

Case Management in one affected village @UNICEF 2026

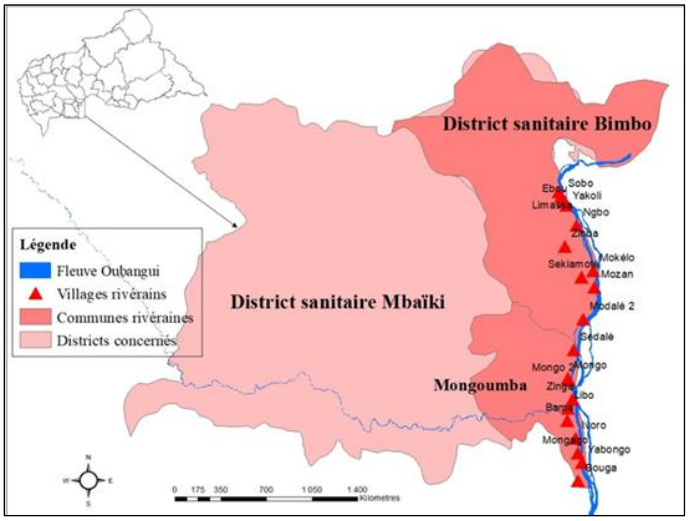
Central African Republic Cholera Outbreak Response

Flash Update #1

6 July 2026

Reporting Period: 26 June – 3 July 2026

Situation Update



On 26 June 2026, the Ministry of Health and Population of the Central African Republic officially declared a cholera outbreak in the health districts of Bimbo and Mbaïki, following laboratory confirmation by the Institut Pasteur in Bangui.

As of 1 July 2026, active cholera transmission has been confirmed in three health districts, including the capital city: Bangui 2, Bimbo, and Mbaïki. A cumulative total of 214 suspected cases and 24 community deaths have been reported, resulting in a high case fatality rate of 11.21 per cent. Children under the age of 10 are disproportionately affected, accounting for 44 per cent of all reported cases. Males represent the majority of cases, with a male-to-female ratio of 1.21, corresponding to 117 male cases and 97 female cases. The epidemiological profile highlights the significant vulnerability of children and underscores the severity of the ongoing outbreak.

The outbreak continues to spread along the Ubangi River, affecting multiple communities across the impacted districts and increasing the risk of further geographical expansion. Given the high mobility of populations and the river's role as a major transport corridor, there is a significant risk of transmission to additional localities and vulnerable communities along the river basin.

UNICEF Response

COORDINATION

Following laboratory confirmation by the Institute Pasteur in Bangui and the official declaration of the outbreak, the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (COUSP) was activated to coordinate the national response. Under the leadership of the Minister of Health, the COUSP convenes daily at 7:30 a.m. to review the status of the epidemic and to take the necessary decisions to safeguard public health. Key actions undertaken include: (i) the establishment of cholera treatment centres in affected areas; (ii) the strengthening of epidemiological surveillance, case investigations, community sensitization, and the promotion of hygiene practices; and (iii) the development of a national cholera response plan.

In parallel, two joint government and partner missions, led by the Minister of Health, were deployed to the hardest-hit localities of Bokassi and Mondoli to assess the situation on the ground, strengthen coordination among responders, and support the rapid implementation of priority response measures.

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

Regarding the activities of the WASH/IPC pillar, the following achievements had been recorded as of 2 July 2026:

- The Minister of Public Health officially handed over 125 cholera response kits to local authorities and community health workers to support frontline response efforts.
- A total of 125 cartons of household water treatment products (each containing 240 sachets) were distributed to 125 households in Bokassi 1, providing a two-week supply of safe water treatment solutions. The distribution was accompanied by practical training on the correct use of the products.
- Disinfection activities and the provision of WASH/IPC kits were completed for 21 cholera-affected households, with interventions ongoing in the remaining 104 households in Bokassi 1 village.
- The defective pump of the Bokassi 1 borehole was repaired, restoring access to safe drinking water for 613 people the affected.
- These interventions have contributed to improving access to safe water, reinforcing infection prevention and control measures, and strengthening community-based efforts to contain the spread of cholera in the affected areas.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

UNICEF supported the government in the development of the risk communication and community engagement plan, including the updating of key awareness messages. UNICEF also supported the briefing of 31 journalists and media men/women, the development of an awareness spot against cholera and the broadcasting of awareness messages on community radios and Radio Ndele Luka aimed at reaching 2.4 million people. To strengthen the commitment of communities and particularly young people in the fight against this epidemic, UNICEF has set up two U-report committees (youth platforms) in two villages affected by the epidemic. Sensitization in the communities by town criers begun on 3 July 2026 in the health districts of Bangui 1, Bangui 2, Bangui 3 and Bimbo.

HEALTH

Faced with the exceptionally high number of reported 24 deaths, among 214 suspected cases, the majority occurring at community level, UNICEF rapidly mobilized support to strengthen national capacities for the management of simple, moderate, and severe cholera cases across all levels of care. Key interventions included the provision of three cholera kits sufficient to treat the first 300 cases, the distribution of 2,000 doses of ORS and zinc to support timely community-level oral rehydration and prevent the progression of cases, and the installation of three tents to expand the capacity of the national cholera treatment and referral centre from 40 patients to 70 patients/capacity. These measures are helping to improve early case management, reduce preventable deaths, and strengthen the overall response to the outbreak.

UNICEF Funding Needs

No.	Response pillar	Needs (US$)
1	**RCCE and AAP –** Community engagement, awareness campaigns, rumours management in high-risk districts	125,000
2	**WASH/ IPC, Community protection**	850,000
3	**Case management –** Supplies and PPE to control the outbreak and support the health system	100,000
	TOTAL	**1,075,000**

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Photos and videos captured by UNICEF personnel deployed in the response have been used to showcase response efforts through the Ministry's social media channels (Publication 1, Publication 2). The content has also been featured on UNICEF country office social media platforms and amplified through posts by the UNICEF Regional Director (see here), extending its visibility and reach. Additional video content is currently in production.

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