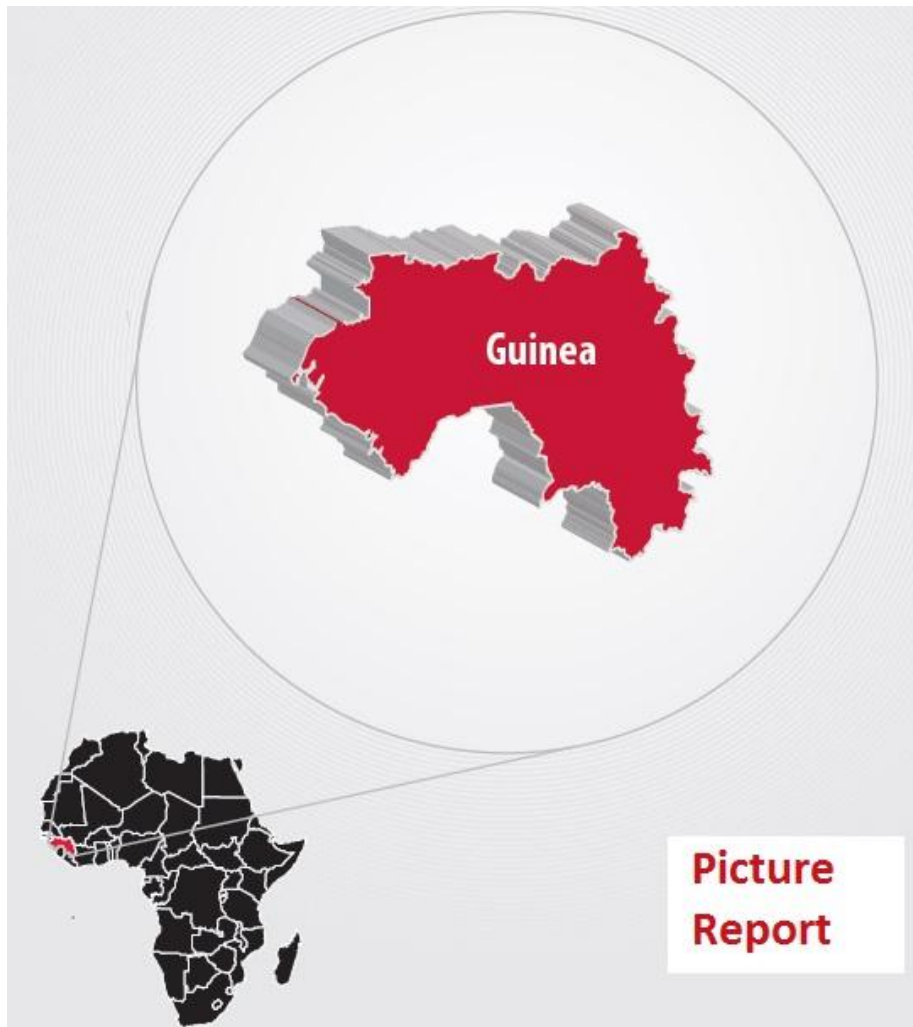Ebola Response in Guinea: Community Based Interventions

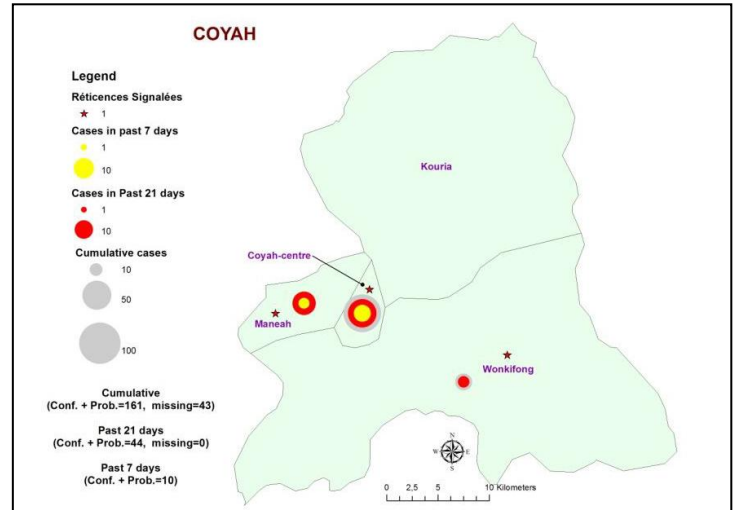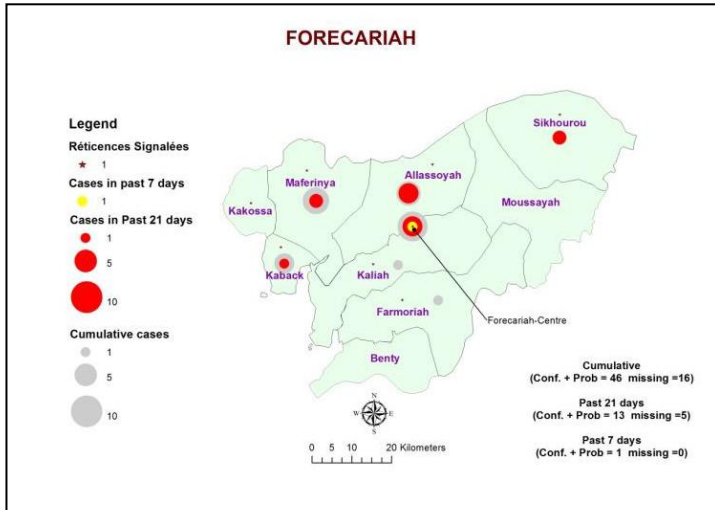December 2014 – May 2015

Amref Health Africa

Picture Report

Implementation area

Guinea, Conakry, divisions of Forecariah and Coyah.

Results

- 160 trained volunteers conducted 2877 home visits
- 1000 hygiene kits were distributed to affected families
- 24 community talks held
- 23,084 people reached

The disease spread was halted in Coya division and significantly reduced in Forecariah.

Community engagement

Community engagement is crucial to control pandemic threats (e.g. Ebola): contact tracing, early reporting, adherence to protective measures and safe burials depend on a cooperative, informed and trustful community.

Coordination

Coordination at the highest possible level is key: **Ebola has no national or administrative borders.**

Case story

Meet Salématou

My name is Salématou Soumah, I live in the district of Tougandé Morfiang, Forécariah Division (sub-division Maferinyah). I am a housewife, 50 years of age, and a widow. I am a proud member of the Women's group of small scale farmers.

During the time of the outbreak, I was taking care of the bodies of women dying in my village. Even though I knew that I had to report all deaths to the local authorities, I had no further information about Ebola. Actually, I doubted its existence.

Amref Health Africa organized a training on Ebola. It was only then when I realized the high level of risk I was taking working the way I did in the mortuary with the bodies of the diseased. That was the key trigger for me to change my behavior. I changed for the sake of me, my family, and my community at large. I do what I have to do, while still looking out for the patients and victims of Ebola. But now I wash my hands with soap, I protect myself better, and I refer patients to the formal health centers. Whenever I get the opportunity, I tell others about Ebola, the threat is poses, and how as a community we can and should protect ourselves.

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