

# EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE

Democratic Republic of the Congo



External Situation Report 89



World Health  
Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

Africa

# EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE



## Democratic Republic of the Congo External Situation Report 89

Date of issue: 21 April 2020

Data as reported by: 19 April 2020

### 1. Situation update



From 13 to 19 April 2020, four new confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) were reported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, all from Beni Health Zone in North Kivu Province. Three out of four cases were registered as contacts, though none were regularly followed by the response team because of insecurity and ongoing challenges with community reticence.

In total, six cases have been reported since 10 April, four of whom have passed away. Currently there is one confirmed case receiving care at an Ebola treatment centre and one who remains in the community; response teams are engaging with the community in order to address this.

Prior to the emergence of this cluster in Beni, the last person confirmed to have EVD tested negative twice and was discharged from a treatment centre on 3 March 2020.

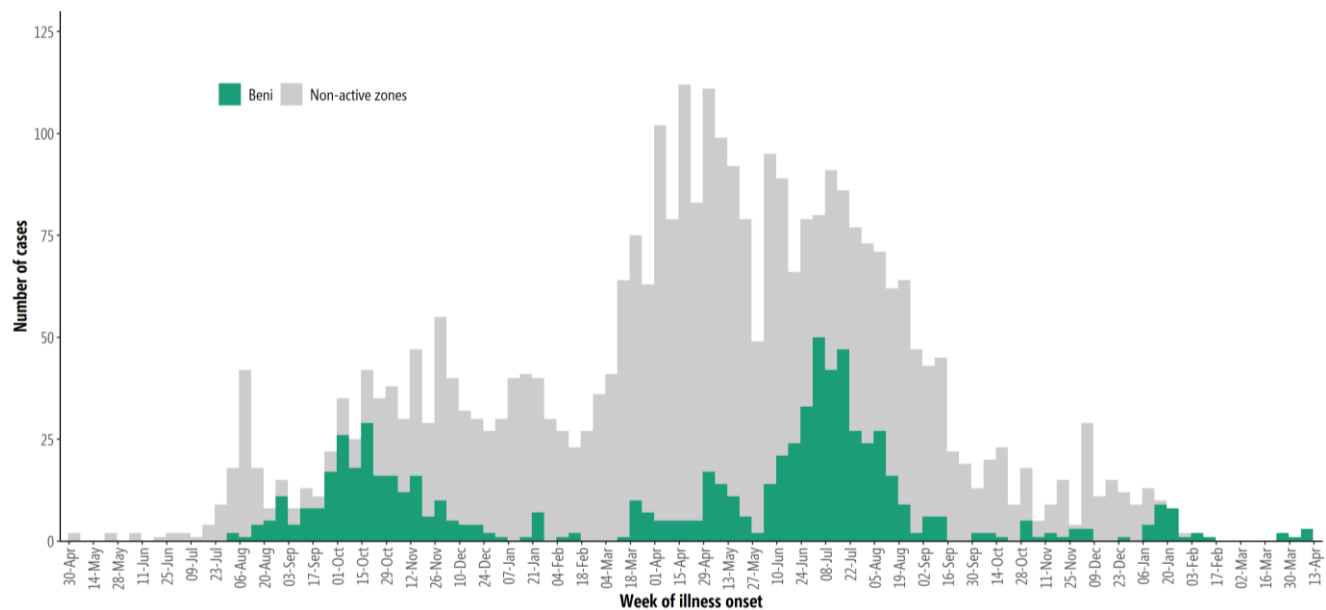
Specimens from confirmed cases were sent to the Institut Research Biomedicale (INRB) for genetic sequencing to support surveillance teams in investigating the source of infection and to determine if cases were linked to a known source of transmission. A total of 638 contacts of these cases have been registered, of which 476 were followed on 19 April 2020. A total of 346 of these contacts have been vaccinated. As of 19 April, 25% of contacts have not been followed due to insecurity and ongoing challenges with community reticence.

From 13 to 19 April 2020, an average of 1894 alerts were reported and investigated per day. Of these, an average of 187 alerts were validated as suspected cases each day, requiring specialized care and laboratory testing to rule-out EVD. The alert rate has decreased and remains suboptimal in the past three weeks as teams are pulled into other emergencies, including coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Response teams face other challenges, such as the presence of armed groups, limited access to some communities, movement of contacts, and possible under-reporting to the central coordination of the outbreak response. Timely testing of suspected cases continues to be provided from nine laboratories. From 13 to 19 April 2020, 1030 samples were tested including 583 blood samples from alive, suspected cases; 267 swabs from community deaths; and 180 samples from re-tested patients. Overall, laboratory activities increased by 6% compared to the previous week.

As of 19 April 2020, a total of 3461 EVD cases, including 3316 confirmed and 145 probable cases have been reported., of which 2279 cases died (overall case fatality ratio 66%). Of the total confirmed and probable cases, 56% ( $n=1943$ ) were female, 28% ( $n=983$ ) were children aged less than 18 years, and 5% ( $n=171$ ) were healthcare workers. As of 19 April 2020, a total of 1169 cases have recovered from EVD.

An urgent injection of US\$ 20 million is required to ensure that response teams have the capacity to maintain the appropriate level of operations through to the beginning of May 2020. For more information see this recent statement: <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/06-03-2020-end-in-sight-but-flare-ups-likely-in-the-ebola-outbreak-in-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo>

**Figure 1: Health zone of reported Ebola virus disease cases by week of illness onset, as of 19 April 2020**



*\*Excludes n=130/3461 cases for whom onset dates not reported. Data in recent weeks are subject to delays in case confirmation and reporting, as well as ongoing data cleaning.*

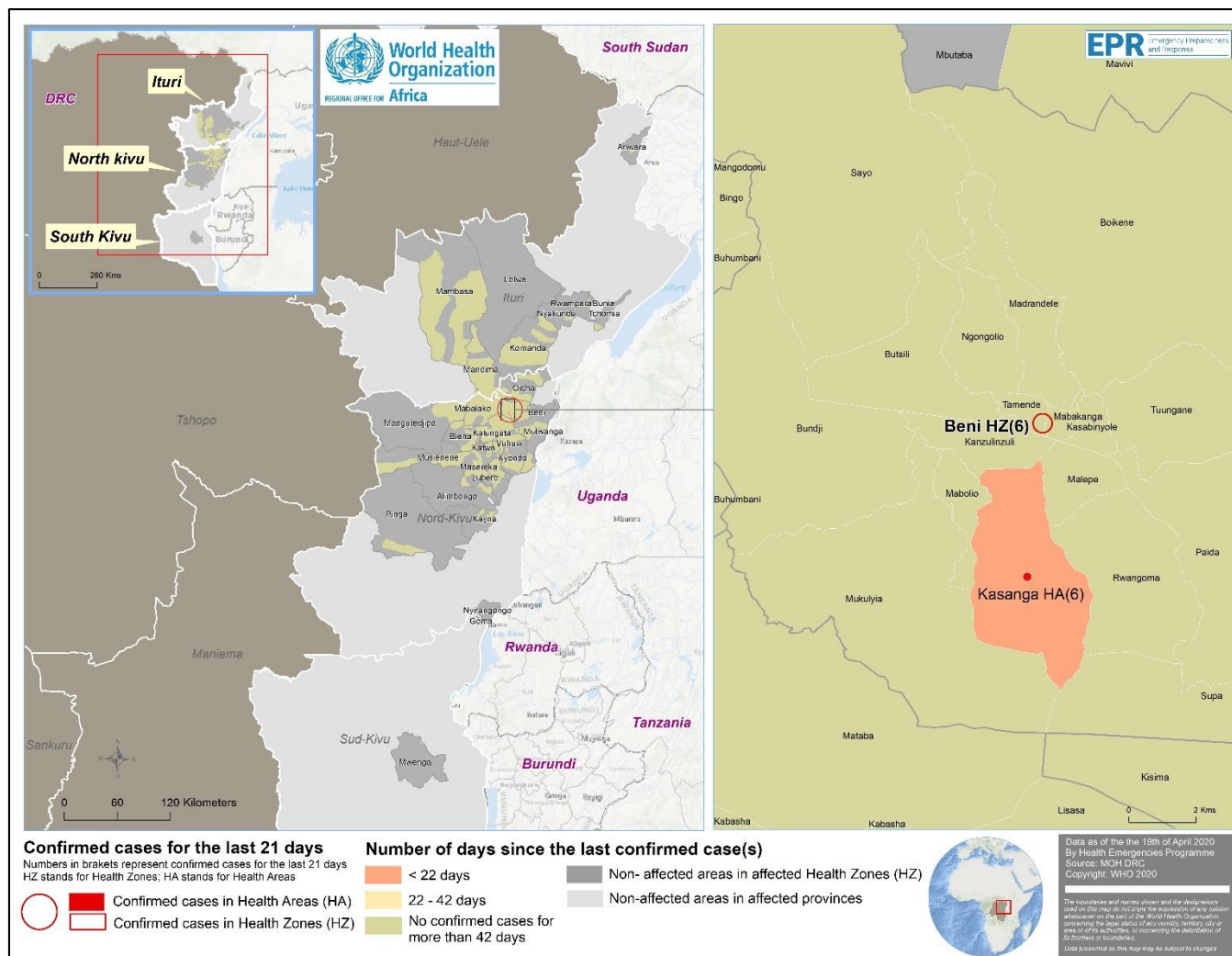


**Table 1: Ebola virus disease cases by classification and health zones in North Kivu and Ituri provinces, Democratic Republic of the Congo, as of 19 April 2020**

Province	Health Zone	Health areas reporting at least one case in previous 21 days / total number of health areas	Confirmed cases in the last 21 days	Cumulative cases by classification			Cumulative deaths	
				Confirmed cases	Probable cases	Total cases	Deaths among confirmed cases	Total deaths
South Kivu	Mwenga	0/18	0	6	0	6	3	3
North Kivu	Alimbongo	0/20	0	5	1	6	2	3
	Beni	1/18	6	727	9	736	469	478
	Biena	0/16	0	19	2	21	12	14
	Butembo	0/15	0	295	7	302	353	360
	Goma	0/10	0	1	0	1	1	1
	Kalunguta	0/18	0	198	23	221	71	94
	Katwa	0/18	0	653	24	677	471	495
	Kayna	0/21	0	28	1	29	8	9
	Kyondo	0/22	0	25	6	31	15	21
	Lubero	0/19	0	31	2	33	4	6
	Mabalako	0/12	0	463	18	481	334	352
	Manguredjipa	0/10	0	18	3	21	12	15
	Masereka	0/16	0	50	6	56	17	23
	Musienene	0/20	0	85	1	86	33	34
	Mutwanga	0/19	0	32	0	32	12	12
	Nyiragongo	0/10	0	3	0	3	1	1
	Oicha	0/26	0	65	0	65	30	30
	Pinga	0/18	0	1	0	1	0	0
	Vuhovi	0/12	0	103	14	117	37	51
Ituri	Ariwara	0/21	0	1	0	1	1	1
	Bunia	0/20	0	4	0	4	4	4
	Komanda	0/15	0	56	10	66	44	54
	Lolwa	0/8	0	6	0	6	1	1
	Mambasa	0/17	0	82	5	87	27	32
	Mandima	0/15	0	347	12	359	166	178
	Nyakunde	0/12	0	2	0	2	1	1
	Rwampara	0/13	0	8	1	9	3	4
Total	Tchomia	0/12	0	2	0	2	2	2
		1/471	6	3316	145	3461	2134	2279

*Note: Attributions of cases notified in recent days to a health zone are subjected to changes upon in-depth investigations*

**Figure 2: Geographical distribution of confirmed and probable Ebola virus disease cases by health area, North Kivu and Ituri provinces, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 19 April 2020**



*\*Data are subject to delays in case confirmation and reporting, as well as ongoing data cleaning and reclassification – trends during recent weeks should be interpreted cautiously.*

## 2. Actions to date

The Government and the Ministry of Health (MOH) and other national authorities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, WHO, and partners are implementing outbreak control interventions together with teams in the surrounding provinces, who are taking measures to ensure that they are response-ready.

An overview of key activities is summarized below:

### Surveillance and Laboratory

- ➔ From 13 to 19 April 2020, an average of 1894 alerts were reported and investigated per day. Of these, an average of 187 alerts were validated as suspected cases each day. There was a continued decrease in the overall level of alerts.
- ➔ Testing of suspected cases continues to be provided across nine operational laboratories. From 13 to 19 April, 1030 samples were tested, which was a 6% increase compared to the previous week.
- ➔ Over 249 000 contacts have been registered since the beginning of the outbreak.

### Vaccines

- ➔ As of 19 April 2020, 196 people received the rVSV-ZEBOC-GP vaccine in Kasanga Health Area, Beni Health Zone, in the past week, bringing the total number of people vaccinated since August 2018 to 301 978.
- ➔ While approximately 6000 doses are available in Beni Health Zone, WHO anticipates potential longer-term challenges with the vaccine pipeline due to limited flight ability as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Case management

- ➔ Ebola treatment centres (ETCs), transit centres (TCs), and decentralized transit centres continue to operate across outbreak affected areas, providing timely care and diagnoses for suspected EVD cases.

### Infection prevention and control (IPC) and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- ➔ From 13 to 19 April, 21 health facilities were assessed with an average IPC score of 73% in sub-coordinations in Beni, Butembo, Mangina.
- ➔ Briefings on EVD and COVID-19 were held in 512 out of 580 planned healthcare facilities (88%) in the sub-coordinations in Beni, Butembo, Mangina.

- ➔ Trainings on correct hand washing and the wearing and removal of personal protective equipment were provided to 454 out of 511 health care workers.
- ➔ Among four new confirmed cases of EVD, possible nosocomial infection was suspected in three cases. At total of 18 healthcare workers, including one traditional healer, were assessed for exposure at the voluntary isolation sites of Ndidir and Nyakunde and were categorized as follows: 10 were High Risk, five were Intermediate Risk, and three were Low Risk. All of these healthcare workers are currently monitored.

## Points of Entry (PoE)

- ➔ From 13 to 19 April 2020, 1 408 981 screenings were performed, bringing the total number of screenings at PoEs and Points of Control (PoCs) to over 173 million. During the reporting period, 209 alerts were notified, of which 48 (23%) were validated as suspect cases following investigation. None were subsequently confirmed with EVD following laboratory testing. The total number of confirmed EVD cases identified at PoEs and PoCs remains at 30.
- ➔ From 13 to 19 April 2020, the average number of PoEs and PoCs reporting daily screenings was 102.
- ➔ Current challenges at PoEs and PoCs include non-compliance with the provincial authority's measure on the isolation of large cities such as Beni, Butembo and Goma, and the use of unofficial cross border passages along the border between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda despite official closure of the borders between the two countries.
- ➔ As part of measures to reinforce surveillance activities in North Kivu Province to address the flare-up of EVD cases, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and partners restarted contact tracing activities at six PoCs in Beni (Mukulya, Pasisi, PK5, Barriere Mavivi, Aeroport Mavivi and Sayo). The PoCs were provided with additional tablets and data bundles to facilitate contact tracing and reporting using a PoE/PoC mobile data application.
- ➔ IOM, the provincial health department (DPS), National Program of Hygiene at Borders (PNHF) and US CDC conducted a joint support visit at Grand Barrière, Goma Airport and Mumbabiro PoC with the aim of strengthening surveillance for COVID-19 pandemic and EVD. During the visit, the team conducted on-the-job briefings and trainings of frontline workers and oversaw the restarting of contact tracing activities to enhance surveillance capacity at PoEs and PoCs. At Grande Barrière, which is located at the border of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with Rwanda, the visit also focused on the identification of a second isolation room to provide space for each gender, in line with the recommendation of Provincial Technical Committee.
- ➔ Incidents of insecurity continue to affect PoE activities in North Kivu and Ituri Provinces. On 17 April

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[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_24674](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_24674)

