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EBOLA Situation Report #1

Period covered: 9-10 October 21

Highlights

- On 8 October 2021, the Minister of Health of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) confirmed that a three-year-old child died of Ebola on 6 October in the Health Area of Butsili, Beni Health Zone, North Kivu province
- UNICEF staff are already on the ground to respond to this latest resurgence of Ebola
- On 10 October, 160 cubic meters of critical wash and nutrition were sent from Goma to Beni

Situation Overview

- On 30 September 2021, the Beni Health Zone was informed of 3 suspect deaths within the same family (a 32-year-old adult and his two 3-year-old children) which occurred on 14, 19 and 29 September 2021 in Butsili Health Area close to the city of Beni. The affected family was a neighbor of the confirmed Ebola case. No swab test was performed on the patient nor the bodies. No safe and dignified burials were conducted. This situation prompted a joint investigation team composed of Beni Health Zone staff and WHO consultant to deepen the investigation and begin listing contacts.
- On 8 October, the Ministry of Health confirmed that a three-year-old boy died of Ebola on 6 October in a health center in the Butsili Health Area, Beni Health Zone, North Kivu Province. He had been admitted earlier with Ebola-like symptoms. Ebola infection was confirmed after a GeneXpert test was performed by the Laboratoire Rodolphe Merieux - INRB (National Institute of Biomedical Research) in Goma.
- On 9 October, one suspect case was isolated in Beni.
- As of 10 October, 171 contacts have been identified including 50 at risk. 42% of them are already vaccinated.

UNICEF's Response

- UNICEF staff are already on the ground to respond to this latest resurgence of Ebola. A team of seven additional staff (WASH, C4D, Child Protection, Supply/Logistic, PSEA) are travelling on Monday 11 October to Beni to support the response.

Epidemiological situation

(as of 10 October 2021)



1 confirmed case



1 death



0 people recovered



100% fatality rate



1 province affected



- On Sunday 10 October, three trucks carrying 160 m³ shipment of critical infection prevention and control, WASH as well as nutrition supplies were sent from Goma to Beni. Supplies include notably personal protective equipment, gloves, masks, boots, chlorine to treat water, soap bars, large capacity water tanks, buckets with tap, PlumpyNut and therapeutic milk.



Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)/Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH)

- UNICEF is strengthening infection prevention and control measures in three health facilities in Butsili Health Area and at Beni's General Reference Hospital;
- Personal Protective Equipment was provided to two health facilities in Beni Health Zone;
- One household and one health facility were decontaminated in the Health Area of Butsili.



Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- Through the network of Community Action Cells (CAC) in the affected areas, UNICEF is supporting by strengthening the alert system to improve tracking and tracing of contacts;
- The CACs are operational in the Butsili Health Area to listen to the local populations' concerns, gather feedback and respond to their questions;
- CACs already conducted 12 home visits in Butsili Health Area and 14 in the Paida Health Area, both in Beni Health Zone.



Health and Nutrition

- UNICEF team with partners from the North Kivu Health Department assessed the conditions of the Ebola Treatment Center (ETC) used during the previous Ebola outbreak in Beni. Rehabilitation of the ETC will begin in the coming days;
- While the ETC is rehabilitated, temporary isolation units have been set up in different health centers in the Beni Health Zone and at the General Reference Hospital in Beni to care for suspected cases;
- To support malnutrition case management capacities, nutrition supplies for the treatment of malnutrition a condition often associated with Ebolais being shipped from Goma to Beni.



Psychosocial Support and Child Protection

- UNICEF-supported psychosocial workers are supporting the family of the 3-year-old child who passed away and are conducting counselling sessions with the family members;
- Psychosocial workers are providing counselling to the families whose households had been decontaminated.



Gender Based Violence/ Gender/PSEA

UNICEF is working with partners on the ground to integrate Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) from the very beginning of the response.



Funding Overview

UNICEF already allocated US\$ 500,000 of its core funding to meet critical first line needs until additional funding is secured. But more than ever, UNICEF needs flexible and timely funding to respond where the need is greatest as the epidemic evolves.

External Media

- The communication team published a total of 10 posts on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) since the [announcement of new Ebola cases in North-Kivu province](#), reaching more than 100,000 people on Facebook alone.
- A press release was published on 9 October in [French](#) and [English](#).

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