Situation Overview

- As of April 13, 2021, 16 cases of Ebola were confirmed in Guinea, including 5 confirmed deaths and 9 recoveries.

- 6,505 people have been inoculated (including 2,369 frontline staff) since the official launch of the vaccination on February 23, 2021.

- 69 people (including 38 women) were reached by home visits carried out by the social workers supported by UNICEF, as part of the sensitization of families on the importance of non-stigma, gender-based violence (GBV), preventive measures against EVD and psychosocial support.

- During the reporting period, UNICEF coordinated a refresher training session for 235 teachers (including 135 women) on how to support unaccompanied children during the Ebola outbreak.

- The funding gap for the response is currently at 83%.
UNICEF Response

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

Following the confirmation of one positive case in Kpagalaye, UNICEF continued the distribution of hygiene kits in the communities, including in schools and health facilities. UNICEF’s support included:

● Distribution of 137 kits for 137 households and in 35 public places (including hairdressing salons and markets) in Kpagalaye and in Gonia.

● Distribution of 27 kits in two schools in the urban commune of N’zérékoré (Gonia and Zédéla Tokpa primary schools).

● Provision of two hygiene kits to Gouécké and Soulouta’s health facilities.

UNICEF is continuously working on the construction and rehabilitation of health facilities in support of the IPC - WASH components of the Ebola response in communities, schools and health centres. UNICEF’s support on this front included the identification of 179 potential ecological clubs for the promotion of hygiene in schools, and the ongoing construction of:

● 10 blocks of latrines in 10 different health facilities in the N’zérékoré region.

● One incinerator at the Mohomou health centre.

● 17 blocks of public latrines in various communities.

● 11 latrine blocks in 11 schools.

Health

● UNICEF supported the finalization of the PPEs’ distribution plan for the health facilities under the Municipal Directorate of Health in N’zérékoré (DPS).

● UNICEF supported the reception and storage of PPEs at the WFP warehouse.

● In collaboration with partners and local authorities, UNICEF conducted assessments at the 6 health centres in the urban municipality of N’Zérékoré on the distribution of hand-washing kits.

● On the continuity of health services front, UNICEF conducted supervision missions to the Gonia health centre, while supporting the vaccination teams in N’Zérékoré.

● Following a request from the Regional Directorate of Health (DRS), UNICEF finalized the procurement of essential medicines.
Nutrition

- UNICEF supported the training of 14 health workers, including 7 heads of health centres and 7 nutrition focal points, on the new national protocol on Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) management.

- 70 members of women’s groups and 70 community relays were trained on Essential Family Practices (EFPs) and on Young Child Feeding (YCF) practices in emergency contexts.

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

UNICEF coordinated a refresher training session for 235 teachers (including 135 women) on how to support unaccompanied children during the Ebola outbreak. The training covered the following areas:

- Surveillance and protocols to be followed for the fight against EVD in schools, including the admission of students, teachers, supervisors and collaborators.

- Key equipment to be used for the prevention of Ebola transmission in schools, including best hygiene practices.

- Orientation and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for suspected cases of Ebola in schools, including direct support to children and non-stigmatization of such cases.

- UNICEF also supported the construction of 67 school isolation booths in 67 different schools (6 secondary and 61 primary schools) under the School Delegation for Elementary Education (DSEE) of Womey, Gouécké, Soulouta, N’zérékoré, Kokota and Lola. The isolation booths serve as shelters for anyone with body temperature that is equal or greater than 38°C while waiting for further investigation.

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

- During the reporting period, 312 people (including 131 female staff) directly involved in the Ebola response were trained on PSEA. The training sessions were facilitated by UNICEF, with support from WHO.

- UNICEF has also coordinated two planning sections for the PSEA Task Force of the United Nations System on the training of partners; the Task Force has validated its terms of reference and deliberated on inter-agency and community level reporting mechanisms.

- Each partner has appointed a PSEA focal point and a deputy. They benefited from an in-depth orientation on the PSEA activities to be carried out within their respective organizations and on the key messages to be shared with the targeted populations.
Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

The major event in Risk Communication – and specially with regards to Community Engagement for this reporting period, was the increased reluctance that emerged in the village of Kpagalaye following the confirmation of the recent Ebola cases in the region.

Faced with this reluctance, UNICEF supported the following actions in the village of Kpagalaye and in the sub-prefecture of Soulouta:

- Reactivation of the community platform “One Health”, followed by community dialogue sessions and group discussions with residents and notables citizens of the districts of Soulouta, the community leaders and the Zowo women (traditional excision practitioners) with an approach to dissipating the reluctance in Kpagalaye.

- Dignified local funeral rites and sacrifices that respect the traditional ways and customs of the region in relation to the deaths that have occurred in the community of Kpagalaye.

- Execution of a workshop aimed at tailoring the messages that were being spread, and based on community feedback, UNICEF has also worked with partner radio stations on the conveyance of EVD preventive messages.

- Continued promotion of preventive measures against the EVD in households in the urban commune of N’zérékoré and the rural commune of Samoé by the 345 Social Mobilizers deployed since the start of the outbreak.

Psychosocial Support and Child Protection

- In collaboration with the Regional Inspectorate of Social Action and Childhood of N’Zérékoré and the social workers, UNICEF continued the ongoing psychosocial support activities to 61 children (including 32 orphan girls), direct contacts and contact families in 16 different households in Gouécéké and Samoé.

- As part of the follow-up and support to those who have recovered from Ebola, UNICEF and partners provided assistance in food, clothing and school support to 5 orphan children from two families in Gouécéké, and educational support to one orphan in the urban commune of N’Zérékoré.

- 69 people (including 38 women) in 23 households were reached during the period of this report by home visits carried out by the social workers, as part of the sensitization of families on the importance of non-stigma, gender-based violence (GBV), preventive measures against EVD and psychosocial support.

- UNICEF has regularly participated in the daily meetings of the sub-committee at the regional hospital.
Coordination

- Under the ANSS leadership, UNICEF co-leads the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), IPC/WASH, the Psychosocial Support, and the PSEA pillars of the Ebola response.

- UNICEF regularly participates in the coordination meetings of the various sectoral sub-commissions of the different response plan pillars at national and regional levels in N’Zérékoré and Conakry.

Funding Overview

- UNICEF Guinea requires USD 10,937,000 to support the Ebola prevention and control, and 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.

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