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EBOLA Situation Report #2

11-15 October 2021

Epidemiological situation

(as of 15 October 2021)



2 confirmed cases



2 deaths



0 people recovered



100% fatality rate



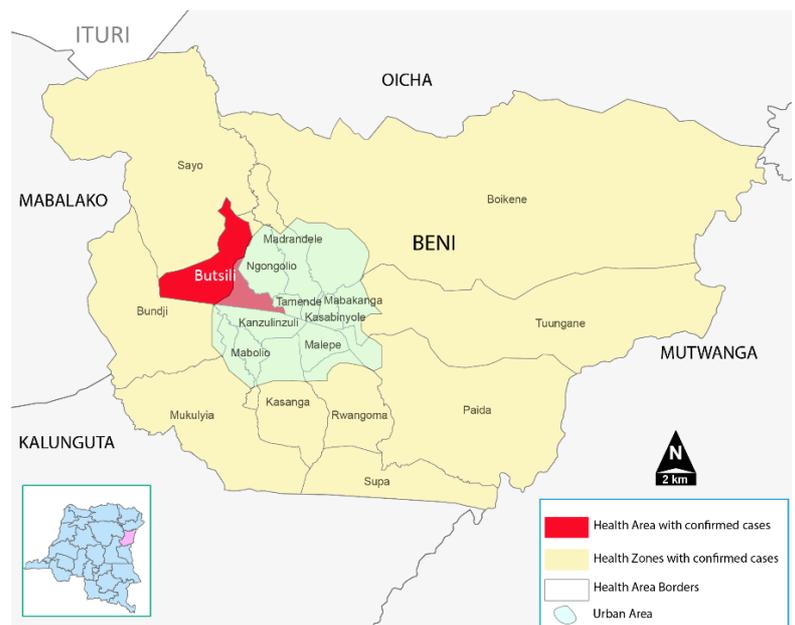
1 province affected

Highlights

- A new case was confirmed on 13 October 2021 in the Health Area of Butsili (Beni Health Zone): a 42 year old woman who was linked to the 3 probable Ebola-related deaths. The woman died on 13 October.
- On 13 October, 160 cubic meters of critical WASH and nutrition supplies arrived in Beni from Goma
- UNICEF is supporting the Ebola vaccination campaign that started on 13 October through Infection Prevention Control (IPC) and community engagement to reinforce participation

Situation Overview

- On 8 October, the Ministry of Health confirmed that, on 6 October, a three-year-old boy died of Ebola in a health center in the Butsili Health Area (Beni Health Zone), North Kivu Province. Ebola was confirmed after a GeneXpert test was performed by the Laboratoire Rodolphe Merieux - INRB (National Institute of Biomedical Research) in Goma;
- The swab sample was sequenced, and initial findings indicate that “this outbreak likely represents a new flare-up of the 2018-2020 Nord Kivu/Ituri EVD outbreak, initiated by transmission from a persistently infected survivor or a survivor who experienced relapse. Epidemiologic investigations are ongoing to determine the source”.¹
- A new case was confirmed on 13 October 2021 in the Health Area of Butsili (Beni Health Zone): a 42 years old woman who was linked to three probable Ebola-



¹ <https://virological.org/t/oct-2021-evd-case-in-drc-linked-to-2018-2020-nord-kivu-evd-outbreak/762>

related deaths in September 2021. The woman died on 13 October;

- As of 15 October, 256 contacts have been identified, of whom, 46.7% have reported to be vaccinated.
- The Beni Ebola Treatment Center which was operational in 2018-20 remains non-operational at this time. However, 7 temporary isolation units have been set up in different health centers in the Beni Health Zone and at the General Refence Hospital in Beni with a 41-bed capacity for suspected cases;

UNICEF's Response

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)/Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH)

UNICEF and partners:

- Supported the decontamination of four households of both the suspected and confirmed cases, this included the replacement of six mattresses
- Supported the decontamination of traditional healthcare facility (HCF) where the last confirmed case was being treated in Butsili (Beni Health Zone)
- Distributed Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and WASH supplies to 3 HF where the confirmed and probable cases had transited
- Trained 72 healthcare workers (HCW) providers on IPC in 15 HCF in the Beni Health Zone

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF supported the broadcasting of messages on Ebola prevention measures across 10 local radio stations and distributed 25 posters with alert numbers in the Butsili Health Area ;
- Across the 19 health areas of Beni, 24 Community Action Cells (CACs) supervisors were briefed on the current epidemiological situation and on Community Based Surveillance mechanisms;
- In support of Community Based Surveillance, 20 CACs' members visited 148 households (578 people including 311 women) and raised 20 alerts for investigation ;
- 10 community dialogue sessions were conducted in the Butsili Health Area on the importance of early treatment seeking for Ebola;
- 89 one-on-one talks were conducted with patients in health centers on Ebola prevention mechanisms.
- U-Report: on October 10th, an SMS alert was sent to 74,616 U-Reporters in the Beni Health Zone to seek more information on Ebola This resulted in 27,035 questions submitted users. In the first 3 days, 2,565 questions have been responded to.
- UNICEF's network of 150 youth bloggers has been supported to identify and address fake news circulating online about Ebola and to share reliable information.

Health and Nutrition

- Milk specialized to treat malnutrition has arrived from Goma and has been distributed to the 7 Isolation Centres currently operational in Beni;
- 5 individuals who have accompanied suspected cases to Isolation Centres have been supported with information on nutritional care and feeding for newborns and young children;
- UNICEF is supporting the Ebola vaccination campaign that started on 13 October by providing vaccination sites with infection prevention and control supplies, raising awareness in the area around the site, and providing psychological support to contacts to ensure their adherence to vaccination.



Psychosocial Support and Child Protection

- UNICEF-supported psychosocial workers are providing counselling to the families of the two Ebola deaths and suspected cases
- Psychosocial workers have also:
 - have prepared 32 people for Ebola testing, for being listed as contacts and for being vaccinated against Ebola;
 - provided psychological support to 5 suspected cases who are currently in isolation centres, as well as to their families
 - conducted psycho-educational sessions with 85 patients at the isolation units in the Beni Health Zone



Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

- UNICEF is currently mapping partners involved in the Ebola response or likely to intervene and invite them to participate in GBV risk reduction and PSEA trainings;
- The UNICEF PSEA focal point has arrived in Beni;
- A working session with Beni's Chief Medical Officer has been organised to discuss the integration of PSEA activities in the coordination mechanism of the response and with the partner Heal Africa;
- A working session with the local PSEA coordination to map the complaints mechanisms and schedule a special meeting with the PSEA network members has been completed



Integrated Outbreak Analytics (IOA)

- UNICEF IOA specialist is working with the MoH sub-commission for data management to map data needs to better understand outbreak dynamics
- In support of the data management sub-commission, a rapid survey to understand current healthcare facility use started on the 15th of October to identify any potential changes during the past 6 weeks



Funding Overview

UNICEF already allocated US\$ 750,000 of its core funding to meet critical first line needs until additional funding is secured. But more than ever, UNICEF needs flexible and timely funding to respond where the need is greatest as the epidemic evolves.



External Media

- The communication team published 13 posts on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) since the [announcement of new Ebola cases in North-Kivu province](#), reaching more than 510,000 people on Facebook alone.
- Two press releases were published on 9 October (in [French](#) and [English](#)) and on 13 October (in [French](#) and [English](#)).

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