



Ministry of Health

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE PREPAREDNESS IN UGANDA

23rd October 2018 (12:00 HRS) – UPDATE No 38

a) SITUATION UPDATE FROM DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO FOR 22nd OCTOBER 2018, WITH DATA UP TO 21st OCTOBER 2018

- Cumulative cases: 237
- Confirmed cases : 202
- Probable : 35
- Total deaths : 153
- Suspect Cases under investigation : 33
- Areas affected : Two provinces
 - North Kivu - Mabalako; Butembo; Ocha; Musienene; Beni and Bingo
 - Ituri- Mambasa, Mandina, Tchomia
- Health and front line workers vaccinated
- Security concerns limiting contact tracing.

b) EVD SITUATIONAL UPDATE IN UGANDA

- **There is NO confirmed EVD case in Uganda**
- Active case search continues in all communities, health facilities and on formal and informal border crossing in all districts especially in the high risk ones.
- Alert cases continue to be picked, isolated, treated and blood samples picked for testing by the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI). The alerts are highlighted in the specific district reports below under Surveillance section.



c) PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD AND NATIONAL (PROGRESS AND GAPS)

COORDINATION

- The Independent Oversight & Advisory Committee for WHO Health Emergencies Program concluded a visit to the high-risk districts in which they assessed the status of WHO's and partner support to Ebola preparedness. The committee met the Minister of Health, ambassadors, high commissioners and UN representatives in Uganda and debriefed them on their findings. Overall, the committee was satisfied with the level of EVD readiness and preparedness they found in the country.

SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES

Hoima and Kikuube Districts

- No EVD alert or suspected cases reported in both Hoima and Kikuube districts as at 18:00 hours Sunday 21st October 2018. Point of Entry (PoE) EVD screening continues to take place at Sebagoro, Nsonga and Kaiso ports with a total of 18 new arrivals screened as at 18:00 hours on Sunday 21st October 2018.

Bundibugyo District

- No new alerts from communities, health facilities and at PoEs.

Kasese District

- The DHT with support from WHO visited Mpondwe Border post where they found temperature screening going on well.
- The WHO Surveillance Officer and DHO visited the community of Kanamba in Busongora West and oriented Village Health Teams (VHTs) and community members on EVD preparedness and readiness. They were also sensitized on EVD Community Case definition, prevention and control.
- The VHTs were reminded to report any EVD suspected cases to the nearest health facility and on actions to take in case they come across any alert cases. They were also urged to promptly report any inexplicable death that occur in their communities to health workers.

Ntoroko District

- No alerts reported over the weekend.



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- The WHO team, Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) and DHT conducted an orientation meeting for 15 administrative officers of three Kingdoms in Karugutu town council. They were briefed about the EVD situation in DRC and given information on the mode of transmission, signs and symptoms, prevention and the community case definition for alerts. They were asked to be vigilant in their communities and to report any case that meet the community ase definition to the nearest health facility or to the district surveillance team.
- WHO and DHT conducted supportive supervision at Fridge landing site where the volunteers were reminded about EVD infection prevention and urged to be continuously vigilant about reporting alert cases.

CASE MANAGEMENT AND IPC

Hoima and Kikuube Districts

- The ETU at Kasonga is now ready to admit patients. However, it requires electrical installation, additional tents for psychosocial support and laundry areas and ambulance decontamination area. UNHCR has been requested to provide security and materials (Marram for ambulance decontamination area, plastic sheets for psychosocial and laundry tents) as well as the electrical installations.

Bundibugyo

- The two patients admitted at the Bundibubyo ETU were discharged after their negative results were received from UVRI. They were given their last doses of antibiotic treatment. The District Rapid Response and case management team still has logistical challenges related to allowences. Discssions were held with Baylor Uganda that has promised to explore ways to address the problem.

Kasese District

- The DHT with WHO visited Bwera ETU which was found to be ready for any cases. There were no alert cases at the ETU and the hospital medical waste management has improved tremendously. The Infection Prevention and Control training budget for Kasesewas was developed and shared with the WHO Incident Manager.

Bunyangabu District

- The burial team from Kabarole successfully carried out Safe and Dignified Burial of the alert case



that died suddenly.

Ntoroko District

- No alert cases indentified over the weekend.
- The fence at Rwebisengo ETU was damaged by a heavy storm on Saturday. The WHO team assessed the damage and planned for adjustments to improve the patient and staff flow within the ETU. IPC for staff and patient protection within the isolation tent were also addressed. There was quantification of IPC material for Ntoroko health Centre III and Stella Maris health center III.
- Orientation on Infant Young Child Feeding recommendations in Ebola for health workers at all the four ETU's planned to take place week of 28 October.
- Jointly with WFP, capacity building on Infant Young Child Feeding has been planned for all Nutritionists in the very high-risk Ebola districts. This will take place in the first week of November.

VACCINATION

- The Uganda National Council of Science and Technology (UNCST) will meet the Principal Investigator and team on Thursady this week to review and take action on the vaccination protocol for compassionate use and related documents that were submitted last week.

RISK COMMUNICATION/SOCIAL MOBILIZATION

- RCSM committee oversaw the planning and implementation of a rapid Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) supported by UNICEF through URCS. Data collection for KAP study was completed during the week of October 1 in Kisoro, Kanungu, Kasese, Kabarole/Bunyangabo, Ntoroko, and Bundibugyo covering a sample size of over 2,000 people. Data analysis is ongoing with technical support from UNICEF and the draft report is expected by Friday 26 October. This will be used to inform evidence-based strategies to address gaps in knowledge, attitudes & practices.
- UNICEF provided technical support to RCSM committee to develop ToR for anthropologists to assess contextual factors associated with burials and care seeking. This assessment will provide important insights into the design of strategies to addressed the often observed community resistance to safe burials and avoidance of care-seeking/isolation in health facilities.
- UNICEF continue of support the airing of radio spots on EVD signs and symptoms, transmission and



prevention across 22 districts at risk

- During the week of October 15-19, 106 Ebola-related messages, questions and comments were received through the U-Report platform supported by UNICEF. This included 4 alerts (Arua-1, Mubende-1, Zombo (St. Aloysius College Napea) – 1 suspected case and 1 report of a death). The alerts were directed to URCS for verification and onward sharing with MoH.
- UNICEF supports the URCS to respond to questions and reports via the dashboard. Questions for the week of October 8 -14 focused on Whether Ebola is sexually transmitted, How to handle the body of a person who has died from Ebola and how long one should wait before burying that body, Signs and symptoms of EVD, Prevention, Questions on which areas are affected and the status of the outbreak in Uganda, Questions on what the government is doing to prevent the spread of Ebola, Availability of an Ebola vaccine and cure in Uganda.
- UNICEF supported the development of a draft EVD prevention in schools package for managers/teachers and students. The draft package is undergoing final stages of production. After which copies shall be disseminated through URCS to the various District Education Offices, primary, secondary, Principal Teachers Colleges and post tertiary institutions.
- UNICEF is supporting the procurement of 13,508 radio spots for the coming four months and conducting of 35 radio talk shows on EVD signs and symptoms, transmission and prevention across 22 high-risk districts along the border, including ten very high risk districts. UNICEF will continue to monitor the media including radio broadcast activities and social media. As of 18 September, 3,279 radio spots and 49 mentions in 7 radio stations in Kampala and 6,579 radio spots in 15 radio stations in districts.
- UNICEF finalised review for the district risk communication budgets and funds are expected in the districts this week.
- All DHT are distributing IEC materials with support from WHO, URCS and UNICEF
- VHTs and URCS volunteers continue to implement community engagement activities in the various districts.

As of 22 October, UNICEF in partnership with the Uganda Red Cross Society has cumulatively reached:

Kabarole

Community meetings:



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- New: 7 subcounties targeted, 22,521 people reached.

House to house risk communication:

- New: 7 subcounties targeted, 7,226 people reached

Bunyangabu

Community meetings:

- New: 4 subcounties targeted, 7,904 people reached.

House to house risk communication:

- New: 4 subcounties targeted, 3,873 people reached

Bundibugyo

Community meetings:

- New: 12 subcounties targeted, 3,992 people reached.

House to house risk communication:

- New: 12 subcounties targeted, 5,157 people reached

Ntoroko

Community meetings:

- New: 10 subcounties targeted, 842 people reached.

House to house risk communication:

- New: 10 subcounties targeted, 1,082 people reached

Kasese

Community meetings:

- New: 4 subcounties targeted, 7,361 people reached.

House to house risk communication:

- New: 4 subcounties targeted, 5,198 people reached

Kanungu

Community meetings:



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- New: 5 subcounties targeted, 4,969 people reached.

House to house risk communication:

- New: 5 subcounties targeted, 3,434 people reached

Kisoro

Community meetings:

- New: 5 subcounties targeted, 10,237 people reached.

House to house risk communication

- New: 5 subcounties targeted, 48,201 people reached

PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

- UNICEF in partnership with the Uganda Red Cross Society supported the development of a psychosocial support (PSS) training curriculum.
- As of October 22, UNICEF-supported PSS training activities through URCS resulted in having oriented 180 volunteers in 6 districts (30 volunteers in each): Kisoro, Kanungu, Kabarole/Bunayngabu, Ntoroko, Bundibugyo, Kasese. Five volunteers per district are chosen to ensure family members of persons isolated are identified and receiving individual support based on needs.

CROSS BORDER ACTIVITIES

Bundibugyo District

- No EVD alerts identified at the border points in the district. The WHO team collected the weekly data at the border point of the people screened for further analysis. The team provided 10 liters of Jik, 2 bars of soap and 1 box of disposable Gloves to health workers manning the border point. However, the health workers complained about lack of allowances since they started working. Uganda Red Cross Society will be contacted on this matter.



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- 79 screened in Matanda (Bundibugyo district) with 8 from Ebola hot spots and are being monitored for Ebola signs and symptoms

Kasese District

- No alerts from the all border points at the weekend. At Mpondwe border post, temperature screening was going on well and the team is waiting for construction of the container to house the thermo scanner provided by the World Food Programme (WFP).

Kikuube district/Kyangwali refugee settlement

- A total of 568 individuals were screened during the week as shown below. No alerts or contacts were detected.
- Health coordination meetings were conducted in the settlement chaired by the district and settlement level task force was constituted co-chaired by UNHCR public health officer
- Ebola treatment units are being modified with support from UNHCR and technical support from MSF. MSF is supporting in designing the standard layout of a proposed new ETU for Kikuube district with support of UNHCR engineers.
- Nsonga was able to screen 139 individuals of which 40 of these were from Tchomia.
- Sebigoro today screened 429 individuals screened in the week
- Monitoring of new arrivals from Tchomia (hot spot in DRC) at the reception centre is ongoing and no alerts so far.

Kisoro/Ntoroko districts

- 492 medically screened for Ebola at Nyakabande transit center (Kisoro district) in the last one week with no one from the Ebola hot spot
- 58 refugees screened at the point of entry of Ntoroko district and 40 Ebola hot spots continue to be monitored at the transit center for temperatures

Kyegegwa district/Kyaka II refugee settlement

- In Kyegegwa district (Kyaka II refugee settlement), 9 suspects and 2 community alerts investigated at UVRI so far. Results for 11 have returned negative for EVD. 1 of the samples was positive for RVF, the patient is recovering well.



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- 120 VHTs were trained on community based diseases surveillance and behaviour change communications with support from UNHCR and ICCM training will follow up on their training agenda
- Kyegegwa district (Kyaka II refugee settlement) also had 9 other community alerts which did not meet our case definition and hence did not require further investigation at UVRI. All of these have been given alternate treatment and are well.
- A total of 98 people from North Kivu which is one of the Ebola hot spots are monitored for up to 21 days and those who completed the 21 days are have been discharged but none of them have shown signs of EVD in Kyegegwa district (Kyaka II refugee settlement).
- VHTs and RWC1 chairpersons and secretaries for defence are the current surveillance teams on ground in Kyegegwa district and they report any event of our interest (symptoms and travel history) to UNHCR immediately it is identified. 182 VHTs, 26 RWC Chairpersons and 26 secretaries for defence.
- 24 radio talk shows on Britop Radio and Kyegegwa Community Radio on EVD awareness have so far taken place in Kyegegwa district supported by UNHCR

LOGISTICS

Bundibugyo District

- WHO coordinated transportation of blood sample from alert cases to UVRI in Entebbe that had been mistakenly left behind on 18th Oct 2018.
- Due to the planning meeting in Fortportal, the focus of UNICEF field level support during the week was on effective use of supplies by carrying out end user monitoring of WASH supplies in Kikuube District (29 HFs) and Kanungu District (27 HFs).

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