

EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE

Democratic Republic of the Congo



External Situation Report 74



World Health
Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR
Africa

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Date of issue: 7 January 2020
Data as reported by: 5 January 2020

1. Situation update

Cases	Deaths
 3390	 2233

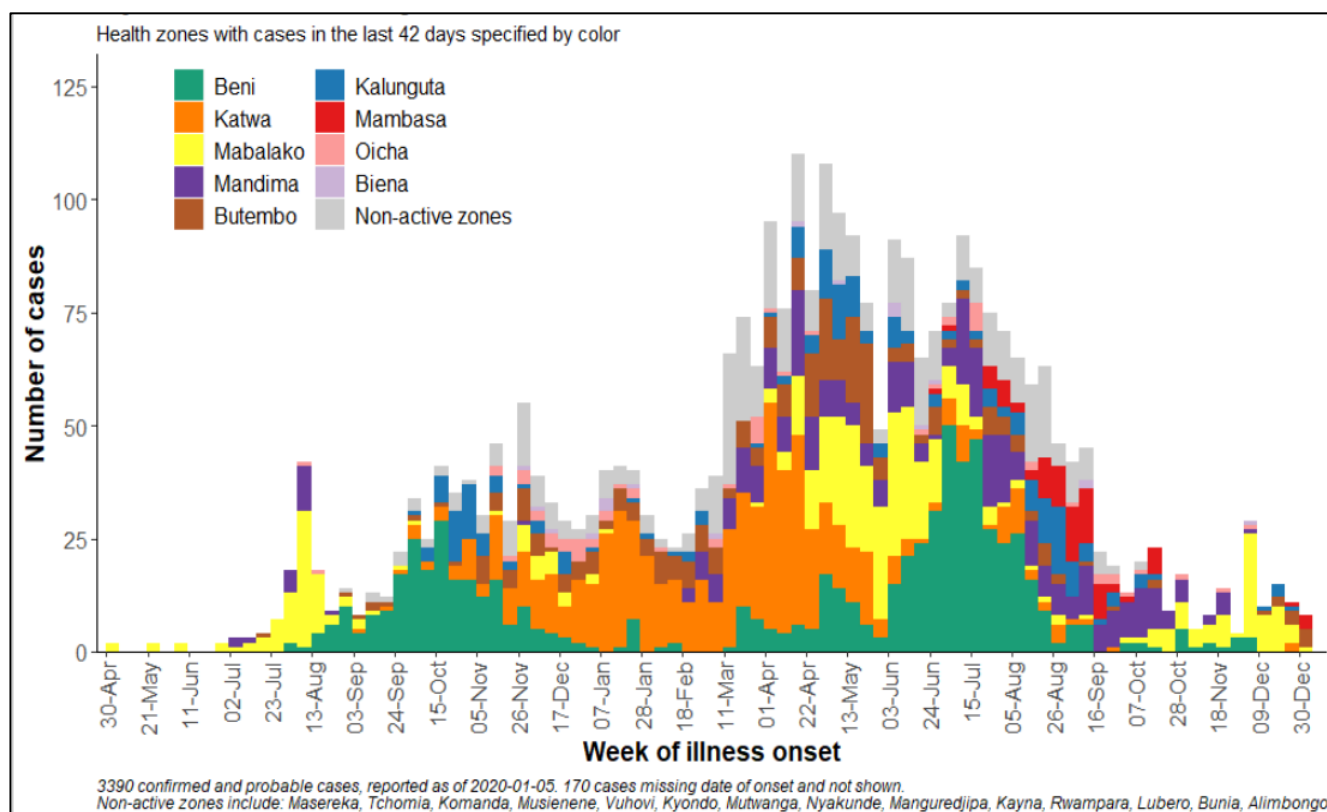
Since the last Situation Report 73 issued on 24 December 2019, 28 new confirmed Ebola virus disease (EVD) cases were reported from five health zones in two affected provinces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo between 23 December 2019 to 5 January 2020. The new confirmed cases in the past 14 days are from Butembo, Katwa, Kalunguta, Mabalako and Mambasa. The source of exposure for the four new cases reported from Mambasa Health Zone, Ituri Province is currently under investigation. Mambasa Health Zone had previously not had a confirmed case for 66 days. Similarly, the source of exposure of the initial case reported in Kalunguta at the end of December is still under investigation.

Eight of the ten cases reported in Butembo and Katwa in the past 14 days are linked to a transmission chain of more than 50 people that originated in Aloya Health Area, Mabalako Health Zone.

In the past 21 days (16 December 2019 to 5 January 2020), 42 confirmed cases were reported from 13 of the 87 health areas within five active health zones in North Kivu and Ituri provinces (Figure 2, Table 1): Mabalako (50%; $n=21$ cases), Butembo (24%; $n=10$ cases), Kalunguta (12%; $n=5$), Katwa (5%; $n=2$) in North Kivu province and Mambasa (10%; $n=4$) in Ituri Province.

As of 5 January 2020, a total of 3390 EVD cases, including 3272 confirmed and 118 probable cases have been reported, of which 2233 cases died (overall case fatality ratio 66%). Of the total confirmed and probable cases, 56% (1903) were female, 28% (956) were children aged less than 18 years, and 5% (168) were healthcare workers.

Figure 1: Health zone of reported Ebola virus disease cases by week of illness onset, as of 5 January 2020



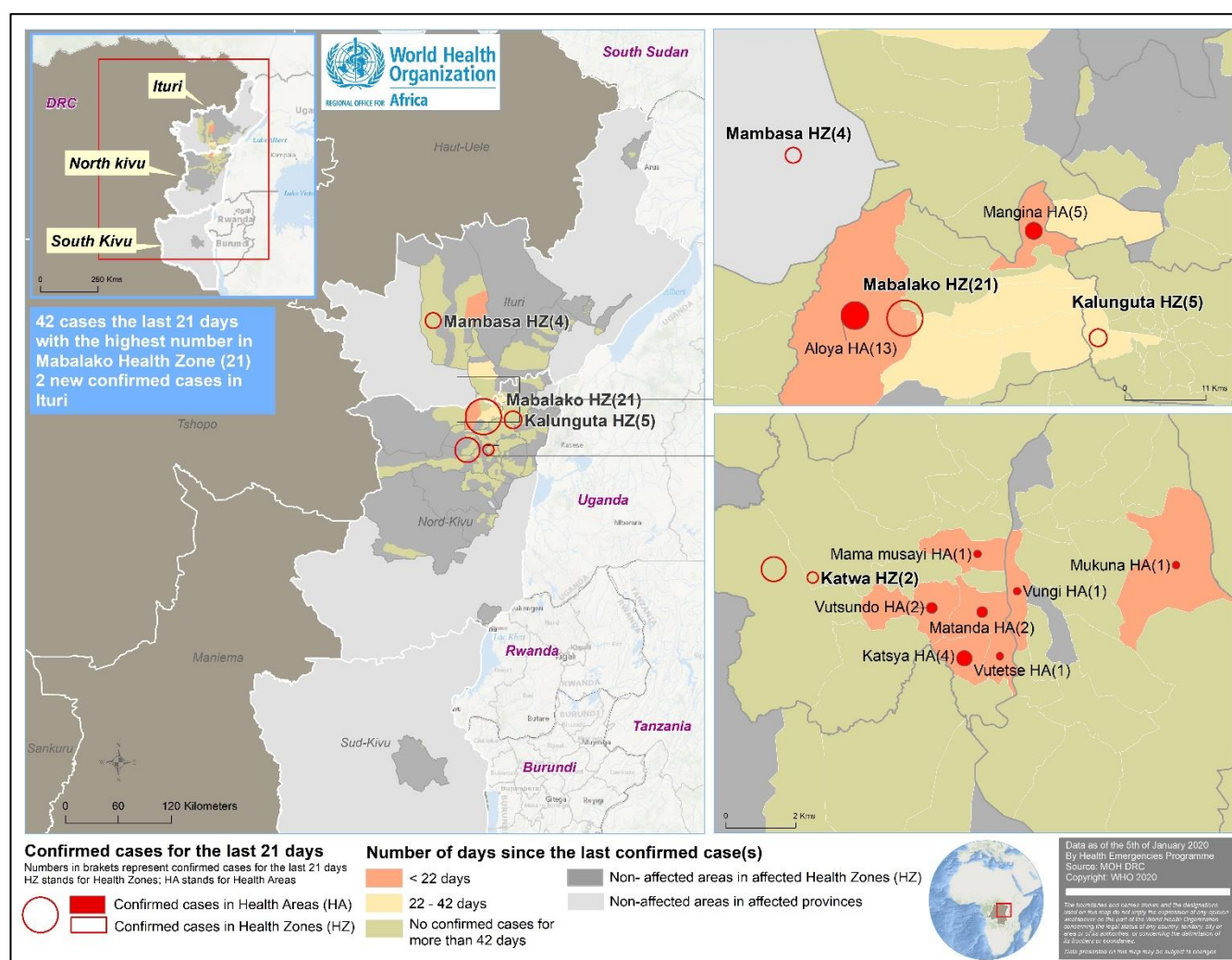
*3390 confirmed and probable cases, reported as of 5 January 2020. Excludes n=173 cases for whom onset dates not reported. Data in recent weeks are subject to delays in case confirmation and reporting, as well as ongoing data cleaning. Other health zones include: Alimbongo, Ariwara, Beni, Biena, Bunia, Goma, Kayna, Komanda, Kyondo, Lolwa, Lubero, Mandima,, Manguredjipa, Masereka, Musienene, Mutwanga, Mwenga, Nyakunde, Nyiragongo, Oicha, Pinga, Rwampara, Tchomia, and Vuhovi.

Table 1: Ebola virus disease cases by classification and health zones in North Kivu and Ituri provinces, Democratic Republic of the Congo, as of 5 January 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	0	5	2	2
	Beni	0/18	0	695	9	704	452	461
	Biena	0/16	0	19	2	21	12	14
	Butembo	5/15	10	295	3	298	353	356
	Goma	0/10	0	1	0	1	1	1
	Kalunguta	1/18	5	198	19	217	71	90
	Katwa	2/18	2	653	23	676	471	494
	Kayna	0/21	0	28	0	28	8	8
	Kyondo	0/22	0	25	4	29	15	19
	Lubero	0/19	0	31	2	33	4	6
	Mabalako	3/12	21	452	17	469	332	349
	Manguredjipa	0/10	0	18	0	18	12	12
	Masereka	0/16	0	50	6	56	17	23
	Musienene	0/20	0	84	1	85	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	2/17	4	82	3	85	27	30
	Mandima	0/15	0	347	5	352	166	171
	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		13/471	42	3272	118	3390	2115	2233

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, 5 January 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 244 000 contacts have been registered to date, and 4089 are currently under surveillance as of 5 January 2020. On average, 87% of contacts were followed daily in the last seven days in health zones with continued operations.
- ➔ An average of 4563 alerts were reported per day over the past seven days, of which 4454 (98%) were investigated within 24 hours of reporting.

Vaccines

- ➔ From 8 August 2018 to 4 January 2020, 261 285 persons were vaccinated with the rVSV-ZEBOV-GP Ebola vaccine.
- ➔ Vaccination with the Ad26.ZEBOV/MVA-BN-Filo (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine continued in Karisimbi Health Zone, with 4802 people vaccinated since its introduction on 14 November 2019.

Case management

- ➔ There are currently 11 operational Ebola treatment centres (ETCs) and 25 Ebola transit centres located in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri.

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

- ➔ Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities continue, with 17 health facilities evaluated in Mabalako and Butembo health zones, while 321 health workers were briefed in Oicha, Mabalako, Butembo and Mambasa as of 4 January 2020.

Points of Entry (PoE)

- ➔ During the two weeks up to 4 January 2020, 4 784 512 screenings were performed, bringing the cumulative total to over 136 million. In these two weeks, 294 alerts were notified, of which 138 (46%) were validated as suspect following investigation; none was 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 has remained unchanged at 103 during the two-week period.
- ➔ Three high risk contacts on the move were intercepted at Maboya PoC, two on 24 December and one on 26 December 2019. All contacts are linked to a confirmed EVD case reported in Aloya in Mabalako Health Zone. The contact intercepted on 26 December 2019 was subsequently referred to the Katwa ETC as a suspect case.
- ➔ In response to changing epidemiological trends and the recent geographical spread of the outbreak, three mobile PoCs were established in the Biena Health Zone, and traveller screening in surrounding areas reporting cases has been intensified. With the reintroduction of the virus in Butembo, PoCs on roads connecting Butembo and Goma are also receiving additional support and supervision. In collaboration with the Civil Aviation Authorities, the Ministry of Health and WHO carried out a Simulation Exercise (SIMEX) for EVD on 23 December 2019 at the Ndjili International Airport and Kinkole ETC in Kinshasa. The scenario involved a sick air traveller landing in Kinshasa, coming from the eastern part of the country. The exercise allowed participants to practice all actions starting from alert notification and initial case management at the airport, all the way to the transfer of the suspect case to Kinkole ETC for specimen collection and clinical management. Prior to the SIMEX, a series of trainings, physical upgrade of the airport isolation facility and risk communications to local populations living around the Kinkole ETC and the general population of Kinshasa were carried out. An evaluation of the SIMEX was conducted and a plan of action for strengthening traveller screening, alert and case management at, and referral from, the Ndjili Airport is under development and will be shared with all stakeholders.

Safe and Dignified Burials (SDB)

- ➔ As of 6 January, there have been a total of 21 840 SDB alerts notified through the Red Cross SDB database, of which 18 790 (86%) have been responded to successfully by Red Cross

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