



EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE PREPAREDNESS UPDATE IN UGANDA AS OF 3RD AUGUST 2018(12:00 HRS)

Situation Update

On 1 August 2018, an official statement of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) epidemic in North Kivu Province was shared by the Democratic Republic of the Congo Minister of Health. Initial laboratory investigations at Institute National de Recherche Biomédicale (INRB) in Kinshasa indicate that four of six samples are positive for Ebola virus. Further testing is ongoing to identify the virus strain. Nine case patients are hospitalized in Beni territory, North Kivu province. Since the beginning of the epidemic, 26 cases have been reported including 4 confirmed and 20 community deaths among which 19 are reported in the Mangina Health Zone and one in the Bingo Health Zone between epidemiologic week 19 and 30 (week ending on 29 July 2018).

The index case dates back to 11 May 2018. This is a 30 year old male from Masimbembe village, in the Mangina health area, about 30 km southwest of Beni. It is a farmer whose field is on the other side of the village, in the province of Ituri where this morbid phenomenon would have started well before. Four health areas out of 13 in the health zone reported cases of haemorrhagic fever: Mangina, Mangodomu, Linzo and Bingo.

The province of North Kivu is among the most populated provinces of DR Congo with over eight million inhabitants and it is located at the border with Uganda and Rwanda.

This outbreak occurs in a complex epidemiological and humanitarian context. The country is experiencing several outbreaks including cholera, measles and Monkey pox. The prolonged humanitarian crisis and the deterioration of the security situation in North Kivu could hinder the response to the outbreak. In addition, the country is experiencing a long term economic and political crisis.

EVD Preparedness in Uganda

There is no reported EVD case in Uganda. However, given the closeness of the current outbreak to the border and the dynamic population movement, the country is on high alert and the following measures are in place:

- The WHO Country office has two complete Viral Hemorrhagic Fever Personal Protective Equipment kits. One of these is being deployed to Kasese today. An additional 04 are expected in-country today.
- 68 infra-red thermometers are available for temperature screening. 19 have already been dispatched to the high risk districts with the WCO team yesterday.
- Two WHO staff for coordination and surveillance are already deployed since yesterday to do assessment and support coordination and surveillance.



- Five international surveillance officers from the STOP are being deployed to five districts to support surveillance
- Each of the nine regional hospitals – Masaka, Mubende, Kabale, Hoima, Fort Portal, Arua, Adjumani and Gulu has 1 VHF 500 module kit which were prepositioned earlier.
- Ministry of health has alerted all District Health Officers about the risk of Ebola outbreak in the country following the new confirmation in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Three (3) Rapid Response Teams are due for deployment today 3 August 2018. WHO is supporting the deployment of these teams
- EVD screening has been intensified at Entebbe Airport for passengers arriving from DRC
- 46 health workers at the National isolation facility in Entebbe have been refreshed on EVD case management
- 55 National Rapid Response Team members have been mobilized and refreshed on comprehensive EVD case management
- 32 National Rapid Response Team members have been mobilized and trained on EVD risk communication and community engagement
- A Mobile VHF Isolation facility has been prepositioned in Kampala
- The National Task Force has conducted one meeting to discuss the DRC outbreak and to take stock of the preparedness efforts.
- The Ministry of Health is currently assessing its preparedness level using the WHO EVD readiness checklist
- UNHCR has intensified screening for all refugees at the collection centers on the border with the DRC
- The process to update the 2014 EVD preparedness response plan is complete. The validated plan will be shared soon.
- The UN has also stepped up its screening of personnel from DRC with strict requirements of pre-departure briefing and monitoring on return.

For more information, please contact:

Dr Yonas Tegegn Woldemarian, WHO Representative- tegegny@who.int

Dr Miriam Nanyunja, Disease Prevention and Control officer - nanyunja@who.int

Mr Benjamin Sensasi, Communication officer - Sensasib@who.int