



UNICEF DRC
Ebola Situation Report #1
 Period covered
 15 -22 August 2022

Epidemiological Situation
 (as of 22 August 2022)

-  1 confirmed case (1F)
-  1 death
-  100% case fatality
-  0 cases of children
-  1 province affected



Highlights

- On 21 August 2022, the Minister of Public Health of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) confirmed that a forty-six-year-old female died of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) at Beni Health Zone general hospital in the province of North Kivu.
- Since the alert of the case, UNICEF immediately activated its response mechanism in support and close collaboration with the Government of the DRC and other UN agencies and partners.


Situation Overview

- On 15 August 2022, the Beni Health Zone was informed of the suspect death of a forty-six-year-old female at the Beni general hospital. The patient was admitted on 23 July 2022, initially for other conditions, but later presented with EVD-like symptoms, resulting in an alert. A swab test for EVD was performed however, no Safe and Dignified Burial (SDB) was conducted. Following the alert, further investigations and contact listing started.
- On 21 August 2022, the Ministry of Public Health declared that the patient died of EVD. The sample tested positive for EVD at the Beni laboratory which was confirmed later at the Laboratoire Rodolphe Merieux- INRB (National Institute of Biomedical Research) in Goma. The sequencing analysis indicated that this outbreak is related to the 2018-2020 Nord Kivu/Ituri EVD outbreak.
- As of 22 August 2022, 179 contacts have been identified including 85 healthcare workers. Of the 179 pre-listed contacts, 94 (52.5 per cent) have been vaccinated.

UNICEF’s Response

- UNICEF is present in the North Kivu Province, with a field office Goma covering the North Kivu and Maniema provinces, comprising 56 staff, as well as a sub-office in Beni. The UNICEF team is supporting the provincial and local government to respond to this 4th outbreak in the North Kivu province, the 15th for the DRC. As in previous outbreaks, UNICEF’s support revolves around the main areas of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), Psychosocial Support (PSS), Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Integrated Outbreak Analytics (IOA).

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

-  The contingency stock pre-positioned in the Beni Health Zone at the end of the 13th outbreak allowed the Health Zone to quickly conduct decontamination activities at the Beni General Hospital (HGR). With the support of UNICEF, a decontamination team is in place to decontaminate the household of the confirmed case and continue the bio-cleaning of the HGR.
- Through UNICEF support, a team is being established with the necessary supplies to start IPC activities around the case, including community activities and the setup of handwashing facilities in prioritized health facilities.

- While awaiting the delivery of equipment and supplies to be sent from Goma, UNICEF has also made available pre-positioned contingency stocks available with the local implement partner PPSP.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)



- Through the network of Community Animation Cells (CACs) in the affected areas, UNICEF is providing support to strengthen community-based surveillance and community alerts to improve contact tracing and follow-up. Home visits by the CACs are already underway and have resulted in 46 alerts, in all the 22 Health Areas in the Beni Health Zone.

Psychosocial Support and Child Protection



- UNICEF, in collaboration with the Division of Social Affairs (DIVAS) and its local partner, is supporting the psychosocial response provided by one psychologist and five para-social workers. The psychosocial team is providing counselling to the affected family (six people – four men and two women).
- Six psycho-education sessions have been conducted for 100 people (32 women, 30 men, 20 girls and 18 boys) at the General Hospital and in the community.



Gender Based Violence/Gender/PSEA

- UNICEF is working with partners in Beni to integrate Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) into the response strategy and activities.



Funding

- UNICEF has already allocated US\$230,000 to meet critical needs from its core resources, until additional funding 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.

For more information, contact:

Grant Leaity
Representative
UNICEF DRC
Email: gleaity@unicef.org

Frederic Emirian
Chief of Emergency
UNICEF DRC
Email: femirian@unicef.org

Ghaffar Gomina
Senior Coordinator, a.i.
UNICEF DRC (Goma)
Email: ggomina@unicef.org