Highlights

- Infection Prevention Control (IPC) support including personal protective equipment, chlorine, and handwashing facilities as well as training has been provided to 18 healthcare facilities.
- 161,259 individuals were reached by 4,451 members of the community animation cells (CACs), during home visits, educational talks in 15 schools and public places to respond to key questions on EVD prevention and detection.

Situation Overview

- As of 10 May 2022, a total of 3 cases have been confirmed (with 3 deaths), 479 contacts have been listed as contacts, of whom 93.7 per cent have been visited for follow up. All listed contacts are from the two (2) health zones of Mbandaka, and Wangata in Equateur and 283 contacts have been vaccinated (59 per cent).
- An average of 29.2 per cent of alerts are being raised by communities through Community Based Surveillance (SBC).

UNICEF’s Response

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

UNICEF in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, WHO and partners:

- Decontaminated 1 household and 2 healthcare facilities surrounding recent confirmed and suspected cases.
- Completed risk assessment around the third confirmed case to identify the needs for 20 households, 1 church, 4 schools and 4 health facilities. Since, the 20 households have received material to be able to prevent and control infection. Subsequent distribution has included household kits (bucket with tap, stool, soap, jerry can, bucket) and healthcare, school, and church handwashing facilities.
- Conducted IPC risk assessment in 57 healthcare facilities in the Wangata, Bolenge and Mbandaka health zones. At present, the average score is 38.6 per cent highlighting critical needs to support including water, hygiene and sanitation materials, personal protective equipment, and training. To address this, UNICEF and partners have provided 18 healthcare facilities with these critical IPC materials based on needs. During assessments, hygiene committees were also reminded of their critical role in infection prevention and supervisors guided to ensure the committees are operational.
• An additional 37 hand washing stations have been provided to 6 healthcare facilities and to the college where the first case was attending class.
• Supervised activities and monitoring in the 46 healthcare facilities where 354 healthcare workers, including 91 women, have received briefings to date.
• Installed a water fountain and built latrines and showers in the Wangata childcare facility, in partnership with Oxfam.

**Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)**

**UNICEF in collaboration with its partners:**

- Organised capacity building and training to 2,746 members including 1,486 women of 24 CACs in the 23 health areas of 3 health zones. CAC training included the provision of communication materials (covering EVD vaccination and PSEA) and covered the following key topics:
  - Community Based Surveillance (SBC) to identify potential Ebola cases and raise an alert for investigation. Since the training, 1,069 alerts have been raised by CACs.
  - Key Ebola detection and prevention information, as well as targeted information on patient care within the ETCs (to address feedback).
  - Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).
- Via the CACs, child reporters and children’s committees, RCCE activities reached community members with key EVD information:
  - 191,081 individuals including 86,774 women, were reached by 5,190 members of the CACs, during home visits, educational talks in 21 schools and public places to respond to key questions on EVD prevention and detection as well as patient care at ETCs (based on feedback).
  - Child reporters and those of the local children’s committees trained accompanied by the 4 supervisors sensitized 22,792 students including 6,237 girls.
  - 287 leaflets on EVD symptoms and vaccination were distributed to students in 3 schools.
- Mass and digital EVD communication:
  - 140,222 people continue to receive EVD information via 10 radio stations.
  - 250 churches broadcast the Governor’s official message committing to the EVD response.
  - Child Reporters participated in the editorial and publication of 3 articles on the UNICEF EVD platform "PO NA BANA" providing information on EVD, the importance of early treatment-seeking as well as information for children, teachers, and parents on prevention measures at home and school.
- Community Feedback:
  - 1,889 feedback messages were received covering topics on distrust of EVD, healthcare and Ebola business as well as fear surrounding the ETC.
  - RCCE teams have responded through increased communication on ETC patient care, to identify EVD survivors to support engagement and continue to reinforce a localized response to build trust.

**Health and Nutrition**

- In the ETC:
  - Participated in the evaluation of the care and treatment for the 3rd EVD case (deceased in the ETC).
  - Provided the ETC with scales, MUAC for children and adults, and other key nutritional support (including infant milk).
  - Provided support to local nutritionist working in the ETC while caring for the 3 patients admitted to the ETC this week.
- In the community:
  - Provided nutritional follow up to 6 children aged < 24 months, including 3 infants with severely malnourished mothers.

**Psychosocial Support and Child Protection**

**UNICEF in collaboration with its partners:**

- Provided psychological support sessions for the 4 suspected MVE cases at the ETC and Bolenge isolation center
- Provided psychological support (including adapted individual therapy) and follow-up of 79 family members including the families of the 3 positive cases (deceased) and 2 families of suspected cases and provided psychological support to 1 suspected, discharged non-case.
- Continued follow-up visits (3) and psychological support to 8 orphans of the affected families.
• Provided counseling and psychological support to 134 contacts currently under the 21-day surveillance period.
• Supported the provision of results to 10 patients.
• Organized 99 psycho-education sessions for 1587 community members and in healthcare workers.
• Supported vaccination teams to encourage 19 contacts who had not yet been vaccinated to receive their EVD vaccine.
• Continued support to high-risk contacts and suspected cases who are reticent to isolation or seeking testing at the ETC.
• Set up an 8-bed capacity temporary creche next to the Wangata ETC. The structure has water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities, is secured and the PSS teams are currently recruiting 2 survivors who can provide support and childcare for children during their stay.
• Supported the Safe and Dignified Burial (SDB) team to successfully collect swab tests from community deaths.
• Support to the IPC team during household decontamination of the 3rd case to ensure that the process was understood and accepted by the family and neighbors.

Gender Based Violence/ Gender/PSEA

• Re-established Community Based Complaint Mechanisms (CBCM) that rely on female leadership to facilitate face to face reporting in Bolenge Health Zone.
• Updated mapping of UNICEF supported CBCM in the three priority health zones (Mbandaka, Wangata and Bolenge), shared with other UN Agencies for appropriate use.
• Supported community access to safe mechanisms for reporting SEA for 807 individuals.
• Facilitated the PSEA Code of Conduct signature by 20 members of the EVD coordination team.
• Trained 24 child reporters and bloggers on PSEA.

Integrated Outbreak Analytics (IOA) (most recent report: available online here)

o Analytics Cell meetings led by the Ministry of Health have included participants from CDC-Atlanta, WHO, MSF and UNICEF to review potential information needs, based on the current context and existing evidence from the 11th outbreak.
o Current priorities are focused on supporting local health zone capacity for data entry, cleaning, and management.

UNICEF Response Plan & Funding Overview

o With thanks to the flexibility from the World Bank and the Ministry of Health, funding from the Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement (REDISSE) Project is being reprogrammed towards the Ebola response in Mbandaka.

External Media

o On Hand Hygiene Day, UNICEF recalled the importance of handwashing to limit the spread of Ebola virus disease. The training and the key role of community workers was highlighted. During the reporting period, several articles written by the Child Reporters were published on the Po Na Bana blog and disseminated through social networks. New multimedia material is available on WeShare.

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