



10 May 2018

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Ebola Situation Report



Highlights

- As of Thursday 3 May 2018, the provincial health division reported 21 suspected cases of viral hemorrhagic fever and 17 deaths in Ikoko Impinge health area of Bikoro health zone. All the cases were reported from 5 villages in Ikoko Impinge health area.
- 08 May 2018, the Ministry of Public Health (MOH) in DRC made a public declaration to confirm two cases of Ebola among 5 cases for which blood samples were investigated in the Bikoro Health Zone of Equateur Province of the Country.
- This is the first-time Ebola virus has been reported in this health zone.
- The confirmed strain – Ebola Zaire - is the same as those in precedent outbreaks in the country, i.e. Yambuku in 1976, Tandala in 1978, Kikwit in 1995, Kapungu in 2007, Mweka in 2008, Boende in 2014 and Likati in 2017.
- The National Coordination Committee (CNC) led by the Minister of Public Health, that include WHO, UNICEF, CDC, MSF and other actors has been put in place to oversee the response. The CNC meets daily.
- At the provincial level, a coordination team is in place supported by 6 commissions (Epidemiological surveillance; patient care/management; laboratory examinations; communication; water, hygiene, and sanitation; and logistics) under the leadership of the Provincial Minister of Health. UNICEF Field office in Mbandaka is represented in the provincial team
- The MOH developed the first draft of Response Plan with an estimated resource need of USD 7.8 million, and an integrated mission to be led by the Minister of Health together with UNICEF Representative and WHO Representative is planned for Saturday 12 May, 2018

21 suspected cases reported

2 confirmed cases by **RT-PCR**
(MoH, 08 May 2018)

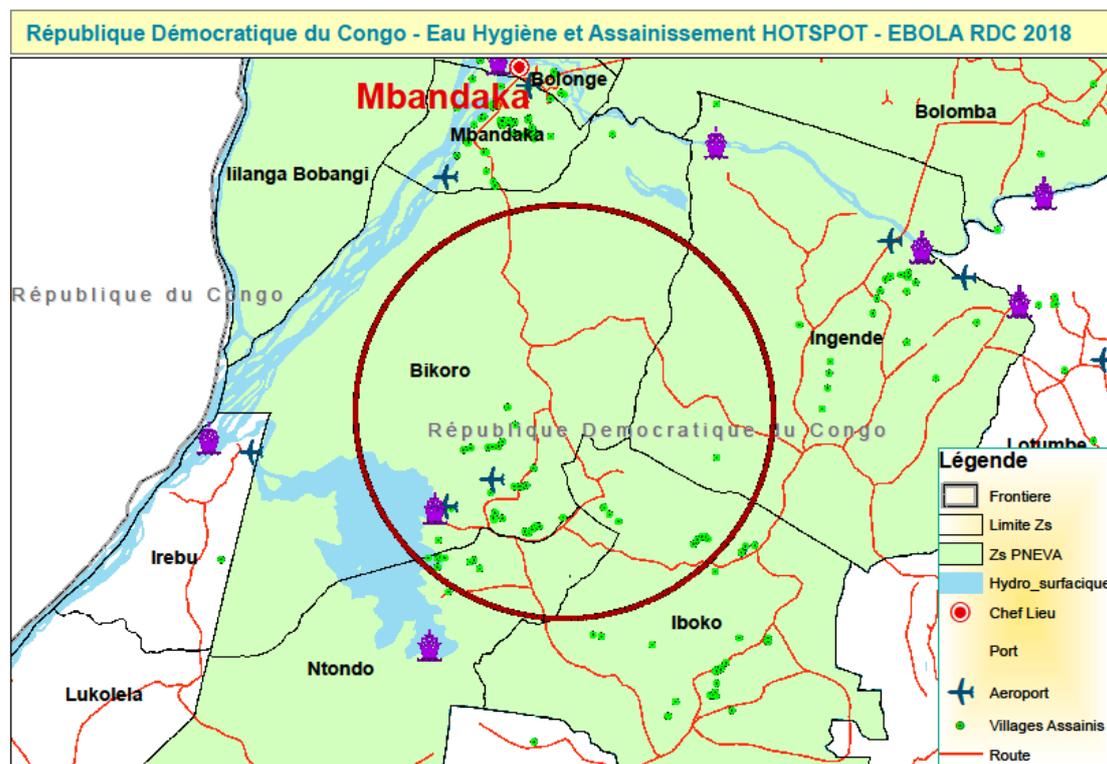
17 deaths were recorded with epidemiological link (MoH, 08 May 2018)

US\$ 7.8 million

is the estimated budget of the Ministry of Health National Ebola outbreak Response Plan

US\$ 3 million

is the estimated budget of UNICEF's Response Plan in support of the national response (to be mobilized)



Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The National Coordination Committee (Comité National de Coordination - CNC), which is comprised of the Ministry of Health (MoH) UNICEF, WHO, CDC, MSF and other actors meet daily. Based on the experience of the 2017 response, the CNC established 6 commissions to oversee the response (i) epidemiological surveillance; (ii) patient care/management; (iii) laboratory examinations; (iv) communication; (v) water, hygiene, and sanitation; and (vi) logistics. UNICEF is a member of most of the commissions. The first draft of MOH's Response Plan costed at USD 7.8 million was shared and under finalisation by the 6 commissions.

Under the leadership of the Provincial Minister of Health, 6 committees at the provincial level collaborate with the national team to provide adequate information that reflects the local realities.

A national level team composed of 12 delegates from the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, WHO and MSF is already in Mbandaka to strengthen the field teams. On 10 May, 2018 the team of experts are travelling to Bikoro and this include 4 UNICEF staff members – 1 WASH Officer, 1 C4D Officer, the Head of UNICEF Office in Mbandaka (Doctor) and 1 Epidemiologist from UNICEF Kinshasa.

A joint mission involving the Minister of Health, UNICEF Representative and WHO Representative is planned for Saturday 12 May, 2018 for direct field assessment.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Overview of the key elements in the response with a special emphasis on UNICEF's response.

Coordination

Based on the experience from the 2017 Ebola Response, the UNICEF Country Office is finalising a USD 3 million response plan to support the national response with a focus on WASH, IPC and Communication for Development and Psychosocial care, and basic health services.

UNICEF DRC CO actively participates in discussions at coordination meetings at national, provincial and local level and is active in the working groups on epidemiological surveillance, patient care/management, communication, water, hygiene, and sanitation and logistics.

Logistics

The evaluation of the supply needs for the UNICEF response have been undertaken alongside the preparation of the response plan. In addition, UNICEF is coordinating with WHO on logistics to make supplies available in Mbandaka and Bikoro.

In addition, the Country Office in coordination with WCARO has secured the list of supplies available in the ware house in Sierra Leone which can be mobilized as may be required.

Bikoro health zone, the affected area is very isolated – although about 131km from Mbandaka the capital of the Equator Province. The direct road connection from Bikoro to Kinshasa is over a 1000km, and the main connection is on the Congo River. Access to Bikoro is estimated to require 12 hours of road travel from Mbandaka (where UNICEF field office is located) and the terrain is currently difficult due to the rainy season. WHO has organized a special flight with UNHAS to transport personnel and goods to Mbandaka on 12 May 2018, to be complemented by helicopter access to Bikoro same day. UNICEF is coordinating the delivery of supplies through both the special flight and commercial flights to Mbandaka to optimize the presence of the helicopter access.

Communication for Development

The Country Office is using materials and messages developed during the last response to initiate response. Specifically:

- Prevention messages on Ebola Prevention and care submitted to the provincial authority were already endorsed for dissemination; include social mobilizers that are being identified – approximately 250 to be trained and deployed for community engagement through PCA with Red Cross
- Inventory of communication media is done with 4,270 posters and 11,635 leaflets available.
- Communication media distributed included 600 posters and 6,000 leaflets in Bikoro, 200 posters and 2,000 leaflets in Ingende health Zone, 200 posters and 1,000 leaflet in EPSP Mbandaka.
- With support from UNICEF, the provincial communication task force is already in Bikoro to evaluate the situation in the field.

WASH

UNICEF has already deployed WASH supplies to Bikoro to support the initial phase of the response i.e. 1 drum of chlorine, 5 pulverisators, 20 mask, 4 pairs of gloves, 10 soap boxes, 2 boxes of Aquatabs, 100 foldable cans, 2 GPS, 1 tester pool. UNICEF will target WASH in treatment center, management of contaminated solid waste and waste water where necessary safe burials.

Health

A team led by the Provincial Health Minister with material support from UNICEF is currently establishing an Ebola Treatment Center (ETC) in Bikoro. There is advocacy, led by UNICEF, at the provincial authority to implement free health care for all the cases in the epidemic health zones for 3 months. Nutritional support will be provided as needed.

Human Resources

On 10 May, 2018 the team of experts are travelling to Bikoro and this include 4 UNICEF staff members – 1 WASH Officer, 1 C4D Officer, the Head of UNICEF Office in Mbandaka (Doctor) and 1 Epidemiologist from UNICEF Kinshasa.

External Communication

On 9 May the CO shared with the communication colleagues at DOC, WCARO, ASU and PFP a short statement on the Ebola-epidemic and UNICEF's involvement in the early response, to be used on an if-asked basis. The CO started communicating via social media as of 9 May. A press release is being issued on 10 May focusing on UNICEF's involvement in the response.

Funding

The estimated funding requirement for UNICEF interventions to the Ebola response in DRC is US\$3 million. UNICEF is currently seeking funding to respond to the critical needs in WASH, Communication for Development and Psychosocial care, and basic health services. In the meantime, \$200,000 has been allocated as a catalytical initial investment from UNICEF internal resources.