



## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE PREPAREDNESS IN UGANDA**

**7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2018 (12:00 HRS)**

### **Situation Update from Democratic Republic of Congo as on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

- Cumulative cases are: 43
- Confirmed cases : 16
- Probable : 27
- Total deaths : 34
- Areas affected : Two provinces
  - North Kivu - Mabalako; Butembo; Ocha; Musienene; Beni and Bingo
  - Ituri- Mambasa, Mandina

*Note : There is no suspected or confirmed case in Uganda*

### **EVD Preparedness in Uganda**

#### ***i) Coordination***

- The Kasese District Task Force (DTF) convened a meeting chaired by the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) in which members were oriented on the functionality and operations of the sub committees, their roles and the communication process in case of an outbreak. A contact list of the task team members was developed to ease communication and facilitate coordination.
- The preparedness/response plan was refined identifying activities that should be done in the preparedness phase.
- The Bundibugyo DTF completed the rapid assessment of the district's readiness and shared the report with the MoH. In addition, a work plan and budget to address the gaps was formulated and shared.
- The Ntoroko DTF was reactivated chaired by the District Health Officer. All the response pillar were constituted and the members taken through the readiness checklist. Each subcommittee was tasked to complete their section and a work plan and budget were developed.
- The MoH and WHO team supported Bunyagabu District to form a DTF with its sub-committees. The DTF then completed the readiness checklist, and developed a preparedness work plan and budget.



### ***ii) Laboratory investigations/Surveillance***

- The Kasese district Surveillance Team developed an alert message that was communicated to 1032 health facilities through mTRAC. The message was intended to raise awareness about case detection, universal protection precautions and reporting EVD suspected cases.
- The team also visited two health facilities to assess the readiness of the surveillance system to detect suspected cases. The EVD Case definition and case investigation forms will be distributed to all health facilities this week to facilitate this work.

### ***iii) Risk Communication***

- UNICEF, in consultation with Health Promotion and Education Unit of MoH, supported the updating and translation of the Ebola IEC materials (posters and leaflets) into 12 languages. In addition, radio spots have been developed with MoH and will be airing for three months in 12 languages on 21 radio stations in priority districts.
- UNICEF is providing technical support to Government led risk communication such as mass media, the orientation of decision makers at the sub-national level involving health, education and child protection sectors to promote preparedness and response at the local level.
- UNICEF has supported the development of SMS messages to be sent via U-Report and mTRAC to health workers and beneficiaries/at risk communities.
- UNICEF is part of national and sub-national preparedness activities including on-going risk assessment and social mobilization.
- The risk communication team interacted with the LC 5 Chairperson and discussed the role and responsibilities of political and civic leaders during EVD outbreak. The RDC offered the government air time on two radio every Wednesdays to educate the public on EVD.

### ***iv) Cross-border Activities***

- The MoH and WHO teams visited the border point in Rwengabo and assessed the feasibility of introducing screening services.

### ***v) Case management***

- The case management sub-committee assessed Nyahuka HCIV as possible Ebola Treatment Unit. While the facility has over 50 staff, none has been trained in EVD case management or Infection Prevention and Control in the recent past and this was planned in the coming week. The facility will also be supplied with PPEs.



- In Kasese, Bwera Hospital at the border with DRC has been identified as the possible ETU and is being prepared for this.

#### ***vi) Logistics***

- Pre-positioning (in UNICEF warehouse, Districts and with Uganda Red Cross Society) available supplies to fill critical gaps for prevention and preparedness efforts as per national preparedness plan.
- In addition, UNICEF has carried out need assessment of supplies taking into account the high risk districts/communities need, which will be procured in near future pending the current Government rapid assessment results and discussion with MoH and partners to avoid duplication.
- Some PPEs from Bwera hospital were prepositioned in Bundibugyo district.

#### ***Vii) Capacity Building***

- Thirty (30) health workers at Bwera Hospital were trained on EVD case detection, sample collection and Infection Prevention and Control measures. Case management staff will be oriented on donning and doffing of PPEs.
- Health in-charges from Kabarole district were oriented on EVD in a meeting convened by district authorities. They were strongly instructed to enhance surveillance, practice universal precautions and have height index of suspicion for EVD while performing their work.

**-End-**

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