HIGHLIGHTS

- With the ongoing Ebola outbreak in eastern DRC, Rwanda remains at high risk of importation.
- In October 2019, UNICEF provided new audio-visual content on EVD prevention for the four LED screens fixed at border crossings – two with DRC and two with Uganda – to diversify messaging seen by more than 65,000 people crossing the borders each day.
- As of October 2019, UNICEF has trained nearly 1,000 national and district health staff (48 per cent female) on critical WASH/IPC activities. These activities included cleaning, disinfection and waste management.
- In October 2019, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to train an additional 5,865 community health workers in Kirehe, Nyaruguru, and Gisagara Districts on community surveillance of Ebola Virus Diseases. With the completion of this training, all community health workers have been trained in the 15 districts which were initially identified as high-risk. This will allow for effective community surveillance in these districts.

UNICEF’S RESPONSE WITH PARTNERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECTORS</th>
<th>UNICEF Target</th>
<th>UNICEF Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>C4D</strong>: Number of community health workers trained in risk communication and community engagement for EVD preparedness</td>
<td>11,540</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C4D</strong>: Number of people reached with EVD messaging through community engagement and interpersonal communication approaches</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health</strong>: Number of community health workers receiving a complete set of supplies for EVD preparedness</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WASH</strong>: Health facilities and points of entry trained and equipped to conduct infection prevention and control activities for EVD</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child protection</strong>: Social workers trained on Ebola preparedness and psychosocial support</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong>: Teachers trained on Ebola preparedness and psychosocial support</td>
<td>1,260</td>
<td>840</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Training will take place in November 2019.

15 districts equipped and initially trained on WASH for EVD prevention and control
(Source: UNICEF, October 2019)

25,865 CHW trained and 6,000 received a complete set of supplies for EVD preparedness
(Source: UNICEF, October 2019)

2,600 front line workers vaccinated
(Source: WHO, August 2019)
Situation Overview

Since August 2018, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been facing a large-scale epidemic of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in the eastern provinces of North Kivu and Ituri, with importation to Goma and South Kivu provinces. Since the start of the outbreak in August 2018, there have been 3,264 EVD cases reported and 2,181 people have died (WHO, 30 October 2019). Around 28 per cent of cases are children, a larger proportion than reported in previous outbreaks of Ebola. On 17 July 2019, WHO declared the Ebola outbreak in North Eastern DRC a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

As one of the most densely populated countries in Africa, and with high-quality transport infrastructure, Rwanda would be at high-risk of rapid spread of EVD. In 2018, the Government of Rwanda (GoR) developed an Ebola preparedness plan and activated mechanisms to minimise the risk of importation. Although Rwanda remains free of Ebola, there are 15 districts at risk of cross-border spread, six bordering DRC and Uganda and one with air links to DRC. The 15 high-risk districts are concentrated along Rwanda’s western and northern borders: Rusizi, Nyamasheke, Karongi, Rutsiro, Rubavu, Nyabihu, Musanze, Burera, Gicumbi, Nyagatare, Bugesera and Nyanza, as well as the capital Kigali’s three districts of Kicukiro, Gasabo and Nyarugenge.

In July 2019, two cases of Ebola were confirmed in Goma, a major transit hub of more than one million people, which lies on the border with Gisenyi town in Rwanda.
Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

Government response
In light of the continued heightened risk of importation to countries neighboring the DRC, including Rwanda, the GoR is updating the National Preparedness Plan (III) covering the period from July to December 2019. The Ministry of Health (MoH) has advised against unnecessary travel to Goma and Eastern Congo, and requested that individuals who have recently travelled to an Ebola affected area report to the nearest screening station. Citizens are encouraged to report any suspected cases of Ebola via the toll-free hotline. Screening for Ebola at points of entry has been ongoing since the beginning of the outbreak and has been reinforced since the confirmed cases in Goma.

The Government has constructed an Ebola Treatment Centre in Rubavu, and 23 isolation units have been prepared in hospitals in 15 priority districts. Ebola response simulation exercises are conducted regularly to test Rwanda’s preparedness in response to a case. Other efforts to enhance EVD preparedness include: Emergency Operations Centre activation, enhanced surveillance, capacity building for case management and laboratory testing. About 3,000 health workers in high-risk areas have been vaccinated as a preventative measure, including more than 1,100 in Rubavu District.

UN support to EVD response
A technical working group meeting chaired by the Ministry of Health on 24 October 2018 decided to have bi-weekly meetings on six thematic areas, of which UNICEF is involved in four and the co-lead for risk communication and community engagement. WHO provides the overall support to the Government of Rwanda.

More specifically, UNICEF is a member of the national task force led by the Minister of Health. UNICEF provides also technical support to the Government to enhance preparedness levels through participation in simulation exercises, pre-positioning of supplies, risk communication and community engagement, streamlining infection prevention and control (including through WASH) into preparedness, and in building capacity at all levels, including among community health workers.

UNICEF also contributed to development of the Interagency Ebola Preparedness Plan alongside WHO, WFP, UNHCR and IOM and is an active member of the bi-weekly UN Ebola Coordination meeting.

UNICEF Response Strategy

UNICEF Rwanda’s response plan is based on three scenarios (1/ preparedness, 2/ EVD cases in a limited geographic area and 3/ diffused outbreak). Currently, UNICEF Rwanda is implementing scenario 1, which is costed at US$ 3.25 million to strengthen preparedness, and covers until December 2019. It is aligned with the National Ebola Preparedness and Response Plan, which has a total budget of US$ 14 million.

UNICEF supported the MoH to develop and revise the national Risk Communication Strategy for EVD Prevention, as well as the risk communication components of the revised National EVD Contingency Plan. UNICEF also supported MoH to develop plans, protocols and training for WASH and nutrition for EVD infection prevention and control. UNICEF also supports the Ministry of Education and National Commission for Children to strengthen their preparedness efforts.
Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

Communication for Development
As co-chair of the Risk Communication and Community Engagement Technical Working Group and based on evidence from the KAP study in November 2018, UNICEF and partners have developed a comprehensive communication and community engagement strategy to strengthen EVD prevention.

In October 2019, UNICEF provided new audio-visual content on EVD prevention for the four LED screens fixed at border crossings – two with DRC and two with Uganda – to diversify messaging seen by more than 65,000 people crossing the borders each day. The music video for the “Twirinde Ebola” song featuring popular artists is being finalised, with the audio aired six times per day on multiple radio stations.

To uncover prevailing knowledge, attitudes and practices around Ebola, UNICEF trained 20 data collectors (70 per cent female) to conduct a dipstick study among 200 people (100 women; 100 men) in four of the 15 high-risk districts, selected at random. The results of the dipstick study are currently being analysed.

In October, UNICEF and partners began implementation for three new initiatives on EVD prevention: i) EVD affecting persons with disabilities; ii) EVD sensitisation in refugee camps; and iii) EVD training for influential mass media and bloggers.

Psychosocial support and child protection
In October, UNICEF developed training guides on psychosocial support and child protection, with trainings on these guides planned for November. Professionals to be trained include social workers and psychologists, gender and family promotion district staff, Isange One Stop Centre counsellors, hospital psychologists and social workers, and the community-based child protection volunteers known as “Friends of the Family.”

Education
UNICEF is working jointly with the Rwanda Education Board, under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Rwanda Biomedical Centre, and other partners, to strengthen Ebola preparedness in the education sector.

In October, the draft Ebola guidance for schools and child care centres was finalised; validation is ongoing with Rwanda Biomedical Centre and Rwanda Education Board.

Infection prevention and control

WASH
UNICEF continues to co-chair, along with the Ministry of Health and WHO, of the Case Management/Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Technical Working Group and provides technical support to the Ministry of Health on IPC and WASH.

As of October 2019, UNICEF has trained nearly 1,000 national and district health staff (48 per cent female) on critical WASH/IPC activities. These activities included cleaning, disinfection and waste management. Trainings included 19 national trainers on WASH/IPC for EVD preparedness and
response, 169 Rapid Response Team Members at the district level and 771 health staff at sub-district health centres and points of entry.

In October 2019, UNICEF and the Ministry of Health visited nine points of entry in Burera, Rubavu and Rusizi Districts to monitor the use and preparation of chlorine solution for handwashing.

UNICEF supported partner Action pour le développement du peuple (ADEPE) to provide handwashing facilities and soap in seven early childhood development (ECD) centres based in markets and at border crossings in four high-risk districts. This has promoted hygiene and prevention of Ebola transmission among 720 children and 72 caregivers. Following the training of 11 caregivers and 15 staff members from ADEPE in September, community engagement around the seven ECD centres was ongoing in October.

**Case management**

**Health**

In October, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health to train an additional 5,865 community health workers in Kirehe, Nyaruguru and Gisagara Districts on community surveillance of Ebola Virus Diseases. UNICEF and the Ministry also delivered protection materials (gloves) for 14,937 community health workers. With the completion of this training, all community health workers have been trained in the 15 districts which were initially identified as high-risk. This will allow for effective community surveillance in these districts.

As the Government now considers all 30 districts of Rwanda as high-risk, UNICEF will support training for 21,000 additional community health workers in the remaining 15 districts. This will build capacity for the entire country on community surveillance and will strengthen reporting.

**Infant and Young Child Feeding/Nutrition**

In October, UNICEF continued to support the Ministry of Health through Rwanda Biomedical Centre to finalise guidelines on nutritional care for children and patients in the context of Ebola. Following advocacy with the Epidemic Surveillance and Response (ESR) and Case Management teams, the Government endorsed integration of nutrition into national Standard Operating Procedures for Ebola.

The planned training for nutritionists and doctors was rescheduled for November 2019 to allow time for planning an integrated training with the IPC team.

**External Communication and Media**

In October 2019, UNICEF published an article on Imam Mashaka Ally, a UNICEF-trained Muslim leader who is helping prevent Ebola during prayers he leads at the mosque.

UNICEF also released a video highlighting UNICEF’s partnership with religious leaders to integrate Ebola prevention messages into sermons and prayers. A short film highlighting Ebola prevention road shows is in production, expected by the beginning of November 2019.

A collection of photographs and b-roll for external use can be found on the UNICEF Rwanda WeShare site, with relevant shot lists and photography credit.
Funding

UNICEF EVD prevention interventions have been funded so far by regular resources, CERF, DFID and USAID. As of October 2019, the funding gap for the UNICEF Rwanda EVD preparedness plan is US$ 1.69 million. An EPF loan for an amount of US$ 700,000 was received in July to support implementation of the most urgent activities led by UNICEF.

Fundraising efforts are ongoing to mobilise additional funds to maintain the preparedness activities in the 30 Districts until June 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Total Requirements</th>
<th>Funds available</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>900,000</td>
<td>414,328</td>
<td>2,802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>525,000</td>
<td>342,866</td>
<td>120,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>125,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>125,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4D</td>
<td>1,450,000</td>
<td>480,846</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>125,000</td>
<td>44,462</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>125,000</td>
<td>53,916</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,250,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,336,418</strong></td>
<td><strong>222,802</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information:

Nathalie Hamoudi  
Representative, a.i. 
+250 788 300 717  
nhamoudi@unicef.org

Rajat Madhok  
Chief of Communication, Advocacy and Partnerships  
+250 788 301 419  
rmadhok@unicef.org