

THE ROLE OF THE FRONT LINE HEALTH WORKERS

BY

DR. RONALD CARSHON-MARSH

EVD HISTORY IN KONO

- In Kono district, our first confirmed EVD case was on the 30th/7/2014. A lady who attended the funeral of one of her relatives in Kenema.
- **Cumulative no. of Kono confirmed EVD cases = 301**
- **Total no. of Kono EVD confirmed deaths = 207**
- **Cummulative no. of Kono EVD survivors = 94**

THE EARLY DAYS

- The DHMT and Koidu gov. hospital was not fully equipped to combat a full scale outbreak.
- No emergency funds set aside
- We had little knowledge and no experience in managing EVD outbreak
- Little stock of personal protective equipment and no standardized training on Infection Prevention and Control
- Only one functional ambulance, 3 bikes for district surveillance officers.

THE EARLY DAYS

- No infrastructural unit as the Emergency Operations Centre
- No Ebola Treatment centre (ETC) & Community Care Centre (CCC)
- No Lab for diagnosing EVD
- Inadequate number of trained health staff to run the ETC and holding unit, inadequate number of surveillance officers, contact tracers, social mobilisers etc



Ongoing outbreak

- In-patient admissions dropped drastically, part of the hospital used as holding/treatment unit
- Hospital staff were trained in IPC (supported by WHO, CDC, ICRC & IRC)
- 10 staff were infected in Kono district, 7 died
- Funds originally requested was not available so little resources used to support social mob, surveillance, Quarantine etc
- Hazard pay/incentive was irregular to frontline health workers.

At the height of the outbreak

- The community lacked confidence in the health workers, they said that they contracted EVD from health workers.
- They revolted against healthcare workers, attacked the hospital multiple times and wanted to kill the doctors.
- Doctors, nurses and other key health staff went into hiding for the whole day whilst the security forces stabilized the situation.

At the height of the outbreak

- The District Ebola Response Centre (DERC) was formed from NERC.
- DERC was the 'muscle' as they coordinated all the emergency activities, gave full logistical support and had the political will/influence.
- The DERC coordinator was the head of paramount chiefs in Kono so the community appreciated him.
- The DHMT was the 'brain' in the emergency operations.

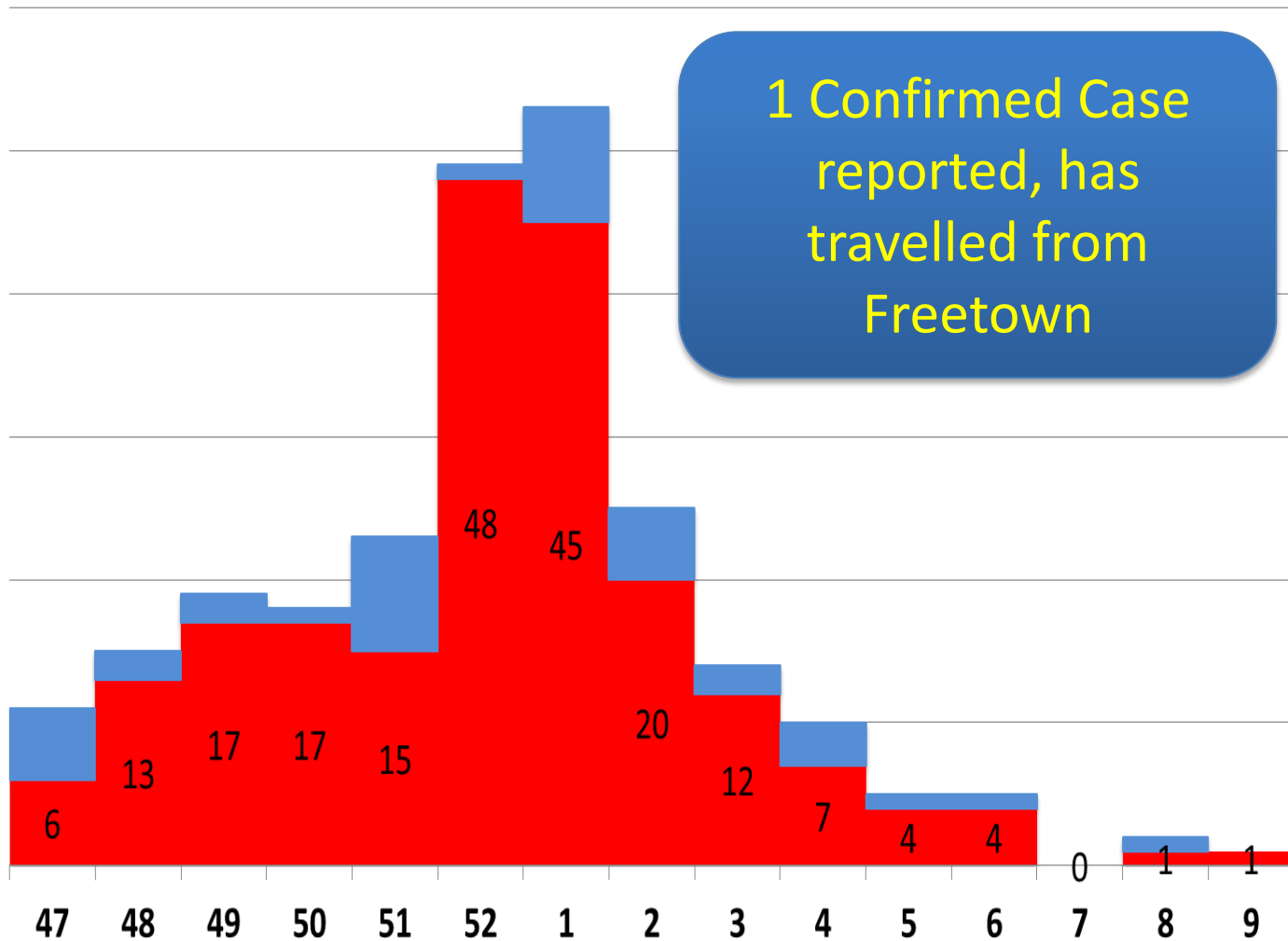
At the height of the outbreak

- After intense com. Engagement with social mobilisers, the community fully cooperated.
- Community surveillance and mobilisation was ongoing. Bye-laws were in effect.
- WHO, CDC, PIH, ICRC, IRC and other partners were fully supportive.
- ETC, 4 CCCs and Lab were installed.
- Through concerted and coordinated efforts of all especially the community, the outbreak fight was won.

Confirmed EVD Cases

Epi Week 47(2014) to Epi Week 9(2015).

■ Blood Positive ■ Swab Positive



Epi Week is from Monday 0:00 Hours to Sunday 24:00

CROSS SECTION OF KONO STAKEHOLDERS TO ENFORCE THE BYE- LAWS.

