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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE PREPAREDNESS IN UGANDA

24th AUGUST 2018 (12:00 HRS) – UPDATE No 17

Situation Update from Democratic Republic of Congo with data up to 22nd August 2018

- Cumulative cases: 103
- Confirmed cases : 76
- Probable : 27
- Total deaths : 63
- Suspect Cases under investigation : 13
- Areas affected : Two provinces
 - North Kivu - Mabalako; Butembo; Ocha; Musienene; Beni and Bingo
 - Ituri- Mambasa, Mandina

EVD Preparedness in Uganda

Note :

- There is no suspected or confirmed case in Uganda
- There was one alert in Kasese Municipal Council, Male Child aged 13. Sample sent to UVRI for testing.

Coordination

- UNHCR - Weekly EVD coordination meetings are being held in Arua, Isingiro, Kamwenge, Kyegegwa and Kisoro districts chaired by the DHO



Ministry of Health

and co-chaired by UNHCR Health focal person with participation from all sub districts and partners.

- UNHCR supported Yumbe and Arua districts to finalise EVD Preparedness plans and are doing resource mapping and gaps
- Office of Prime Minister, Ministry of Health and UNHCR and humanitarian partners held a regional coordination meeting 23rd August 2018 in Mbarara. The objective was to ensure Ebola preparedness actions are integrated in all humanitarian activities in the settlements and the transit centres
- UNHCR chief of Public Health visited refugee settlements/Districts hosting refugees from DRC and conducted readiness/preparation assessment ensuring surveillance in the refugee settlements are up and running to monitor any outbreaks of diseases. Currently, House to house surveillance by VHTs are on-going in the communities.

Kasese:

- District held a DTF and one critical issue raised was the the long turn around time for the results of the samples sent to UVRI. It was noted that this raises a lot of unnecessary anxiety among the communities.
- Water at the screening point in Mpondwe continues to be a problem and discussions with National Water and Sewerage Corporation started by WHO were to be expedited so that a more sustainable water source be available at the screening point



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Ministry of Health

- Soldiers at the screening point were oriented on EVD and how to protect themselves when controlling the crowds at the check point
- On the lack of tents at two other screening points it was agreed that WHO considers supporting the construction of temporary shades made of poles and covered by tarpaulin for this purpose as tents promised by UNICEF are not yet provided.

Training:

- The different WHO focal persons in the districts of Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Kasese, Kabarole and Bunyangabu were majorly involved in working out modalities for training of case management teams, a critical intervention in making district prepared for managing EVD. All the districts, apart from Ntoroko where the training coincided with a training earlier planned by UNHCR started training on Thursday 23/8/2018. Its training time for Ntoroko was adjusted to the afternoon of the same day.
- A total of 230 staff are being trained for EVD case management in the 5 districts mentioned above.
- 60 staff were trained on surveillance modules in two of the districts (Bundibugyo and Kabarole).

Laboratory investigations/Surveillance

- UNHCR Global Chief of Public Health visited refugee settlements/Districts hosting refugees from DRC and conducted readiness/preparation assessment ensuring surveillance in the refugee



Ministry of Health

settlements are up and running to monitor any outbreaks of diseases. Currently, House to house surveillance by VHTs are on-going in the communities.

- UNHCR continued to do house to house daily surveillance using the VHTs in Nakivale, Rwamwanja, Kyaka and Kyangwali and no alert has been detected
- UNHCR completed the isolation facility in Rwekubo HCIV and the sanitation facilities have been installed
- The UNHCR weekly surveillance reporting from all health service points has been upgraded to daily. In the refugee settlement, Village Health Teams are searching and reporting community members with Ebola-related symptoms or suspicious deaths. UNHCR thru partners is conducting disease surveillance using the VHTs to do house to house case identification.
- In Kikuube district, Screening continues to take place at Sebigoro and Nsonga landing site/port of entry (POE) district. A total of 48 new arrivals were screened as at 18:00 hours 23rd August 2018 and no person coming from a high-risk area in DRC. No suspected case/alert reported in both Hoima and Kikuube districts as at 18:00 hours Thursday 23th August 2018.
- Screening continued to take place at Sebigoro and Nsonga landing sites (refugee entry points) a total of 48 new arrivals from DRC screen on Thursday 23rd August 2018.



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Ministry of Health

Kasese:

- There was one alert in Kasese Municipality Council, Male Child aged 13 presented with a temperature 39.1 Degrees Celcius, Red eyes , rash and mother reported vomiting of blood at home. Diagnosed as either measles or VHF. Child was isolated and two samples taken (Measles and VHF) and shipped to UVRI.
- With support from WHO One tent was pitched in Kithoma point for border screening and screening is supposed to start yesterday at Kayanzi and Kithoma.
- Bills of quantities and estimated budget for provision of piped water at the Mpondwe screening point was sent to the national level for consideration.
- Due to failure to get two more tents, it was suggested that an improvisation be made for two shelters made of tarpaulin at two planned screening points. Consequently, a carpenter was identified and was due to submit the building costs.
- Five more health facilities were reached with surveillance tools and were oriented on universal precautions

Risk Communication

- Ebola awareness campaigns are on-going using the VHTs and aired radio spot messages in Arua, Isingiro, Kamwenge and Kyegegwa districts



Ministry of Health

- UNHCR has continued with mass campaign and sensitisation on Ebola on going in the community and market places in refugee settlements
- UNHCR - Radio spot messages on Ebola prevention, symptoms and signs are now airing on 4 radio stations in the West Nile region. Talk shows are also on going in West Nile region on the same.
- UNHCR - UNHCR continues to carry out mass sensitization of the communities in Kyegegwa, Kanungu, Kisoro, Arua, Isingiro, Hoima and Ntoroko on Ebola. Community health workers, health workers at health facilities and radio aired messages are being used.
- UNHCR and humanitarian partners translated the National Task Force cleared materials into the common refugee languages. Ebola Risk Communication materials were disseminated and refugee leaders together with refugee community workers oriented. 200 megaphones were distributed to settlements and transit centres.
- RDC's Office Hoima & Kikuube districts offered airtime for EVD messages on local FM station between 20:00 to 21:00 hours on Monday.
- UNICEF supported Radio shot spots messages on Ebola continue to be played on liberty local FM stations.
- UNICEF & WHO are supporting distribution of EVD IEC materials in Kikuube district.



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Kasese:

- House to house sensitization continued in the high risk areas of Karambi, Kitholu, Nyakiyumbu sub counties and Bwera and Mpondwe Ruburiha Town Councils with help of Uganda Red Cross Volunteers. This included distribution of posters.

Case Management

- Training for health workers, protection, and community services on rapid response has been conducted in Rwamwanja settlement (Kamwenge district) and a total of 36 staff attended being facilitated by a team from ministry of health with funding from UNHCR. Health workers have also been trained in Kyegegwa, Isingiro, Kisoro, Kanungu, Ntoroko and Hoima districts with support from UNHCR being facilitated by ToTs from MoH – Uganda.
- UNHCR supported trainings on Ebola case management and infection prevention and control Kisoro, Kanungu and Ntoroko districts training and the trainings started On 21st August running throughout the week. District health team and leaders are part of this training as well and ToTs from MoH are facilitating.
- MSF is working jointly with UNHCR & KDLG to fast track completion of EVD treatment unit at Kasonga in Kyangwali sub county in Kikuube district. The district to identify another site for establishment of ETU outside the refugee hosting area in case of EVD outbreak.



Ministry of Health

Cross border activities

- UNHCR continues to screen refugees at boarder points entering Uganda with keen attention to those coming from Ebola affected areas in DRC. Refugees from Ebola affected areas in DRC and placed in separate shelters and monitored for any signs and symptoms of VHF/Ebola
- UNHCR is supporting point of entry screening for Kikuube district at the lake shores at 3 entry points in Sebagoro and Kahuka with Infra-red thermometers availed
- UNHCR continues with the intensified surveillance of Ebola using at all boarder points and in the Refugee settlements using the VHTs and no case has been detected
- Daily monitoring of new arrivals from DRC for symptoms within the reception center in Hoima district
- UNHCR supported the boarder districts of Kanungu and Kisoro to develop the Ebola Preparedness and Response plan and activate the District task forces. 10 Infrared thermometers were donated to support the Point of Entry screening by the districts. UNHCR also supported the refugee hosting district of Isingiro, Kamwenge, Kyegegwa and Hoima to develop Ebola Preparedness and Response plans
- Hand washing, disinfection and isolation facilities have been established at the refugee transit centres
- UNHCR decongested Kisoro and Ntoroko transit centres and moved 1,200 refugees to Kyaka Refugee Settlement in order to minimize close



Ministry of Health

contact and create space for separation of those who might come from the Ebola- affected areas.

- UNHCR has modified guidelines for reception, transportation, settling refugees that are from affected areas or have suspected symptoms to prevent cross infections and to allow for observation
- UNHCR and partners have instituted Mini-Ebola preparedness task forces at the transit centres and in the settlements which feed into the District-wide Task Forces in the various refugee hosting districts.

Logistics

- UNHCR Supported Mbarara regional referral hospital with mattresses, gloves and infra-red thermometers for the treatment centre in Mbarara district
- UNHCR - Some Ebola supplies from WHO/MoH Uganda have been prepositioned at District stores, Arua regional referral hospital stores, UNHCR/MTI stores and Koboko district stores
- UNHCR - UNHCR provided 12 Infra-red thermometers to all boarder points to support the Ebola screening in Kanungu, Kisoro and Ntoroko districts.
- UNHCR delivered Ebola PPEs and other supplies in all the refugee settlements to support new arrivals screening and the prepared health facilities to handle cases



Ministry of Health

- UNHCR is supporting Isingiro District with hospital tents to help set-up the treatment site at Rwekubo Health Centre IV.
- UNHCR procured PPEs and dispatched them to all the refugee settlement. 180 hand washing facilities and soap have been bought and distributed to the refugee service points.
- UNHCR provide PPEs to all the refugee settlements in Uganda. Agency staff are working with humanitarian partners to identify remaining gaps.

Challenges/gaps

- Lack of tents at two screening points in Kasese. Currently, a mitigation plan is to construct temporary shades using tarpaulin and tree poles

-End-

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