



23 May, 2018

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Ebola Situation Report



SITUATION IN NUMBER

Highlights

- Since 3 May 2018, a total of 52 cases (31 confirmed, 13 probable, 8 suspected) have been reported, including 22 deaths (13 probable and 9 confirmed) in three health zones in Equateur province (Bikoro, Iboko, Wangata).
- On 21 May 2018, the Ebola vaccination was launched by the Minister of Health with participation of the DSRSG/RC/HC, the WHO Representative and UNICEF Deputy Representative. UNICEF is leading the communication component of the vaccination.
- An Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) is being set up in Mbandaka to strengthen local coordination of partners, and reinforce the capacity of UN actors on the ground.
- Mass media (radio) campaign on Ebola prevention, led by the Provincial Health division with support from UNICEF, is reaching an estimated 15,000 listeners daily, in addition a total of 9,803 persons reached with Ebola prevention information through other channels in Bikoro that included the church and door-to-door awareness raising.
- Hand washing kits were installed in 50 schools in Mbandaka and 54 schools in Bikoro last week. Based on current trend of the epidemic, the target has increased to 144 schools in Mbandaka (7,200 students), 70 schools in Bikoro (3,500 students) and 63 schools in Iboko (3,150 students).
- As of 23 May 2018, 23 affected families (5 in Mbandaka, 10 in Bikoro, 8 in Iboko) received household kits from the NGO LIZADEEL, UNICEF's partner, that included cloth material, cooking utensils, clothes, soap, mats, buckets, mosquito nets, and a ration of food for one week.
- Supplies needed to support the response have been deployed to affected health zones including 50 motorbikes, 3 generators, 10 tents, and 100 infrared thermometers.

52 total reported cases

31 confirmed by **RT-PCR**
(MoH, 23 May 2018)

22 deaths recorded
(MoH, 23 May 2018)

628 contacts under surveillance (MoH, 23 May 2018)

Epidemiological Overview

Summary Table:

	Affected Health Zones in the Equateur Province of DRC							
	Bikoro		Iboko		Wangata		Total	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Confirmed	10	5	17	1	4	3	31	9
Probable	11	11	2	2	0	0	13	13
Suspected	2	0	5	0	1	0	8	0
TOTAL	23	16	24	3	5	3	52	22

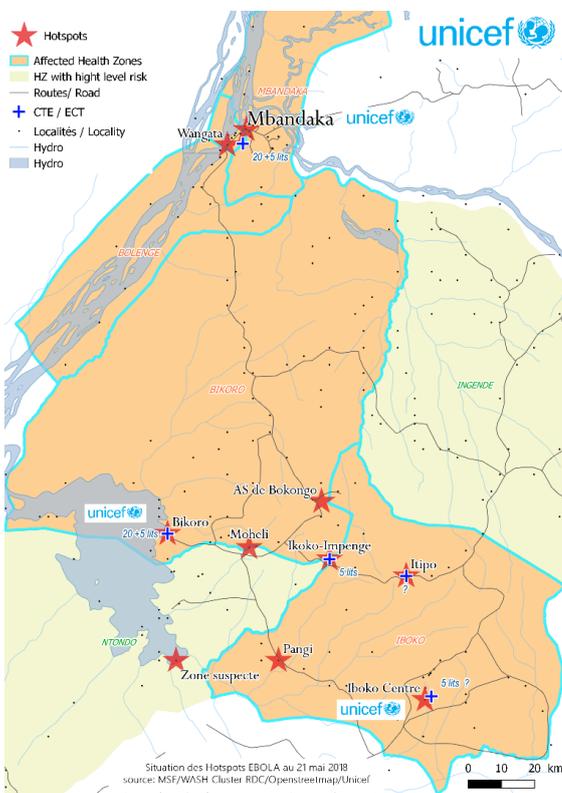
Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The Crisis Management Team - *Comite Nationale de Coordination* (CNC) continued to meet daily under the leadership of the Ministry of Health with all concerned partners and with the chairs of the different working groups providing thematic updates. UNICEF DRC participates actively in the coordination meetings at national, provincial and local level and active in the working groups on communication, WASH, psychosocial care and logistics.

An Emergency Operations Center supported by the UN is being set up in Mbandaka, led on the UN side by the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator. A MONUSCO field presence was also established to offer logistical and operational support to the response.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Overview of the key elements in the response with a special emphasis on UNICEF’s response.



Epidemiologic Surveillance

In addition to cases in Wangata (in Mbandaka city) and Bikoro, an increasing number of cases are being reported in Iboko, where there are now total 24 reported cases.

Three UNICEF staff deployed in Iboko health zone are supporting the Government and partners to (i) brief local health workers on patient identification and isolation, individual protection, disinfection and chlorination; (ii) follow up confirmed and suspected cases, as well as continue contact identification; (iii) establish a communication working group, re-energize and brief the village committees (CAC) in affected health areas; (iv) brief school Directors on Ebola prevention, distribute and install handwashing points in schools; (v) examine the possibility of establishing an Ebola Treatment Center (ETC) in coordination with MSF Spain; (v) evaluate and establish communication channels between Iboko and Mbandaka.

Ebola Ring Vaccination

A high-level mission led by the Minister of Health, with participation of the DSRSG/RC/HC, the World Health Organization Representative and UNICEF Deputy Representative, launched the Ebola vaccination in Mbandaka on 21 May 2018. The ring vaccination targets contacts, contacts of contacts of cases, as well as health care and frontline workers.

As of 22 May 2018, 33 persons from the contact list out of the targeted 95 in Mbandaka were vaccinated, including health workers on the front line. Vaccinations are expected to commence soon in Bikoro.

Four UNICEF C4D experts are in Mbandaka working with the national immunization programme, World Health Organisation and MSF (*Medecins Sans Frontieres*) on risk communication and social engagement to support the ring vaccination.

Communication and Social Mobilization (C4D)

Mbandaka

- ✓ Mass media (radio) campaign on Ebola prevention led by the Provincial Health division, with UNICEF support was initiated on 21 May, reaching an estimated 15,000 listeners daily.
- ✓ 706 social mobilizers (RECO) identified in Mbandaka (235 in Wangata, 211 in Bolenge, and 270 in Mbandaka) are being deployed for Ebola prevention communication and community social engagement.
- ✓ 900 pamphlets on Ebola prevention have been distributed in Mbandaka as of 20 May 2018.
- ✓ As of 20 May, 91 local facilitators trained by UNICEF in three target health zones of Mbandaka have reached a total of 3,025 people in 143 churches with Ebola prevention messages. The churches are in identified 12 hot spots. The church members play a critical role in engaging and communicating with community members.
- ✓ 12 C4D partners have been identified, including CARITAS, OXFAM, Congo Red Cross, local organisations and the Provincial Director of Primary and Secondary Education, to expand the coverage of information dissemination.

Health Zone	Number of health areas at risk	Number of churches raising awareness	Number of local facilitators that received the message	Comments
Wangata	4	55	32	Coverage of 100% of health areas targeted
Bolenge	3	36	36	
Mbandaka	5	52	23	
Total	12	143	91	
3,025 church members reached in total				

Bikoro / Iboko

- ✓ 10 focus groups (composed of nine people) were conducted on 19 May, in collaboration with CAP in Bikoro, to identify the population's attitudes and perceptions on the current interventions. Targets included local communities, students, religious leaders (Muslims and Catholics), taxi and moto drivers, and tradeswomen. The findings will be used to adapt communication approaches.
- ✓ A total of 9,803 persons were reached with Ebola prevention information through different channels in Bikoro that included the church and door-to-door awareness raising.
- ✓ 83 key community members were briefed on the Ebola virus and prevention in Bikoro (15 communication members, 22 child reporters, 40 CAC members, and 6 radio journalists). These people are currently spread across the six targeted health areas in three health zones (Bikoro, Ntongo and Iboko). In addition, 20 CAC members were briefed on Ebola prevention messages in Moheli health areas.
- ✓ 20 megaphones were distributed to CACs in Bikoro to facilitate awareness raising about Ebola prevention.

(a) WASH in Ebola Treatment Centers

- ✓ In Mbandaka, a water container of 10,000m³ capacity is currently being used at Wangata General Hospital where patients with Ebola are being admitted for care.

(b) WASH in institutions (schools and health facilities) – jointly with Education team

- ✓ Hand washing kits were installed in 50 schools in Mbandaka and 54 schools in Bikoro based on the defined target last week. Based on current trend of the epidemic, the target schools for the WASH material distribution is being extended to include 144 schools in Mbandaka (7,200 students), 70 schools in Bikoro (3,500 students) and 63 schools in Iboko (3,150 students).
- ✓ Temperature checks have been instituted in 10 schools, and additional 1,000 infrared thermometers bought through UNICEF support will be used to expand coverage.
- ✓ 100 handwashing kits were installed in 15 primary schools and 11 health centers along the **Itopo-Iboko axis**. The distribution was followed by awareness raising on the importance of handwashing, prevention methods against the Ebola virus, and the use of chlorine for water purification and disinfection.
- ✓ In Itipo, two handwashing kits with chlorine were installed in the territorial office (local administration) and 43 staff members were briefed on Ebola prevention methods. In addition, 1,500 bars of soap, 18,720 bags of water purification tablets and two bicycles for territorial office WASH staff were prepositioned for distribution in communities, schools, and health centres. The plan is to install additional 61 handwashing kits covering 54 schools, one health office, and six health centers.
- ✓ In Mbandaka, 726 primary and secondary school students received information on handwashing through the activities of child reporters as of 22 May 2018.
- ✓ The WASH team initiated discussions with COPA (Committee of parents) to provide water for the 50 targeted schools in Wangata Health Zone of Mbandaka.
- ✓ 40 water buckets with a tap, 1 drum of chlorine, 40 protection kits with a spray (boots, household gloves, raincoat, face mask, protective goggles) were provided to the health zone of Wangata.
- ✓ 247 patients and caregivers were provided access to drinking water following the rehabilitation of the water pump at the Regional General Hospital in Bikoro.

(c) WASH in communities

- ✓ As of 22 May 2018, hand washing and disinfection with chlorine continues in health facilities in Bikoro. 1,674 persons in the health centres and 1,581 people in the Regional General Hospital of Bikoro were reached.
- ✓ In Mbandaka, 32 handwashing points were installed in hot spots within the city targeting the port and markets.
- ✓ 512 households (contacts and neighbours) in Bongdondjo area were disinfected.
- ✓ Exchanges with Riverine authorities and DGM (police) have resulted in the installation of hand washing kits in 10 ports of entry in Mbandaka and five ports of entry in Bikoro (Port Boyokani, Parking Boyokani, Port Territoire, and Port Bobole). In addition to hand washing kits, UNICEF also provided five infrared thermometers for temperature screening and five sprayers with chlorine solution for disinfection.
- ✓ 30,000 Aquatab pills and 1,320 soaps were distributed to 1,420 households in Bikoro health area.
- ✓ UNICEF supported the briefing of 20 Red Cross volunteers on safe burial and disinfection, which will enable them to operate safely in three health zones (Bikoro, Iboko, and Itopo). At present, four safe burials have been undertaken by them and they disinfected five households where suspect/probable deaths occurred.
- ✓ 17 health zones with contacts of Ebola cases were targeted for WASH interventions (including water point repairs to facilitate good handwashing practices) in collaboration with Oxfam.

- ✓ The psychosocial commission in Mbandaka is operational, and two child protection committees have been activated. The committees are reporting on and responding to the vulnerabilities of affected families in Bongodio and Balako health area in Mbandaka.
- ✓ 115 candidates were trained to work as psychosocial support (PSS) agents on 20 May 2018 in Mbandaka by a clinical psychologist from Kinshasa, a psychologist from the psychologist commission at the provincial level, a doctor and an anthropologist. 22 PSS agents (a part of 115 trained) are currently following-up with cases and contacts at their homes in Mbandaka.
- ✓ As of 23 May 2018, 23 affected families (5 in Mbandaka, 10 in Bikoro, 8 in Iboko) received household kits from UNICEF's partner, the NGO LIZADEEL. These kits include cloth material, cooking utensils, clothes, soap, mats, buckets, mosquito nets, and a ration of food items.
- ✓ Psychosocial follow up support and care, by a psychologist, has been instituted for the family of the four confirmed cases in Mbandaka. The service was also offered to the cases while they were in the Ebola Treatment Center (ETC) in Mbandaka.
- ✓ In Bikoro, 10 nurses in three health centers and 10 patients at the ETC were supported with psychosocial counselling. Additionally, a psycho-educational session was done at the Nkapi Wato Institute and EP Lac Tumba School after the sudden death (cause under investigation) of a student at school.
- ✓ Two clinical psychology specialists from the National Ministry of Health are being deployed to support the interventions in Mbandaka.

Nutrition

UNICEF nutrition team initiated and finalized an Ebola nutrition response plan in collaboration with WFP, WHO and MOH. The Iboko health zone has been declared as a nutrition alert zone, and the NGO NAGNA, currently working in the community in partnership with UNICEF, will undertake a screening to confirm current situation to inform response.

Supply & Logistics

Items worth USD 384,000 have been deployed to affected health zones to support the response, including 50 motorbikes, 3 generators, 10 tents, 100 infrared thermometers.

External Communication

The UNICEF CO issued together with support of the Regional Office and Division of Communication a [global press release focusing on the work done by UNICEF and its partners on community communication and WASH](#). The press release was largely picked up, including by BBC World Service, VOA, NOS, Swedish Radio, RFI.

A video team travelled on Tuesday 22 May to Mbandaka and produced stills and video footage on the response and UNICEF activities, which was widely shared with the international media. It was used in a live interview of Gianfranco Rotigliano, acting Representative of UNICEF DRC, on CNN and El Jazeera, as well as by France 24.

Communication on social media continues on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The UNICEF CO posted 4 Facebook posts since the beginning of the outbreak, as well as published 14 pictures on Instagram and tweeted 45 messages.

Human Resources

17 UNICEF staff members have been deployed to support coordination and response in the affected health zones (Mbandaka, Bikoro, and Iboko). An additional 23 DRC staff members are scheduled to deploy this week.

UNICEF DRC Deputy Representative is in Mbandaka to strengthen the response. In addition, UNICEF DRC Chief of C4D and the Immunisation Manager have been deployed to Mbandaka for one month for response coordination and scale up of C4D in affected areas. The UNICEF DRC Representative is also visiting the field this week.

Funding:

As of 22 May 2018, UNICEF DRC has received: USD 1 Million from USAID, USD 400,000 CERF Funds, USD 400,000 Mercury Fund through the US National Committee, CAD 500,000 from Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) towards the Ebola response. This is in addition to the USD 200,000 reallocated by UNICEF DRC to support the response.

**Who to contact
for further
information:**

Gianfranco Rotigliano
Representative a.i.
UNICEF DRC
Tel: + (243) 996 050 399
E-mail: grotigliano@unicef.org

Tajudeen Oyewale
Deputy Representative
UNICEF DRC
Tel : +(243) 996 050 200
E-mail : toyewale@unicef.org

Hamady Ba
Health Specialist (Emergency)
UNICEF DRC
Tel: + (243) 817 096 787
E-mail: hba@unicef.org