

EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE

Democratic Republic of the Congo



External Situation Report 72



World Health
Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Africa

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1. Situation update



In the week of 9 to 15 December 2019, 24 new confirmed Ebola virus disease (EVD) cases were reported from three health zones in two affected provinces in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The majority of these new confirmed cases are from Mabalako (22/24; 92%), and the other cases were reported from Biena (1/24; 4%) and Mandima (1/24; 4%) health zones.

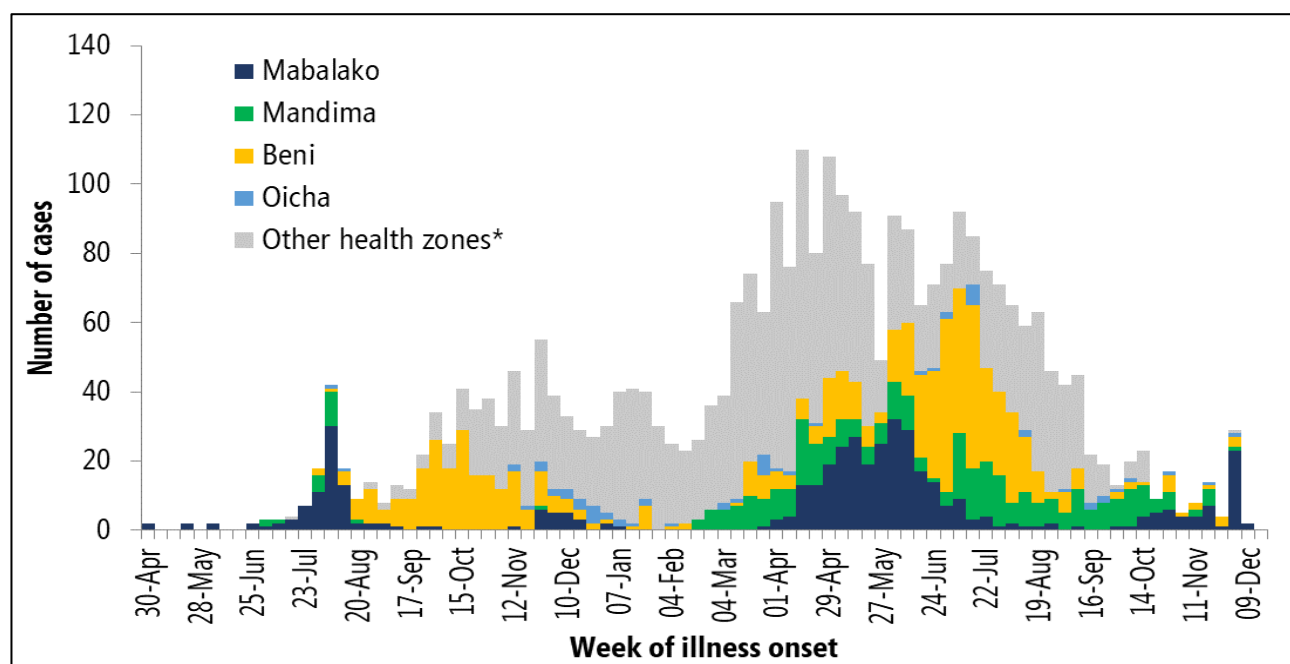
The new cases from Mabalako and Biena, are linked to a single chain of transmission, in which one individual was a potential source of infection for 24 people. This was the second documentation of EVD illness in this individual within a 6-month period. Based on the preliminary sequencing of samples from the case, this is being classified as a relapse of EVD. Rare cases of relapse have been documented, in which a person who has recovered from EVD gets disease symptoms again, but this is the first documented relapse in this outbreak.

The volume of alerts reported has returned to levels seen before the security incidents in the past weeks. In general, the overall average proportion of contacts under surveillance in the last seven days has returned to previously observed levels. However, Mabalako, the health zone with the highest volume of contacts, has the lowest performance with 73% of contacts under surveillance.

In the past 21 days (25 November to 15 December 2019), 45 confirmed cases were reported from 13 of the 87 health areas within five neighboring active health zones in North Kivu and Ituri provinces (Figure 2, Table 1): Mabalako (67%; $n=30$ cases), Mandima (16%; $n=7$), Beni (13%; $n=6$), Oicha (2%; $n=1$), and Biena (2%; $n=1$). More than half (53%, $n=24$) of the cases over the last 21 days have a known epidemiological link to the same transmission chain from Aloya health area in the Mabalako health zone.

As of 15 December 2019, a total of 3348 EVD cases, including 3230 confirmed and 118 probable cases have been reported, of which 2213 cases died (overall case fatality ratio 66%). Of the total confirmed and probable cases, 56% (1883) were female, 28% (941) were children aged less than 18 years, and 5% (169) were healthcare workers.

Figure 1: Health zone of reported Ebola virus disease cases by week of illness onset, as of 15 December 2019



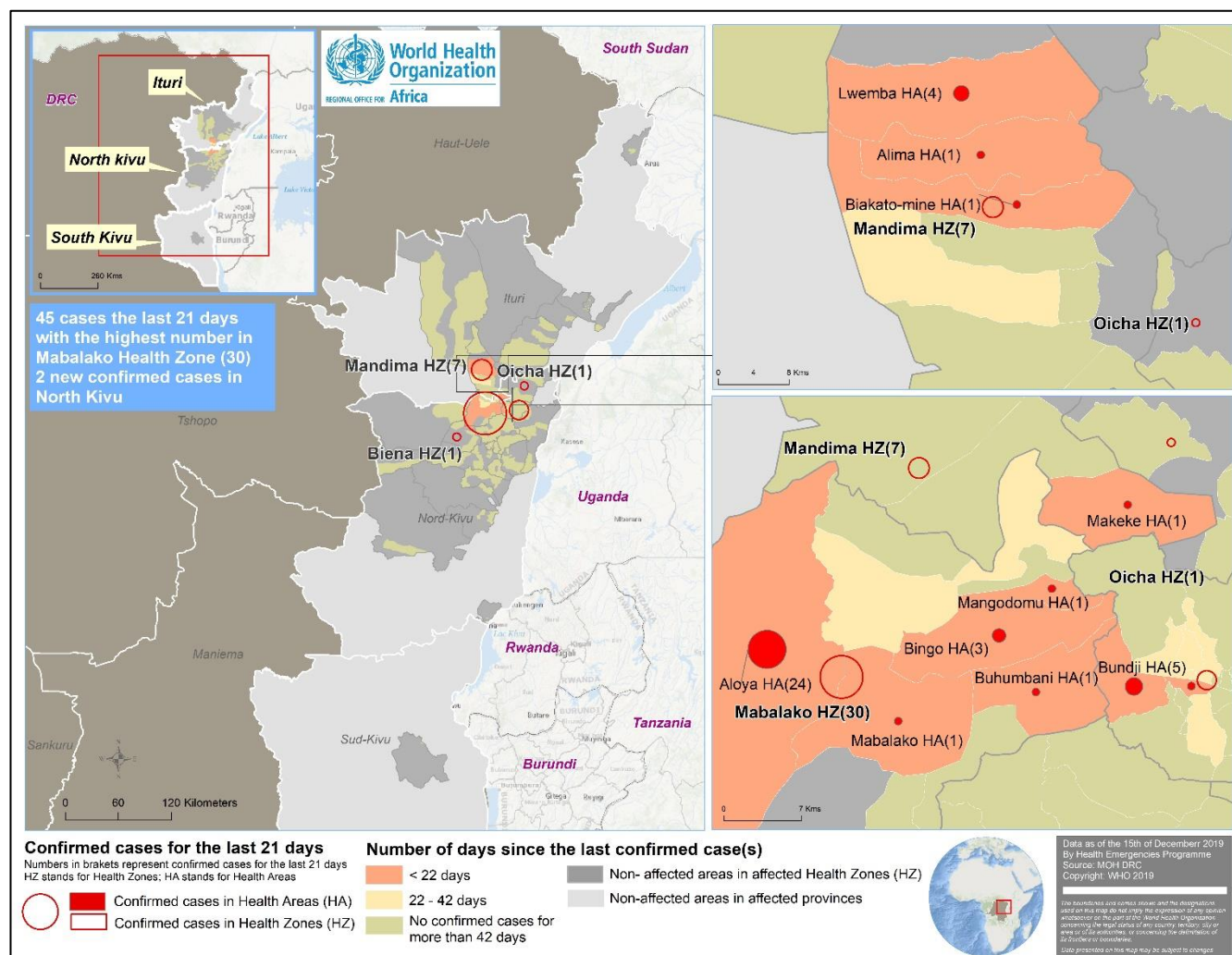
*3348 confirmed and probable cases, reported as of 15 December 2019. Excludes n=173 cases for whom onset dates not reported. Data in recent weeks are subject to delays in case confirmation and reporting, as well as ongoing data cleaning. Other health zones include: Alimbongo, Ariwara, Biena, Bunia, Butembo, Goma, Kalunguta, Katwa, Kayna, Komanda, Kyondo, Lolwa, Lubero, Mambasa, Manguredjipa, Masereka, Musienene, Mutwanga, Mwenga, Nyankunde, Nyiragongo, 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 15 December 2019

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	2/18	6	695	9	704	451	460
	Biena	1/16	1	19	2	21	12	14
	Butembo	0/15	0	285	3	288	350	353
	Goma	0/10	0	1	0	1	1	1
	Kalunguta	0/18	0	193	19	212	71	90
	Katwa	0/18	0	651	23	674	470	493
	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	5/12	30	431	17	448	317	334
	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	1/26	1	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	78	3	81	27	30
	Mandima	4/15	7	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	45	3230	118	3348	2095	2213

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, 15 December 2019



**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 239 000 contacts have been registered to date, and 4678 are currently under surveillance as of 15 December 2019. On average, 83% of contacts were followed daily in the last seven days in health zones with continued operations.
- ➔ An average of 4461 alerts were reported per day over the past seven days, of which 4316 (97%) were investigated within 24 hours of reporting.
- ➔ There are 11 field laboratories with Ebola virus diagnostic capacity operational in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, located in Beni, Mangina, Butembo, Katwa, Bunia, Komanda, Goma, Bukavu, Mambasa, Biakato, and Kasindi. All the laboratories are using GeneXpert as the primary diagnostic tool. Central laboratory support is provided by the Institute of Biomedical Research (INRB) laboratory in Kinshasa.
- ➔ The Institut National Pour la Recherche Biomedicale (INRB) laboratory tested 3949 samples from 9 to 15 December 2019. This is an increase of 40%, compared to the volume tested in the previous week.
- ➔ The proportion of confirmed cases among new samples is 1% (23 new confirmed cases among 2000 alive suspected cases.)

Vaccines

- ➔ From 8 August 2018 to 15 December 2019, 257 607 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 2212 people vaccinated since its introduction on 14 November 2019.

Case management

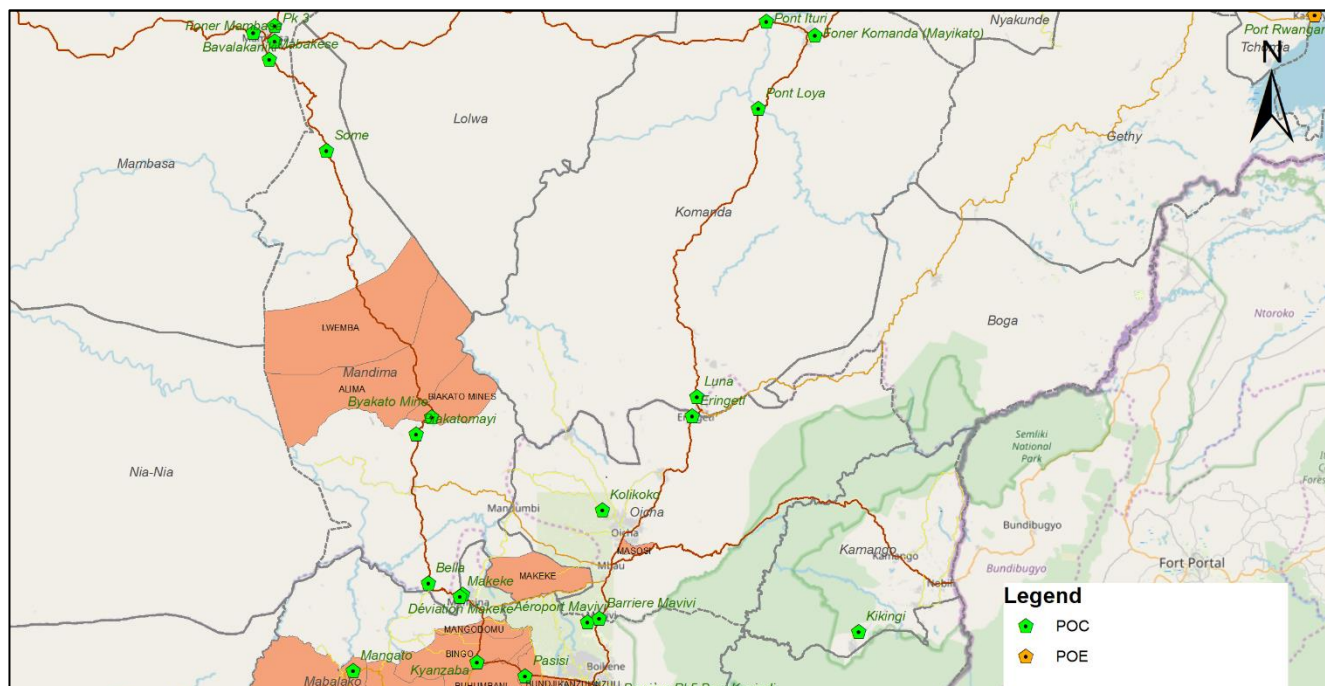
- ➔ There are currently 11 operational Ebola treatment centres (ETCs) and 25 Ebola transit centres located in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri.
- ➔ The transit centres located in Biakato, Mangina, and Beni are functioning with essential local staff with WHO prise en charge (PEC) team providing remote technical support.
- ➔ Three transit centres are in the development phase: Kalunguta HGR, Mukulya and Mambasa.
- ➔ The current intra-ETC mortality remains around 35%.

- As of 14 December 2019, a total of 396 beds were occupied over nineteen ETC/ETUs. This included 33 confirmed patients and 363 suspected patients.

Points of Entry (PoE)

- During the week ending 15 December 2019, 2 458 468 screenings were performed, bringing the cumulative total to over 128 million. This week, 188 alerts were notified, of which 96 (51%) 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.
- Following security improvements, PoCs Biakato Mine and Biakato Mayi resumed operations this week. An average of 103 PoEs and PoCs reported daily screening.

Figure 3: POEs, PoCs and road networks passing through EVD affected Health Areas, North Kivu and Ituri provinces, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 15 December 2019



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