust statistical database. For the sector review, UNICEF participated in joint field missions and collected data on performance of the education system and monitored the management of subsidies granted to 40 convergence municipalities and school grants for 2,000 vulnerable children.



Funding Overview

UNICEF Guinea requires USD 10,937,000 to support Ebola prevention and control, continued access to essential, quality and inclusive social services, including the protection of children affected by the Ebola outbreak. The Country Office is in discussion with partners to secure additional funds through new allocations and thanks partners for flexible and timely funding to support an effective and efficient Ebola response in Guinea.



External Media

Press releases: 15 Feb 2021

[UNICEF reiterates its full support to the Government to respond to the outbreak](#)

TV interviews: 17 Feb 2021

CNBC 11h GMT : <https://www.cnbcfrica.com/media/6232939951001/unicef-gives-update-on-new-ebola-outbreak-in-guinea/>

Articles:

17 Feb “The Telegraph”

Health agencies join forces in bid to establish scale of Guinea’s Ebola outbreak :

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/science-and-disease/health-agencies-join-forces-bid-establish-scale-guineas-ebola/>

15 Feb “The Telegraph”

Health authorities scramble to halt new Ebola outbreak as west Africa braces for new the epidemic :

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/science-and-disease/health-authorities-scramble-halt-new-ebola-outbreak-west-africa/>

Ongoing messages on social networks ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)):

[Capacity building workshop for 40 #media professionals with the support of @UNICEF](#)

[Arrival in #Conakry of personal protective equipment for the safety of health workers](#)

Videos:

[Video on UNICEF support for the Ebola campaign vaccination](#)

[Video on Hygiene Kit](#)

[Video on the realization of a borehole drilling in Gouéké,](#)

[Video on social workers training](#)

Photo Albums:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/unicefguinea/albums/72157718517313193>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/unicefguinea/albums/72157718552810711>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/unicefguinea/albums/72157718553304648>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/unicefguinea/albums/72157718549417066>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/unicefguinea/albums/72157718545256526>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/unicefguinea/albums/72157718526458081>

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