

EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE

Democratic Republic of the Congo



External Situation Report 81



World Health
Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR
Africa

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1. Situation update



This week, the incidence of new confirmed Ebola virus disease (EVD) cases remained low (Figure 1). From 17 to 23 February 2020, one new confirmed case was reported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The case was reported in Beni Health Zone, North Kivu Province on 17 February 2020. The person is a contact of a confirmed case, was under surveillance at the time of illness onset, and is now receiving care at an Ebola Treatment Centre.

In the past 21 days (3 to 23 February 2020), the outbreak has been confined to a relatively small geographic area. During this period, five new confirmed cases were reported from two health areas in North Kivu Province; both areas are within Beni Health Zone (Figure 2, Table 1). It has been more than 21 days since new cases were confirmed from Mabalako Health Zone, and over 42 days since new cases were detected in Musienene Health Zone.

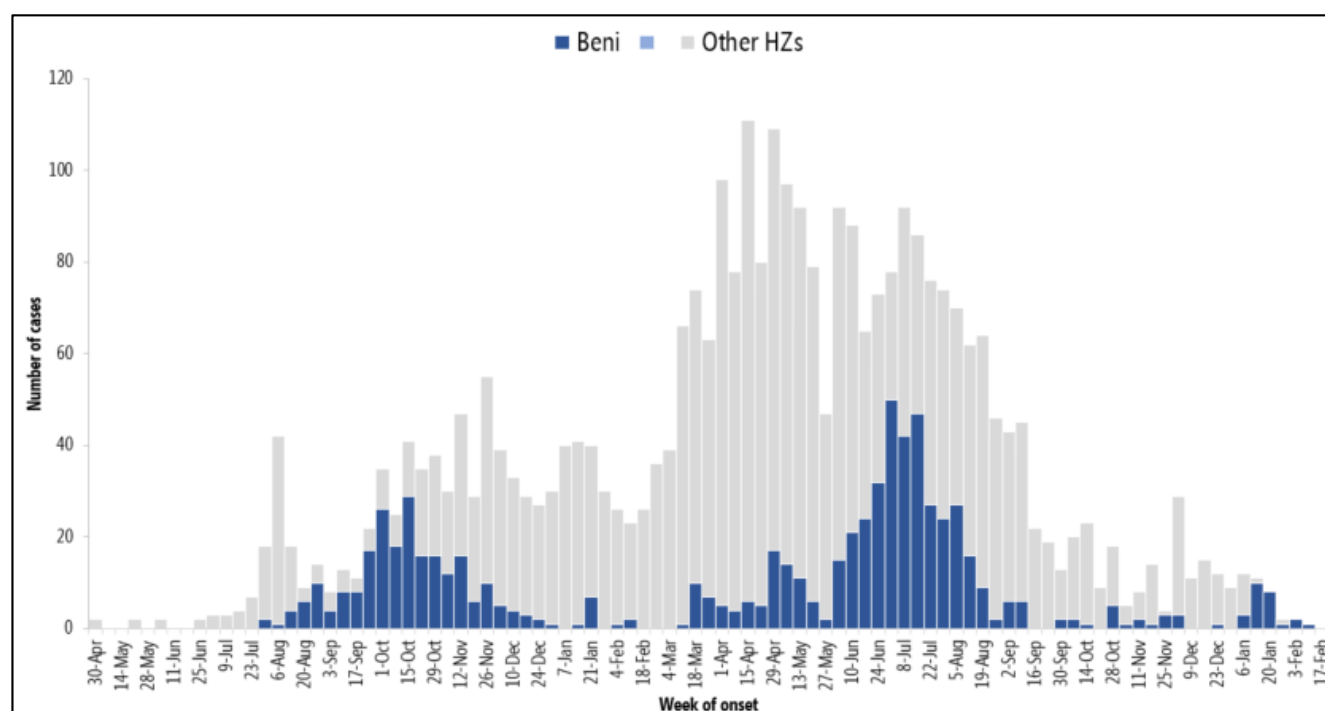
While we are cautiously optimistic about the overall trend and reduced geographic spread of the outbreak, the risk of resurgence within the Democratic Republic of the Congo and neighbouring countries remains high, and the continued containment of the outbreak is contingent on maintaining access and security in affected communities. Given recent delays in isolating some cases, we may see additional cases in the coming weeks. Moreover, Ebola virus may persist in some survivors' body fluids, and in a limited number of instances, transmissions from exposure to body fluids of survivors have been documented during this outbreak. To mitigate such risks, it is critical to maintain response capacities to rapidly detect and respond to reintroduction events, and to prioritize survivor monitoring and the maintenance of cooperative relationships with the survivors' associations.

WHO is requesting funding in order to maintain current levels of operations and prevent re-emergence of the outbreak. WHO's financial need for the Ebola Response from January to June 2020 is US \$83 million under the Strategic Response Plan (SRP 4.1). Thanks to the generosity of many donors during 2019, WHO has some carry-over funding, which has been applied to maintain operations through February 2020. USD \$40 million is currently needed to ensure continuity of response and preparedness activities to bring the case incidence to zero, and continue building strong, resilient health systems.

As of 23 February 2020, a total of 3444 EVD cases, including 3310 confirmed and 134 probable cases have been reported, of which 2264 cases died (overall case fatality ratio 66%). On 21 February, 11 individuals were newly validated as probable cases. The dates of illness onset for these probable cases

ranged from November 2018 to August 2019, and were reported from eight health zones (two health zones in Ituri Province and six health zones in North Kivu Province). Since August 2018, a total of 134 probable cases have been validated. Of the total confirmed and probable cases, 56% (1926) were female, 28% (974) were children aged less than 18 years, and 5% (172) were healthcare workers.

Figure 1: Health zone of reported Ebola virus disease cases by week of illness onset, as of 23 February 2020



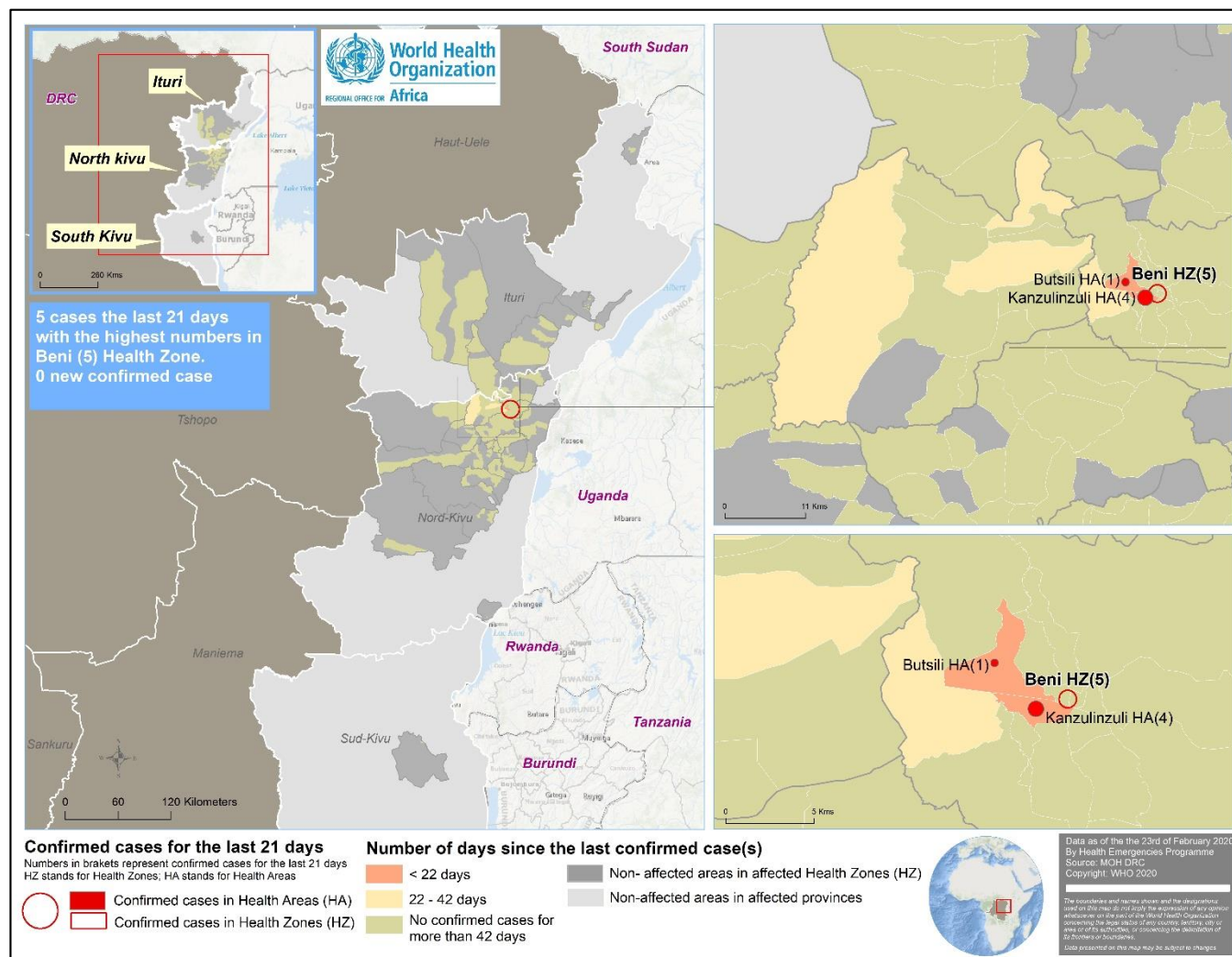
*3444 confirmed and probable cases, reported as of 23 February 2020. Excludes n=155 cases for whom onset dates not reported. Data in recent weeks are subject to delays in case confirmation and reporting, as well as ongoing data cleaning. Non-active health zones indicate health zone that have not reported cases in the last 21 days.

Table 1: Ebola virus disease cases by classification and health zones in North Kivu and Ituri provinces, Democratic Republic of the Congo, as of 23 February 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	2/18	5	721	9	730	465	474
	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	20	218	71	91
	Katwa	0/18	0	653	24	677	471	495
	Kayna	0/21	0	28	1	29	8	9
	Kyondo	0/22	0	25	4	29	15	19
	Lubero	0/19	0	31	2	33	4	6
	Mabalako	0/12	0	463	18	481	334	352
	Manguredjipa	0/10	0	18	1	19	12	13
	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	4	86	27	31
	Mandima	0/15	0	347	10	357	166	176
	Nyakunde	0/12	0	2	0	2	1	1
	Rwampara	0/13	0	8	0	8	3	3
	Tchomia	0/12	0	2	0	2	2	2
Total		2/471	5	3310	134	3444	2130	2264

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, 23 February 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

- Over 249 000 contacts have been registered to date and 506 were under surveillance as of 23 February 2020. On average, 96% of contacts were followed daily in the last seven days in health zones with continued operations.
- An average of 5243 alerts were reported per day over the past seven days, of which 5170 (99%) were investigated within 24 hours of reporting.

Vaccines

- As of 23 February 2020, 297 397 people were vaccinated with the rVSV-ZEBOV-GP Ebola vaccine.
- Vaccination with the Ad26.ZEBOV/MVA-BN-Filo vaccine continued in two health areas near Goma, with 16 140 people vaccinated since its introduction on 14 November 2019, as of 21 February 2020.

Case management

- As of 22 February 2020, there are nine Ebola treatment centres (ETCs) reporting bed occupancy and 14 Ebola transit centres reporting bed occupancy in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri.

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

- In the past seven days, no new cases of nosocomial or health care worker infections were reported.
- IPC strategies at the Kanzulinzuli Transit center were improved, particularly regarding patient circulation and management.

- A total of 40 health care workers were briefed on IPC and 44 priority health care facilities in the hotspot areas were followed intensively to interrupt any possible transmission and report any potential cases. The list of high risk contacts was shared with the health care facilities.
- A total of 351 health facilities were assessed with the IPC scorecard: the mean score was 68% in 15 health zones. Sterilization and isolation capacity remain the lowest scoring indicators.
- The security situation in Mabalako improved, which enabled EVD response activities in many health areas.
- Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities continue in affected areas. As of 22 February, a total of 22 MONUSCO (United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo) healthcare providers were trained in appropriate WASH measure in Mavivi, Beni Health Zone, and 186 health facilities were monitored and supported in Beni, Oicha, Katwa, Musienene and Mabalako Health Zones. In addition, 667 handwashing points in these areas were evaluated

Points of Entry (PoE)

- From 17 to 23 February 2020, 2 845 457 screenings were performed, bringing the cumulative number of screenings to over 155 million since the beginning of the outbreak. There were 321 alerts notified this week, of which 113 (35%) were validated as suspect cases following investigation; none were subsequently confirmed with EVD following laboratory testing. The cumulative number of EVD positive cases identified at PoEs and Points of Control (PoCs) remains at 30. The average number of PoEs and PoCs reporting daily screening was 104 out of 109 points this week.
- Two high risk contacts in transit were intercepted at PoCs this week. The first contact was screened at PoC Cugeki near Butembo on 18 February; the individual was asymptomatic and referred to the Katwa Health Zone surveillance team for follow-up. The second contact was screened at PoC Pont Loya in Komanda on 23 February; the individual was asymptomatic and referred to the Komanda surveillance team for follow-up.
- Following security improvements, PoCs Makeke and Bella resumed screening activities on 18 February after eight days of interruption of operations at this location.
- This week, a total of 130 PoE/PoC surveillance staff participated in refresher trainings on screening procedures and data management in Beni Health Zone.
- This week a DRC-Burundi cross-border workshop was held in Goma to develop standard

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