

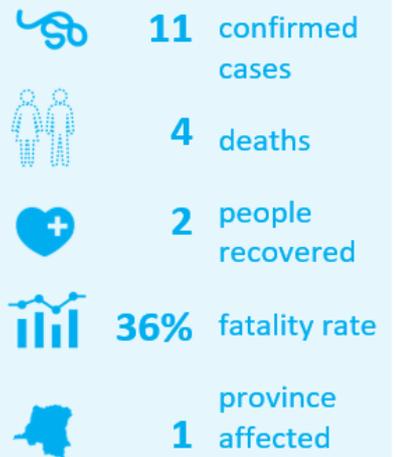


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EBOLA
Situation Report #4
20 February – 5 March
2021

Epidemiological situation

(as of 5 March 2021)



Overview

- 11 Ebola cases and 4 deaths have been confirmed in the Health Zones of Biena, Katwa, Musienene and Butembo, all in the North Kivu Province. Two of the 11 cases are healthcare professionals. Two people recovered and were discharged from the Ebola Treatment Centre. There are no cases among children;
- Two children were looked after by the “lullaby nurses” in the UNICEF-supported crèche in Katwa Hospital, Butembo. One child was reunited with his mother on 3 March;
- 367,906 people were reached by the Community Action Cells (CAC) members with Ebola awareness messages;
- 929 healthcare providers were briefed on Ebola prevention and other care protocols;
- The funding gap for the response is currently 62%.

UNICEF’s Response



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

UNICEF-trained hygienists disinfected 22 health centres in 4 Health Zones (4 in Katwa, 9 in Biena, 8 in Butembo and 1 in Musienene) and 14 households of suspected and confirmed cases (5 in Biena, 4 in Butembo, 5 in Musienene).

UNICEF distributed 110 WASH kits (jerry can, soap, handwash basins, water purifying tablets, etc...) to the households around suspected and confirmed cases (1 in Katwa, 50 in Biena, 9 in Butembo and 50 in Musienene).



UNICEF distributed 55 Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) kits (personal protective materials, disinfecting products, safe waste disposal containers, water storage tanks, etc...) to healthcare centers (30 in Katwa, 15 in Biena, 7 in Butembo and 3 in Musienene).

UNICEF helped brief 929 healthcare providers (457 in Katwa, 69 in Biena, 223 in Butembo and 180 in Musienene) on Ebola prevention, respiratory hygiene, how to prepare chlorine solutions (for disinfection) and on how to accurately conduct triage and record data.



Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

UNICEF facilitated discussions on community engagement between the Provincial Minister of Health and several socio-professional categories in the North Kivu Province, such as: motorbike associations, shopkeepers, pressure groups (including LUCHA, Véranda Muchanga), the head of women's associations, the head of private health facilities.

The Community Action Cells (CAC) members visited 97,498 households, reaching 367,906 people in total with Ebola awareness messages.

The CAC have relayed 3,545 community alerts of possible Ebola cases since the outbreak was declared.

The CAC continue conducting their awareness-raising activities in churches, markets, busy crossroads, as well as with local and religious leaders, families and neighbours of suspect cases and contacts. The topics include: vaccination, Ebola symptoms and prevention, the importance of seeking immediate healthcare, the importance of coming forward as a contact of a confirmed case, how to cut the chain of transmission. The CAC also continue conducting briefings with healthcare personnel, pharmacy owners and traditional leaders on Ebola prevention, the importance of alerts, and how to refer suspect cases.

13 community radio stations (of which 11 in the city of Butembo and 2 in Biena Health Zone) broadcast messages on Ebola prevention and vaccination.



Health and Nutrition

In collaboration with National Programme on Nutrition (PRONANUT), UNICEF provided nutrition support to all suspect and confirmed patients at the Ebola Treatment Centres (ETC) in Butembo (Katwa Hospital) and Masoya (Masoya Health Centre), and to the two children (one of which was discharged on 3 March) at the crèche in Katwa Hospital.

The nutritionists also treated two cases of malnutrition, 4 cases of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar), 4 cases of hypoalbuminemia (low blood albumin) and 2 cases of hypocalcemia (low blood calcium). They also briefed family members and individuals accompanying the patients staying at the Ebola Treatment Centers on infant and young child nutrition.



Psychosocial Support and Child Protection

UNICEF-supported psychologists provided psychological support to all confirmed and suspect cases at the two ETCs in Butembo and Masoya, as well as contacts and suspect cases in the communities in all affected Health Zones. The psychologists also organised more than 12 psycho-education sessions with the families of and individuals accompanying the confirmed and suspect cases. The sessions include topics such as prevention of Ebola, how the ETC works, the importance of reporting oneself in time as a suspect for medical care, community engagement in support to the Ebola response, and the importance of the vaccination against Ebola.

Two children whose parents are in the Ebola Treatment Centre at Katwa Hospital, Butembo, were being looked after by two 'lullaby nurses' in the UNICEF-supported crèche, also at Katwa Hospital. One of the children was reunited with his mother after she was discharged from the ETC on 3 March. The 'lullaby nurses' also received psychological support.

20 (including 11 females) para-social workers from the Social Affairs Division in Butembo were trained on protection against gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and on how to facilitate access to appropriate support services, including psychosocial, medical, security and legal services for survivors. 6 focal points (including 3 women) from partner organizations were trained in facilitation skills on PSEA and GBV.



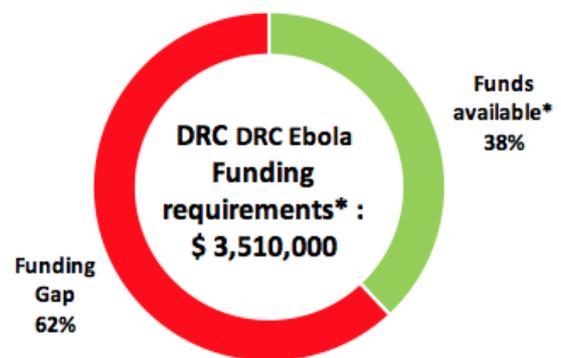
Funding Overview

In response to the reappearance of Ebola in North Kivu, UNICEF has estimated that 3.51 million are required for an immediate response (3 months) within its areas of responsibility. UNICEF allocated core resources to fill in the gaps and is using flexible humanitarian thematic funding for the response in DRC.

As of 7 March 2021, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) have generously contributed to UNICEF DRC Ebola response. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all donors for the contributions received to date.

More than ever, UNICEF needs timely and flexible funding to swiftly respond to the most critical needs as the epidemic evolves.

UNICEF DRC Ebola Response Funding Status



*Funds available include 500,000 USD advanced by the UNICEF



External Media

Since the announcement of new Ebola cases in North-Kivu province, the communication team published more than 30 posts on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). The release of the first Ebola survivor was covered through social media and new multimedia material was uploaded on [WeShare](#).

For more information contact:

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