



UNICEF EQUATORIAL GUINEA
Marburg Virus Disease - MVD
Situation Report #2
 Period Covered: 1-30 April 2023

Epidemiological situation (as of 30 April 2023)

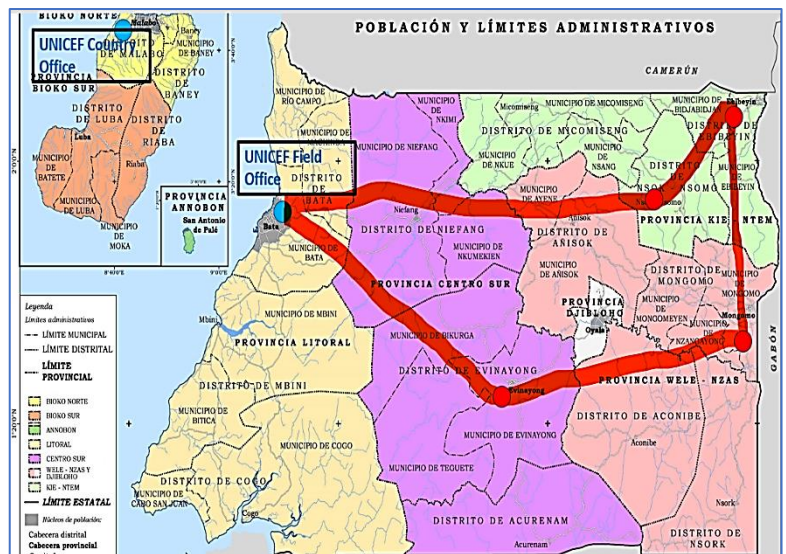
- 17 Confirmed cases**
- 12 Deaths among confirmed cases**
- 4 Provinces affected**
- 0 Active cases (since April 26)**

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.
- Since the beginning of the outbreak, 17 cases have been confirmed (4 children) including 12 deaths among the confirmed cases (3 children), 4 survivors (1 child) and one unknown. A total of 5 health workers (2 deaths and 3 survivors) have been confirmed cases since the beginning of the outbreak.
- No active case since 26 April.
- UNICEF, in collaboration with the Government of Equatorial Guinea, WHO, and other partners have continued implementing the response plan.

Situation Overview

- Since the declaration of the epidemic by the Ministry of Health on February 13 in the districts of Nsok Nsomo and Ebibeyín, the number of cases and deaths (65% and 75%, respectively) have been concentrated in Bata district.
- As of April 30, a total of 133 alerts have been received, 1,451 contacts have been followed, and 126 are currently under surveillance.
- From March 30, a total of 9 additional laboratory-confirmed cases of MVD have been reported only in Litoral province (Bata District), making a total of 17 laboratory-confirmed cases: 11 in Bata, 2 in Ebibeyín, 2 in Evinayong, 1 Nsork, 1 unknown. A total of 194 samples have been collected.



- From the total cases, there were 12 deaths (7 Bata, 2 Ebibeyín, 2 in Evinayong, 1 in Nsok).
- 4 of the 5 provinces of the continental region are affected: Litoral (Bata), Centro-Sur (Evinayong), Wele-Nzas (Nsork), Kie-Ntem (Ebibeyin).
- The government of Equatorial Guinea, with the support of WHO, UNICEF, and other partners have revised the Emergency Response Plan to adapt it to the current epidemiological situation to prevent further deaths and limit the transmission of new cases.

UNICEF Response

The UNICEF team continued 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 an 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)

- UNICEF has contributed to the design and implementation of RCCE response plan to provide real time information, engage proactively with at risk and affected population, and address community concerns on the Marburg epidemic. UNICEF is providing support in strengthening community-based activities in response to the epidemic.
- Seven district coordinators and one data manager have been recruited and trained to support the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of government's local plan at district level. UNICEF is also supporting the strategic design of the RCCE plan, daily reporting, and regular adaptation of messages based on feedback and evolution of the epidemic.
- Through the engagement with key media in Bata (radio and television), it has been possible to disseminate all the activities of the Marburg response (broadcast messages in 5 local languages, Spanish and French, special events, documentaries, a high-level expert round table, frequently asked questions, interviews, and interactive programs).
- 164 mobilizer communicators have been trained since the beginning of the outbreak (51 in Ebibeyin, 51 in Mongomo, 31 in Nsok Nsomo and 31 in Bata). 8 coordinators of communication activities are supervising and monitoring the mobilizers in the affected districts.
- So far, 840 people have been trained: 642 community leaders (330 in Ebibeyin, 132 in Nsok Nsomo and 180 in Mongomo), 160 traditional healers (96 in Ebibeyin, 44 in Mongomo and 20 in Nsok Nsomo), 38 religious Leaders in Kie Ntem Province (18 Catholics, 18 Evangelicals and 2 Muslims). This training allows them to engage and support the communities, hear what communities think about the Marburg disease, and adjust the communication strategy accordingly.



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

- Support coordination mechanism and implementation of IPC measures in affected communities, health centers, treatment and isolation centers.

- Build capacity of 346 health workers on triage system, and 48 frontline workers (health workers, ambulance drivers, patient assistants, morgue managers, etc.) on safe burial, adequate management of corpses and postmortem sampling.
- 12 training supervision visits of 348 health workers on IPC standards compliance were conducted in health facilities of the affected districts of Evinayong, Mongomo, Añisok, Nsok Nsomo and Ebibeyín during the month of April. The supervision visits have shown there is much room for improvement.
- UNICEF service provider initiated the rehabilitation of water installations in Ebibeyín, Bata, and Mongomo to guarantee water supply in health centers with isolation and treatment units.
- IPC supplies coming from Douala and Copenhagen to support the response in Bata were delivered during a ceremony with participation of MOH and UNICEF CO Representative.
- Support the distribution of hygiene kits to 15 health facilities in the continental region, and in two communities in Bata.
- Support the process of decontamination of the isolation unit in Bata Hospital, the treatment center for Marburg cases in Mondong, and in family households in collaboration with WHO and MoH.



Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

- Collaboration of the UNICEF team (health and education psychologist and child protection specialist) with the government to initiate the first MHPSS training (as preparedness) in Malabo to progressively build a team of first respondents in both emergency and development contexts. A total of 40 people from the Bioko Norte region were trained in MHPSS first aid, including 25 chief doctors from health districts, social workers, and social affairs delegates.
- Support to the MHPSS response team to train government officials and health workers on MHPSS and psychological first aid in the continental region. The training started in Bata and included social workers, delegates from the Ministry of Social Affairs, medical doctors, and other health workers, as well as focal points for RCCE and IPC-WASH. A similar training was also done in Evinayong, Ebibeyín, and Mongomo. Approximately 160 people were trained.
- Support in conducting 4 training sessions on psychological first aid for health workers in the Bata regional hospital, INSESO and La Paz hospitals and for the IPC/WASH trainers. A total of 80 people were trained.
- The districts of Ebibeyín, Evinayong, Mongomo and Bata have now established their MHPSS teams. As part of these MHPSS teams, 15 mental health and psychosocial accompaniment focal points involved in MVD outbreak intervention have been trained to support affected families and children, both in isolation and in communities. The MHPSS reference support channels have been strengthened in Ebibeyín, Monogomo, Evinayong, and Bata.



Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

- The UN System is advocating with the Government to leverage the importance of PSEA in the emergency response.
- Social affairs workers and members of CSO (97 people) from the continental and insular regions have participated in the PSEA informative sessions.
- The identification of PSEA Focal Points from each institution (public and CSOs) is currently ongoing.



Support to continued access to essential services

- UNICEF has supported the implementation of micro-plans for 2 affected districts (Ebibeyín and Nsok Nsomo) to maintain essential services, especially essential services for children (recovery of children who may have missed vaccination). Analysis of the situation is still ongoing for other districts.

Funding

- With the extension of the epidemic, many activities have also been implemented outside of Kie-Ntem province. UNICEF managed to mobilize additional funding (US\$ 480,000) from USAID to primarily cover the WASH/IPC needs and RCCE in Bata.
- UNICEF Equatorial Guinea has so far received a total of US\$ 955,200 from USAID.

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