EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE

Democratic Republic of the Congo

External Situation Report 69





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In the week of 18 to 24 November 2019, seven new confirmed EVD cases were reported from four health zones in two affected provinces in Democratic Republic of the Congo. The majority of the confirmed cases in this week came from Mabalako Health Zone (57%; n=4).

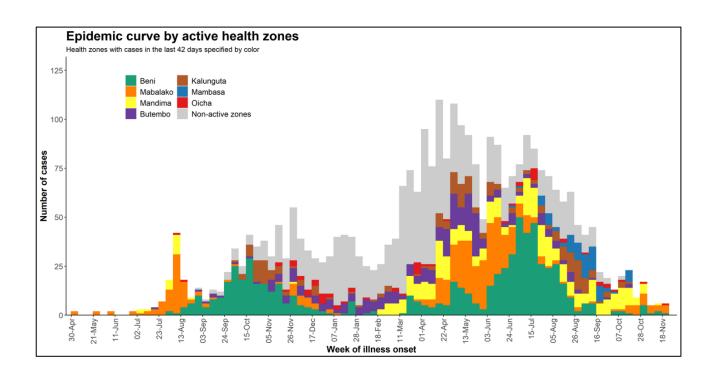
Violence and civil unrest in the week have led to the suspension of Ebola response activities in some areas of Beni, Butembo, and Oicha health zones. On 26 November 2019, some response personnel were temporarily relocated from Beni, though most remain in place to continue responding. The immediate focus will be on maintaining the safety and welfare of response personnel while preserving essential response activities in these places.

The disruptions to the response and lack of access to Ebola-affected communities is threatening to reverse recent progress. As seen previously during this outbreak, such disruptions limit contact tracing, surveillance, and vaccination efforts, and they often result in increased transmission.

In the past 21 days (from 4 to 24 November 2019), 12 health areas and four health zones have reported cases (Table 1, Figure 2). During this period, a total of 28 confirmed cases were reported, with the majority reported from Mabalako (54%; n=15 cases) and Beni (32%; n=9). There have been no new confirmed cases in Nyakunde Health Zone for 42 days.

As of 24 November 2019, a total of 3303 EVD cases, including 3185 confirmed and 118 probable cases have been reported, of which 2199 cases died (overall case fatality ratio 67%). Of the total confirmed and probable cases, 56% (1862) were female, 28% (935) were children aged less than 18 years, and 5% (163) were healthcare workers.

Figure 1: Health zone of reported Ebola virus disease cases by week of illness onset, as of 24 November 2019



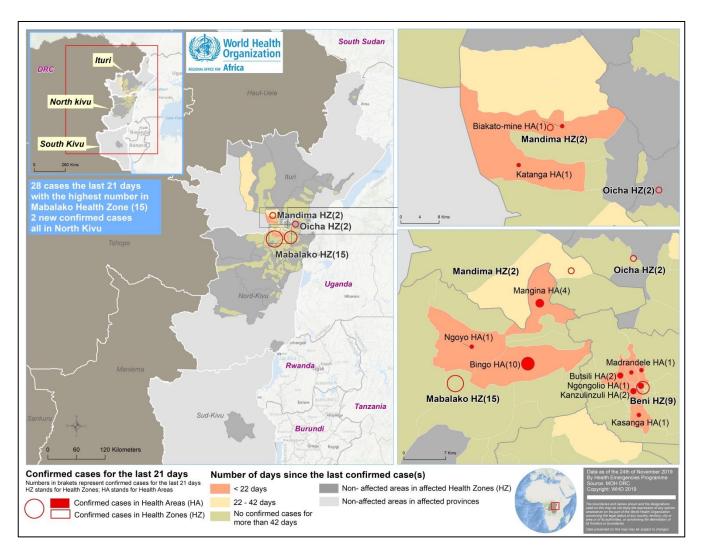
*Excludes n=184 cases for whom onset dates not reported. Data in recent weeks are subject to delays in case confirmation and reporting, as well as ongoing data cleaning. Other health zones include: Alimbongo, Ariwara, Biena, Bunia, Goma, Kalunguta, Kayna, Komanda, Kyondo, Lolwa, Lubero, Manguredjipa, Masereka, Musienene, Mutwanga, Mwenga, Nyankunde, 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 24 November 2019

				Cumulative cases by				
				classification		Cumulative deaths		
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	Confirmed cases	Probable 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	6/18	9	689	9	698	450	459
	Biena	0/16	0	18	2	20	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	3/12	15	401	17	418	310	327
	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	2	64	0	64	30	30
	Pinga	0/18	0	1	0	1	0	0
	Vuhovi	0/12	0	103	14	117	37	51
lturi	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	2/15	2	340	5	345	160	165
	Nyankunde	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
	Fotal	12/471	28	3185	118	3303	2081	2199

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, 24 November 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 235 000 contacts have been registered to date, and 3169 are currently under surveillance as of 24 November 2019. On average, 86% of contacts were followed daily in the last seven days in health zones with continued operations.
- An average of 3849 alerts were reported per day over the past seven days, of which 3690 (96%) 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, Biakato, Butembo, Bukavu, Bunia, Goma, Kasindi, Katwa, Komanda, Mambasa, and Mangina. 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 3622 samples from 18 to 24 November 2019. The number of samples tested in this time period decreased by 14% compared to the previous week, mostly due to security reasons, and the proportion of positive cases among new samples is less than 1%"

Vaccines

- From 8 August 2018 to 23 November 2019, 255 136 persons were vaccinated.
- 3191 persons were vaccinated in the week of 11 to 17 November 2019, compared to 3530 during the week of 4 to 10 November 2019.
- Vaccination with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine (Ad26.ZEBOV/MVA-BN-Filo) continued in the Karisimbi Health Zone, with 54 people vaccinated on 16 November 2019, bringing the cumulative total of people vaccinated with this vaccine to 147 since its introduction on 14 November 2019.

Case management

- There are currently 11 operational Ebola treatment centres (ETCs) and 24 Ebola transit centres located in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri. Three transit centres are in the development phase: Kalunguta HGR, Mukulya and Mambasa.
- The current intra-ETC mortality remains around 35%.

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

- IPC and WASH activities continue in health facilities and in Ebola-affected communities. Activities in health facilities include facility assessments, training and briefing health workers on basic and EVD-specific IPC principles, decontamination when necessary, providing supplies, evaluating adherence to key IPC indicators (e.g. EVD screening, PPE availability, isolation, and referral), developing improvement action plans based on gaps identified and followed-up by supportive supervision and mentorship.
- A standardized IPC/WASH package phased rollout training is ongoing. The response-wide IPC/WASH package will strengthen the quality of IPC/WASH interventions throughout the Ebola Response as well as addressing nosocomial infections through standardization of training modules, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and tools through implementation of evidence-based best practices. The next level (Phase 3) which targets facility-based IPC focal persons, is being planned across most of the sub-commissions. Phase 3 rollout begins in Goma, and the Phase 4 pilot, which trains supervisors on supportive supervision and mentorship, was completed in Goma materials are being revised and the plan for rollout is pending the completion of Phase 3 training.

Points of Entry (PoE)

- During the week ending 24 November 2019, 2 580 260 screenings were performed, bringing the cumulative total to over 21 million. This week, a total of 231 alerts were notified, of which 91 (39%) 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 PoCs therefore remains at 30. This week, 106 out of 109 operational PoEs and PoCs reported daily screening, and out of these, 56 PoEs and PoCs reported alerts among screened travelers.
- This week, emphasis continues to be placed on traveler screening and identification of travelling contacts at PoCs surrounding Lwemba and Oicha, as well as reinforce screening at PoCs in the perimeters of Beni, Butembo and Goma, and PoE Kasindi, Petite Barrière and Grande Barrière.

Safe and Dignified Burials (SDB)

As of 25 November 2019, there have been a total of 18 477 SDB alerts notified through the Red Cross SDB database, of which 15 640 (85%) have been responded to successfully by Red Cross and Civil Detection CDB terms and community been reduction buriel terms.

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