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Ebola
Situation Report #2
7-14 February 2021

Overview

- On 7 February 2021, the Minister of Health of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) announced that a new Ebola fatality has been confirmed in Butembo, North Kivu province, in the eastern part of the country. The dead woman is the 42-year old wife of an Ebola survivor from Biena Health Zone, 90 km south-west of Butembo;
- As of 14 February, there were 4 confirmed cases: a 60-year-old man who passed away on 10 February in the same Health Zone (Biena) as the first case; a 22-year-old woman and a 22-year-old nurse who were in contact with the first case at the Matanda Hospital in Butembo. They are both currently in isolation at the Katwa General Hospital, waiting to be transferred to an Ebola Treatment Centre;
- Two children under 5 are among other suspected cases;
- On 10 February, the first batch of supplies arrived in Butembo from UNICEF's warehouse in Goma. The 68 cubic metres shipment contains personal protective equipment (gloves, coveralls), disinfecting equipment (including chlorine sprayers), thermometers and tarpaulins;
- UNICEF has just drafted its response strategy, which will include 7 areas of intervention: (1) Risk Communication and Community Engagement; (2) Improving access to water, hygiene and sanitation, and infection prevention and control in health facilities and in the community; (3) Psychosocial support; (4) Mitigating the risks of bender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse for vulnerable women and girls while facilitating appropriate care for survivors; (5) Nutritional support; (6) Meeting specific basic needs and continued access to basic social services; and (7) Social science analysis for appropriate and accountable response.

Epidemiological situation

(as of 15 February 2021)

4 confirmed cases

2 deaths

0 people recovered

50% fatality rate

1 province affected



UNICEF's Response



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

In Biena Health Zone:

- UNICEF-trained local hygienists and civil protection teams have disinfected the Ngubi Health Post, the household of the last confirmed case, and the health centre in Masoya;
- Household kits (jerry can, soap, handwash basins, water purifying tablets, etc) were distributed to 50 households in Masoya Health Area;

- Infection prevention and control (IPC) kits (including personal protective materials, disinfecting products, safe waste disposal containers, water storage tanks etc) were distributed to 3 health facilities in Masoya Health Area;
- Supplies sent by UNICEF to Butembo are being distributed to the health centres in the Masoya Health Area.

In Katwa Health Zone:

- 15 providers (11 health care providers and 4 hygienists) were briefed on infection prevention and control in the context of Ebola in 4 health facilities;
- IPC kits were distributed to 4 health facilities around the second Ebola case in the Health Area of Vungi;
- UNICEF also supported the bio cleaning of the Matanda Hospital in Butembo, where the first Ebola patient in the most recent outbreak died.



Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

UNICEF is supporting the Provincial Health Department to disseminate messages (which have been signed off by the Minister of Health) that can be broadcast on several radio stations. The messages include: information about the second confirmed case; advice on preventative behaviour against Ebola; information about Ebola immunization; and guidance on the most effective ways of de-stigmatizing Ebola survivors.

In the Health Zone of Biena:

- Community Action Cells (CACs) have helped overcome resistance from the local residents to household disinfections following the confirmation of the second case;
- 2,844 Ebola awareness posters and 2,844 Ebola leaflets/flyers are being distributed;
- Messages on vaccination are being disseminated in the village of Ngubo.

In the Health Zone of Katwa:

- CACs visited 168 households (839 people in total) to share preventative messages on Ebola and on provide information on how to prepare for the vaccine in the Health Areas of Vungi, Wayene and Runghenda;
- Messages on Ebola and vaccination have been broadcast on local radio stations;
- 3,200 Ebola awareness posters and 3,200 Ebola leaflets/flyers are being distributed.



Psychosocial Support and Child Protection

In the Health Zone of Biena:

- 95 listed contacts (14 of which are high-risk) are receiving support from UNICEF-supported psychologists;
- The psychologists have helped to persuade 3 high-risk contacts to test for Ebola and if necessary be admitted to the isolation unit
- The psychologists also provided support to the healthcare workers at the Masoya Health Centre.

In the Health Zone of Katwa:

- All listed contacts are receiving psychological support;
- Psychologists have provided support to health workers who were in contact with the first case at the Matanda Hospital in Butembo and to 4 possible contacts in the Katwa Health Zone;
- Psychologists helped persuade a positive case to be admitted to the isolation unit.



Coordination

A strategic meeting between partners involved in the response including the Ministry of Health and the North Kivu Provincial Health Division was held on the Ebola vaccination roll-out and the communication strategy linked to it.

UNICEF is liaising with the WHO provincial and national teams to better coordinate the two agencies' role in the response.



Funding Overview

In response to the epidemic in North Kivu, the amount estimated by UNICEF for an immediate response (3 months) is \$3.51 million, within UNICEF's areas of responsibility.

UNICEF has already allocated US\$ 500,000 to meet critical needs until additional funding is secured. More than ever, UNICEF needs flexible and timely funding to respond where the need is greatest, as the epidemic evolves.



External Media

UNICEF Press Releases

- [L'UNICEF déploie du personnel, du matériel médical et des fournitures en réponse au nouveau cas d'Ebola en RDC](#)

UNICEF mentions in the media

- [Adiac-Congo: Nord-Kivu: l'Unicef organise la riposte à Ebola à Butembo](#)
- [Voice of America : DRC Confirms Ebola Death](#)
- [Actualite CD : L'UNICEF déploie du personnel, du matériel médical et des fournitures en réponse au nouveau cas d'Ebola en RDC](#)
- [CAJ News Africa: More resources mobilised to stop latest Ebola outbreak](#)
- [La Prosperite: utte contre Ebola en RDC : l'Unicef s'engage à accompagner le ministère de la Santé dans la riposte](#)
- [Digital Congo : Du personnel et du matériel médical de l'Unicef déployés en réponse au nouveau cas d'Ebola](#)
- [La Prunelle : Nouveau cas Ebola à Butembo: l'UNICEF annonce le déploiement du personnel et du matériel médical](#)

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