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# Rwanda

## Ebola Situation Report

### Ebola Sitrep #1 August 2019

### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- With the ongoing Ebola outbreak in eastern DRC, neighbouring Rwanda is at high risk of cross-border transmission. In July 2019, two cases of Ebola were confirmed in Goma, a major transit hub on the border with Rwanda; heightening the risk of transmission.
- With UNICEF support, approximately 20,000 community health workers have been trained on EVD preparedness and community surveillance. While more than 10,000 community health workers were trained in risk communication and community engagement for EVD preparedness.
- Six million people have been reached with EVD prevention messages through mass media, keeping EVD at the centre of public discourse.
- A total of 320 religious leaders trained to conduct community sensitisation through sermons and other religious teachings. While UNICEF pre-positioned WASH supplies in 24 hospitals, 259 health centres and 21 points of entry.

**6 million people reached with EVD prevention messages**

(Source: UNICEF, August 2019)

**20,000 community health workers trained on EVD preparedness**

(Source: UNICEF, August 2019)

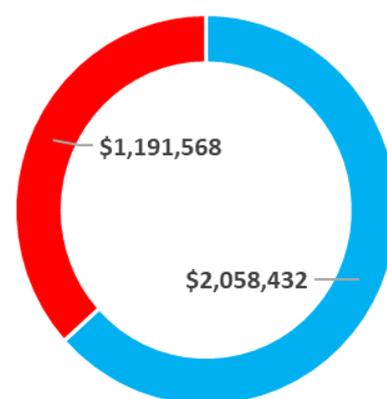
**2600 front line workers vaccinated**

(Source: WHO, August 2019)

#### UNICEF'S RESPONSE WITH PARTNERS

SECTORS	UNICEF Target	UNICEF Results
<b>C4D:</b> Number of community health workers trained in risk communication and community engagement for EVD preparedness	11,540	10,000
<b>C4D:</b> Number of people reached with EVD messaging through community engagement and interpersonal communication approaches	500,000	155,000
<b>Health:</b> Number of community health workers receiving a complete set of supplies for EVD preparedness	6,000	20,000
<b>Child protection:</b> Number of frontline workers trained on child protection response in the EVD context	150	0

#### EBOLA RESPONSE FUNDING



■ Funds received ■ Funding gap



*Health workers screen pedestrians for fever at the Petite Barrière border crossing between Goma, DRC and Rubavu, Rwanda. © UNICEF/UN0334048/Kanobana*

## Situation Overview

Since August 2018, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been facing a large-scale epidemic of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in the eastern provinces of North Kivu and Ituri. Since the start of the outbreak in August 2018, 2,976 EVD cases were reported and 1,990 have died (WHO, 27 August 2019). Nearly 30 per cent of cases are children, a larger proportion than reported in previous outbreaks of Ebola.

As one of the most densely populated countries in Africa, and with high-quality transport infrastructure, Rwanda is at high-risk of rapid spread of EVD infection. In 2018, the Government of Rwanda (GoR) activated Ebola preparedness mechanisms to minimize the risk of importation or cross-border transmission. Although Rwanda remains free of Ebola, there are 15 districts at risk of cross-border spread, six bordering DRC and Uganda and one with air links to DRC. The 15 high-risk districts are concentrated along Rwanda's western and northern borders: Rusizi, Nyamasheke, Karongi, Rutsiro, Rubavu, Nyabihu, Musanze, Burera, Gicumbi, Nyagatare, Bugesera, Nyanza, as well as the capital Kigali's three districts of Kicukiro, Gasabo, and Nyarugenge.

In July 2019, two cases of Ebola were confirmed in Goma, a major transit hub of more than one million people, which lies on the border with Gisenyi town in Rwanda. On 17 July 2019, WHO declared the Ebola outbreak in North Eastern DRC a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

**Map of high-risk Priority 1 districts (red) and medium-risk Priority 2 districts in Rwanda.**



## Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

### Government response

The GoR has developed a detailed National Preparedness Plan covering the period from July to December 2019. The Ministry of Health has advised against unnecessary travel to Goma and Eastern Congo, and requested that individuals who have recently travelled to an Ebola affected area report to the nearest screening station. Citizens are encouraged to report any suspected cases of Ebola via the toll-free hotline. Screening for Ebola at points of entry has been ongoing since the beginning of the outbreak and has been reinforced since the confirmed cases in Goma.

The Government has constructed an Ebola Treatment Centre in Rubavu, and 23 isolation units are being prepared in hospitals in 15 priority districts. Ebola response simulation exercises are conducted regularly to test Rwanda's preparedness in response to a case. Other efforts to enhance EVD preparedness include: Emergency Operations Centre activation, enhanced surveillance, capacity building for case management and laboratory testing. About 3,000 health workers in high-risk areas have been vaccinated as a preventative measure, including more than 1,100 in Rubavu District.

### UN support to EVD response

A technical working group meeting chaired by the Ministry of Health on 24 October 2018 decided to have weekly meetings on six thematic areas, of which UNICEF is involved in four and the co-lead for risk communications and community engagement. WHO provides the overall support to the GoR.

More specifically, UNICEF is a member of the national coordination committee led by the Minister of Health. UNICEF provides technical support to the Government to enhance preparedness levels through participation in simulation exercises, pre-positioning of supplies, risk communication and community engagement, streamlining infection prevention and control (including WASH related services) into preparedness, and in building capacity at all levels, including among community health workers.

UNICEF also contributed to the Interagency Ebola Preparedness Plan along WHO, WFP, UNHCR and IOM and is an active member of the weekly UN Ebola Coordination meeting.

On August 14 and 15, UNICEF attended the EVD regional meeting in Goma, which was attended by representatives of Governments, OCHA and WHO from DRC, Uganda, Burundi and Rwanda. The purpose of the meeting was to review the progress to date, current challenges and identify additional measures to strengthen Ebola preparedness with a focus on cross-border issues.

## UNICEF Response Strategy

UNICEF Rwanda's response plan was developed on the basis of three scenarios (1/ preparedness, 2/ a few contained EVD cases, 3/ full response) and is currently implementing scenario 1, which is costed at US\$3.25 million to strengthen preparedness, and covers until December 2019. It is aligned with the National Ebola Preparedness and Response Plan which has a total budget of US\$14 million.

UNICEF supported MoH to develop and revise the national Risk Communication Strategy for EVD Prevention, as well as the risk communication components of the Revised National EVD Contingency Plan. UNICEF also supports the Minister of Education and National Commission for Children to strengthen their preparedness efforts.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### Risk Communication and Community Engagement

As co-chair of the Risk Communication and Community Engagement Technical Working Group and based on evidence from the KAP study in November 2018, UNICEF and partners have developed a comprehensive communication and community engagement strategy to strengthen EVD prevention.

UNICEF has directly increased knowledge and awareness among 155,000 people in Rwanda's 15-high risk districts on EVD signs and symptoms, modes of transmission, ways of prevention, and channels to refer EVD-related concerns. To complement social mobilisation and community engagement, over six million people have been reached through mass media, keeping EVD at the centre of public discourse.

Over 320 religious leaders have been trained (60 per cent male; 40 per cent female) to conduct community sensitisation through sermons and other religious teachings.

UNICEF has trained 10,000 community health workers on door-to-door risk communication and community engagement. A new nine-month partnership with the Global Humanitarian and Development Foundation (GHDF) is emerging to train the remaining 1,540 community health workers and to empower communities to take part in EVD preparedness.

EVD risk communication materials have been distributed in the 15 high-risk districts. Culturally sensitive communication materials are also under development, covering topics like alternative greetings to avoid Ebola transmission. UNICEF has installed six LED screens at key border crossings with DR Congo and Uganda and six in Kigali City, including one at Kigali International Airport, regularly displaying EVD prevention messages.

Using the edutainment approach, UNICEF is conducting road shows in 15 high-risk districts. An Ebola song featuring popular artists has been developed to teach Ebola prevention. Dance and choreography

and a music video to complement the song are in production, which will also be used during road shows.

### **Infant and Young Child Feeding/Nutrition in the context of Ebola**

In May 2019, the four priority one countries for EVD preparedness in ESAR, including UNICEF Rwanda participated in a workshop organised by UNICEF WCARO and UNICEF DRC to share experiences on nutrition integration in the EVD context. After the workshop, coordination meetings were held with Rwanda's Risk Communication and Community Engagement Technical Working Group and the Case Management Working Group for inclusion of nutrition in the context of Ebola. Nutrition components have been included in the current national contingency plan

In June 2019, UNICEF developed key nutrition messages on infant and young child feeding in the EVD context. These have been shared and integrated into Risk Communication and Community Engagement tools for frontline health workers in facilities and community who are engaged in EVD preparedness and management, soon to be printed and disseminated in the 15 high-risk districts. UNICEF also conducted consultative meetings with the World Health Organization, World Food Programme and Rwanda Biomedical Centre to discuss the importance of nutrition and the role of each organisation in preventing and treating severe acute malnutrition in the EVD context. With the Government of Rwanda, these agencies will host a workshop in late August to adapt guidance for nutrition for EVD affected children and adults into the Rwandan context.

Realising how distributors and manufacturers of breastmilk substitutes react differently during emergencies, the UNICEF Rwanda nutrition team is working with the National Early Childhood Programme (NECDP) and other stakeholders to create a joint statement on the continued protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding during an Ebola emergency.

### **Infection Prevention and Control /WASH**

UNICEF is the leading partner supporting the Ministry of Health to strengthen WASH for EVD preparedness. UNICEF co-chairs the Case Management/Infection Prevention and Control Technical Working Group, including streamlining WASH into standard operating procedures and defining supplies for critical locations. UNICEF is also finalising the recruitment of a P3 WASH Specialist to support the Ministry of Health and UNICEF in Ebola preparedness.

UNICEF has trained 19 national trainers on EVD preparedness and response and 204 Rapid Response Team Members for a total of 223 trained national and district health staff. UNICEF has provided WASH supplies for EVD prevention in two districts and is procuring supplies for the remaining 13 high-risk districts. Through this support, UNICEF is supplying 24 hospitals, 259 health centres and 21 points of entry. These supplies will be pre-positioned in the 15 high-risk districts and training will be conducted in district hospitals, health centres and points of entry.

UNICEF continues to provide technical assistance on WASH components during construction of the Ebola Treatment Centre and for WASH infrastructure at points of entry.

UNICEF supported training of 77 partner staff and will continue to support cascade trainings to reach 819 district hospitals staff, including 777 health centre staff and 42 people based at points of entry.

UNICEF plans to orient the National Rapid Response team to use water quality testing kits, including turbidimeters and pool testers that will be distributed to high-risk district hospitals. Continued refresher trainings will be conducted to keep trained staff on high alert and ready to respond in case of an Ebola outbreak in Rwanda.

### **Psycho Social Support including Child Protection**

UNICEF is developing a guide on child protection for families and children affected by EVD, as well as a referral guide on essential care for children in quarantine or foster care. These will include a component on psychosocial support and will be accompanied by a simplified training module for child protection volunteers and frontline workers. The guide will also include awareness on how Ebola and other diseases requiring social distancing can negatively impact the protection of children, how to care for children in quarantine, children separated from parents who are in quarantine or under clinical care, and children orphaned by EVD. It will provide practical tools for child reunification, fostering and psychosocial support.

Once the guide is developed, key frontline workers – including professional social workers, psychologists and health staff – will be trained in prioritised districts.

### **Health**

UNICEF supported procurement of essential supplies for community health workers to enable them to protect themselves from EVD and to efficiently identify cases of EVD in communities. All supplies have been ordered and are in the process of being delivered (although thermometers have already been delivered). These supplies are part of the National Contingency Plan and do not overlap with supplies procured by other partners. Approximately 15,000 community health workers will receive thermometers and timers, and 6,000 will receive boots and gloves. These health workers are the first point of contact at the community level for any health emergency; equipping them is essential for EVD preparedness.

UNICEF also helped supervise approximately 20,000 community health workers in high-risk districts for one quarter. This is critical to ensure that community health workers immediately report all alerts to health facilities, so these alerts can be investigated promptly. This activity is ongoing and should be completed by August 2019. Supervision of community health workers includes community surveillance, risk communication, and hand hygiene.

These activities complement UNICEF's earlier work on building capacities of community health workers by supporting the Ministry of Health to develop and disseminate training materials on surveillance, risk communication, hygiene, and training 20,000 health workers in high-risk districts.

UNICEF support has taken into consideration other partners' contributions as indicated in the Technical Working Group action plan and the National Plan to avoid any overlap.

UNICEF plans to procure the remaining supplies for community health workers, including boots and gloves. Support and training will be provided to community health workers in the additional five priority districts.

### **Education**

UNICEF is working jointly with Rwanda Education Board, under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, and in collaboration with Ministry of Health, Rwanda Biomedical Centre, and other partners, to strengthen the education sector in preparing for Ebola.

In collaboration with the UNICEF Communication for Development team, four educational posters and one booklet were developed for schools and validated by Rwanda Education Board. Currently, 1,749

copies of each material are under procurement, or one per school in each of the priority districts. With additional funds, another 1,749 copies of each will be procured by the end of September 2019.

A workshop was held in June 2019 with key stakeholders to develop Ebola guidance for the education sector. This guidance will be utilised if there are suspected cases of Ebola in schools and will ensure appropriate measures are taken to ensure the health and safety of students and education stakeholders while ensuring treatment options for potential victims. A draft version is currently being finalised and it is expected to be validated by the end of September 2019.

Training of 13 District Directors of Education and 185 Sector Education Officers from 13 of the high-risk districts identified in the National Contingency Plan is also planned for the beginning of September 2019.

## External Communication and Media

Beginning in July 2019, when Rwanda was raised to L2 Emergency, UNICEF significantly increased external communication efforts. Two videos have been produced on [house-to-house Ebola sensitisation](#) by community health workers, and on a UNICEF-supported [radio station spreading Ebola messages](#) in bus parks and markets on the Rwanda-DR Congo border.

UNICEF has also produced several [written stories](#), published on the Country Office website, and focused approximately 80 per cent of recent social media posts on Ebola prevention efforts in Rwanda. These posts have been shared widely and amplified by regional and global social media channels.

A collection of photographs and b-roll for external use can be found on the [UNICEF Rwanda WeShare](#) site, with relevant shot lists and photography credit.

## Funding

UNICEF EVD prevention interventions have been funded so far by regular resources, CERF, DFID and USAID. As of July 2019, the funding gap for the UNICEF Rwanda EVD preparedness plan is US \$1,050,000. An EPF loan for an amount of US 700,000 has been received in July to support the implementation of the most urgent activities led by UNICEF.

Sector	Total Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Funds Received Current Year	Carry-Over from 2018	\$	%
Health	900,000	535,000	0	365,000	41
WASH	525,000	455,985	0	69,015	13
Nutrition	125,000	25,000	0	100,000	80
C4D	1,450,000	673,355	0	776,645	54
Child Protection	125,000	40,000	0	85,000	68
Education	125,000	119,092	0	5,908	5
Ops/HR Costs	-	210,000	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,250,000</b>	<b>2,058,432</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,191,568</b>	<b>37</b>

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**INTERNAL****Human Resources**

UNICEF Rwanda has 87 staff members and 24 individual consultants supporting its regular programme. With the declaration of UNICEF's Corporate Emergency Activation Scale-Up Procedure for Ebola and Level 2 for Rwanda from 19 July until 18 October 2019, the office regularly reviews its surge staffing requirements to support Ebola preparedness.

Temporary internal staff redeployments have been implemented to strengthen office capacity to prepare for and respond to a potential Ebola outbreak. In addition, One C4D Consultant and One Child Protection in Emergencies Consultant have been recruited and are already on board, and a WASH in Emergencies Specialist, P-3 (TA) is currently under recruitment to support the implementation of the preparedness plan.

Working closely with the UNCT, the office is reviewing its staff support plan to ensure appropriate measures will be taken to support staff and their dependents whenever necessary.