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UNICEF DRC
Ebola Situation Report #1
 Period covered
 22-26 Avril 2022

Epidemiological Situation
 (as of 26 April 2022)

Highlights

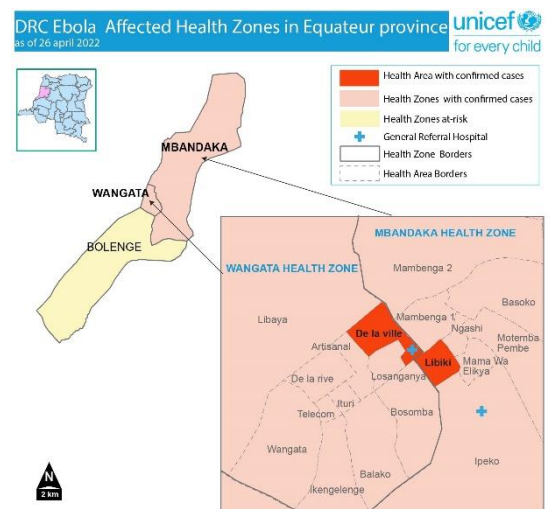
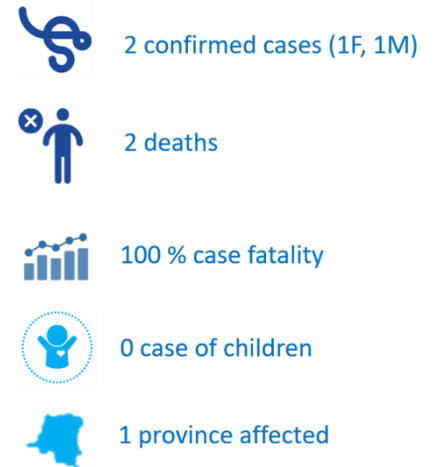
- On 23 April 2022, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), through the Ministry of Health, declared the resurgence of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) epidemic in the health area of Wangata, in the provincial capital of Mbandaka (the urban hub of the Equateur province with over 366,000 inhabitants). The first confirmed case was a 31-year-old student hospitalized on 19 April at the Ebola Treatment Center of the General Hospital of Mbandaka. On 25 April 2022, a second case was confirmed.
- Since the declaration of the first confirmed case, UNICEF immediately activated its response mechanism to respond to this new epidemic in support and close partnership with the Government of the DRC, and other UN agencies and partners.

Situation Overview

- On 23 April 2022, the Minister of Health (MoH) confirmed the resurgence of EVD in the Equateur province; this is the third outbreak in the province and the 14th for the DRC.
- The first confirmed EVD case was a 31-year-old male student, and second case (female), was a high-risk contact from the first case and confirmed on 25 April 2022. Both patients died.
- The initial sequencing results indicate that this outbreak is not linked to previous outbreaks in the province.
- As of 26 April 2022, a total of 144 contacts have been listed, out of which 86 (60 per cent) have been identified and visited.
- Since the confirmation of the EVD positive cases, teams from the provincial health division and Wangata health zone have been on the ground carrying out response activities, including listing and following of contacts and decontamination of health facilities and households.
- The DRC Government has deployed around 200 doses of the ERVEBO Ebola vaccines, which were stocked in Goma (North Kivu Province). After verifying the integrity of the ultra-cold chain, in coordination with WHO and UNICEF, the vaccines were moved to Mbandaka on 26 April 2022 to support the response. Vaccination is scheduled to begin on 27 April 2022.

UNICEF's Response

- UNICEF is present in Equateur Province, with a field office in Mbandaka comprising 22 staff. The UNICEF team is supporting the provincial government to respond to this 14th outbreak.
- In the context of preparedness and building the resilience of communities, UNICEF has been implementing key post-Ebola interventions in the Equateur province since the end of the 11th outbreak in 2020, focusing on improved access to water and



essential hygiene and sanitation services in healthcare facilities and surrounding communities as well as ensuring infection prevention and control measures.

- As in previous outbreaks, UNICEF support revolves around the following main areas: infection prevention and control, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), psychosocial support, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and integrated outbreak analytics (IOA).



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

- In support to the IPC-WASH commission, the decontamination of the Ebola affected household of the two confirmed cases, surrounding communities and medical facilities has been completed.
- UNICEF is dispatching supplies to Mbandaka, including personal protective equipment, disinfection materials, and other items, such as mattresses for health care facilities.



Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF teams are providing support to facilitate the interventions of frontline workers for the collection of swab samples, the decontamination of households, the listing and vaccination of contacts.
- UNICEF is supporting the dissemination of key Ebola sensitization and communication materials in the affected health zones in Mbandaka and Wangata. The U-Report platform has already engaged with more than 36,000 U-Reporters across the whole on key information related to Ebola prevention.



Psychosocial Support and Child Protection

- UNICEF is supporting social workers and clinical psychologists from the Ministry of Social Affairs to provide psychosocial support to the families of the two confirmed cases, listed contacts, health teams, as well as the burial team.



Nutrition

- UNICEF is dispatching key nutritional supplies for the Ebola Treatment Centre (ETC), including 29 cartons of ready to use infant formula, 30 cartons of ready to use therapeutic food and anthropometric supplies (scales, mid-upper arm circumference tapes, etc.).



Gender Based Violence/Gender/PSEA

- Based on lessons learned from the previous epidemics, PSEA is being integrated from the onset of the response. Through UNICEF partners, safe community-based complaint mechanisms to report sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) put in place during and after 11th EVD epidemic are being strengthened. SEA risk mitigation through training of responders and community awareness raising using local radio stations and U-Report is also currently ongoing.



Funding

- UNICEF has already allocated US\$400,000 to meet critical needs until additional funding is secured. Availability of flexible and timely funding will continue to play an important role in this response as it will enable UNICEF and partners to act rapidly to contain the outbreak.



External media

- Since the announcement of the [new Ebola case detected](#) in Mbandaka in Equateur Province, UNICEF has relayed this information through its social media platforms, including communications on [prevention measures](#) and initial response activities on the ground to [contain the outbreak](#). Multimedia material is available on [Weshare](#).

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