

UNICEF EQUATORIAL GUINEA
Marburg Virus Disease - MVD
Situation Report #1
 Period Covered: 13 February-31 March 2023

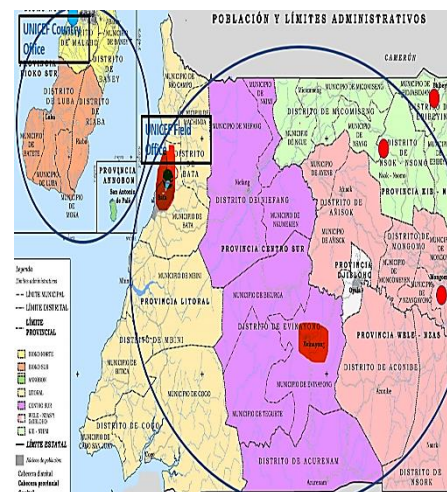
[Epidemiological situation \(as of 28 March 2023\)](#)
13 confirmed cases
9 deaths among confirmed cases
4 Provinces affected

Highlights

- On 13 February 2023, the Minister of Health and Social Welfare of Equatorial Guinea declared an outbreak of Marburg Virus Disease (MVD).
- The disease began in two villages namely Ngum-Esatop and Evusoc Mokomo, in the district of Nsok-Nsomo, the province of Kie-Ntem.
- Subsequently additional cases are confirmed in other localities including Ebibeyin (Kie-Ntem), Mongomo (Wele-Nzas province), Bata (Litoral province) and Evinayong (Centro-Sur province).
- As of 28 March, 13 cases have been confirmed including 9 deaths among the confirmed cases.
- UNICEF, in collaboration with Government of Equatorial Guinea, WHO and other partners immediately activated the response mechanism.

Situation Overview

- 07 February 2023: The EQG Ministry of Health and Social Welfare was informed by the chief medical officer of the health district, of 9 deaths of patients with unusual symptoms including fever, diarrhea, vomiting and bleeding from the orifices which occurred between last weeks of 2022 and February 7, 2023, in the two villages: Ngum-Esatop and Evusoc-Mokomo in Nsok-Nsomo district.
- 10 February 2023: The first MVD case confirmed death was reported in Ebibeyin district; a 54-year-old man who was a direct contact of 4 people who died in Ngum-Esatop village.
- 13 February 2023: the Government of Equatorial Guinea officially declared its first ever outbreak of Marburg Virus Disease (MVD) following the laboratory confirmation at Pasteur Institute in Dakar.
- During the following weeks, additional suspected cases, and community deaths with suggestive symptoms of MVD were reported in other areas of the continental region.
- A total 8 additional laboratory-confirmed cases of Marburg virus disease (MVD) have recently been reported: 2 in Kie-Ntem province (Ebibeyin), 4 in Litoral province (Bata) and 2 in Centro-Sur province



(Evinayong), making a total of 9 laboratory-confirmed cases and 9 deaths (5 Bata, 2 Ebibeyín and 2 in Evinayong). In addition, 20 probable cases of MVD were reported, all dead.

- 4 of the 5 provinces of the continental region are affected: Litoral, Centro-Sur, Wele-Nzas, Kie-Ntem, suggesting wider transmission of the virus.
- The WHO risk assessment has been reviewed to very high at the national level, high at sub-regional level, moderate at the regional level and low at the global level.
- The government of Equatorial Guinea, with the support of WHO, UNICEF and other partners have developed an Emergency Response Plan to the MVD outbreak to interrupt the chains of transmission, prevent deaths and limit the secondary impact of the epidemic.

UNICEF Response

The UNICEF team is supporting the district, provincial, regional, and national coordination mechanisms to respond to this first MVD outbreak in the continental region of Equatorial Guinea. UNICEF is present in the continental region with a field office in Bata, facilitating its presence in the field. UNICEF has its main office in Malabo, on the insular region.

The main pillars of UNICEF's contribution to the outbreak response include Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), Infection Prevention and Control-Water Sanitation and Hygiene (IPC-WASH), Psychosocial Support (PSS), continuity of essential services, and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).



Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- Contribution to the design and implementation RCCE response plan to ensure community mobilization on the Marburg epidemic. UNICEF is providing support to strengthen community-based activities in response to epidemic
- Organization of training sessions for community leaders: 642 community leaders trained (330 in Ebibeyin, 180 in Mongomo and 132 in Nsok Nsomo).
- Training sessions organized for 120 traditional healers, 60 in Ebibeyin and 60 in Mongomo
- Support of community awareness activities in the affected districts of Nsok Nsomo, Ebibeyin and Mongomo: Distribution of communication materials including 38 banners, 13,000 pamphlets of 40,000 produced, 11,000 pamphlets on frequently asked questions, community mobilization and more than 400 awareness-raising activities in public spaces, including schools and markets.
- A proposal for RCCE plan for Bata and Evinayong districts is finalized, mobilization sessions and community activities will be launched.
- A total of 22 social mobilizers were trained on conducting community activities in Bata.



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

- The prepositioning of contingency stock in Ebibeyin and Bata helped rapid response to needs and support IPC/WASH field activities. Supplies were delivered via Douala Hub and UNICEF Supply Division.
- Through UNICEF support, IPC activities are implemented around cases, affected communities, and prioritized health facilities in Ebibeyin, Nsok-Nsomo and Mongomo and were initiated in Bata.
- Distribution of hygiene kits in the first 3 affected districts (Ebibeyin, Nsok Nsomo and Mongomo) to communities and health centers.

- Capacity building of 153 health workers including 68 in Ebibeyin, 25 in Nsok Nsomo and 60 in Mongomo.
- Participation in the training of 2 teams to ensure Dignified and Safe Burials in Kie-Ntem province.
- Decontamination of the isolation and treatment center for Marburg cases at Bata Hospital in collaboration with WHO and MOH.
- Preparation of the distribution plan of IPC supplies to support the response in Bata.
- Revision and launch of rehabilitation of the water supply system in health facilities of Ebibeyin, Nsok Nsomo, Mongomo and Bata



Psychosocial Support

- UNICEF supported the Ministries of Health and Social Affairs in the preparation of psychological first aid response to support families located in rural areas in Ebibeyin, Nsok-Nsomo and Mongomo. UNICEF is finishing the planning of its psychosocial support interventions focused on urban areas.
- Psychosocial support has been initiated to support specific affected children and families
- The ongoing recruitment of a mental health and psychosocial support expert will provide a comprehensive psychosocial support package.



Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

- UNICEF is working with government and partners in Bata and Malabo to integrate PSEA in the response activities.
- A total of 17 UNICEF and WHO field staff were trained on PSEA and 4 Red Cross staff were also trained.
- The UN System, through the Resident Coordinator, is advocating with the Government to leverage the importance of PSEA as a key pillar of the emergency response.



Support to continued access to essential services

- UNICEF has supported the preparation of micro-plans for the 4 initially affected districts (Ebibeyin, Nsok Nsomo, Micomiseng and Mongomo) to maintain essential services, especially essential services for children (recovery of children who may have been missed).

Funding

- UNICEF Equatorial Guinea received US\$ 475,200 from USAID of to meet critical needs and support the response in Kie-Ntem province.
- With the extension of the epidemic, some activities have also been implemented outside of Kie-Ntem. Additional funding is needed to enable UNICEF to play a key role in the limitation of the spreading of the outbreak in other provinces

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