



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE PREPAREDNESS IN UGANDA

16TH AUGUST 2018 (12:00 HRS) – UPDATE No 12

Situation Update from Democratic Republic of Congo as on 13th August 2018

- Cumulative cases: 73
- Confirmed cases : 46
- Probable : 27
- Total deaths : 43
- Cases under investigation : 49
- Areas affected : Two provinces
 - North Kivu - Mabalako; Butembo; Ocha; Musienene; Beni and Bingo
 - Ituri- Mambasa, Mandina

EVD Preparedness in Uganda

Note :

1. *There is no suspected or confirmed case in Uganda*
2. *Lab tests*
 - a. *Two VHF suspect samples received from Kabale RRH yesterday (15/08/18) tested negative by PCR for all VHFs.*

i) Coordination

- Five UNICEF teams (Mbarara, Gulu and Kampala) have been deployed to the high priority districts to support implementation of district specific EVD preparedness plans focusing in the areas of WASH, Infection Prevention and control, community awareness and social mobilization to all high-risk districts and to ensure supplies are targeting high priority areas (health facilities, schools and communities) and are in use. Districts visited include: (Kisoro, Kasese, Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Kabarole, Kikuube, Kyegegwa and Kamwenge)



- In response to request from UNHCR and in consultation with WHO, discussions between UNICEF and URCS are on-going for possible partnership to support high-risk districts and border points for screening and risk communication.
- Kabarole District held a District Task Force (DTF) meeting that was attended by officials from WHO, MoH, Red Cross, World Food Program, DRRT, FPRRH staff, JMEDICC. The meeting was informed about the various opportunities that the leadership of district is using to mobilize communities against EVD

ii) *Laboratory investigations/Surveillance*

- Two samples received from Kabale RRH yesterday 15/08/18 at the UVRI for two suspect VHF cases have both tested negative for PCR for Ebola, Marburg, CCHF, RVF and Sosuga Viruses
- The WHO surveillance team visited Nyantaboma HC III, and oriented staff on EVD case definitions, and reporting. The team also distributed IEC materials on EVD at the health facility and Nyantaboma Junior School. The team later visited Busaiga Primary School, Busaiga Trading Centre, Kicwamba HC III and Bukuku HC IV. The team emphasized hand washing. The team suggested to school authorities that hand washing facilities be placed at entrances to ensure that students properly wash their hands before entering the school.
- In Bundibugyo, the WHO surveillance team and the Uganda Red Cross Society identified three new screening points at Kisiri, Bundiguma and Kararoho. These will be set these up by the 19th August, 2018. Volunteers at screening points received onsite training on personal protection and infection prevention



- WHO surveillance team continued deliver surveillance tools to health facilities in Kasese district and to brief health workers on the need to be alert and identify any suspicious cases. Nine health facilities were reached
- UNHRC thru partners is conducting disease surveillance using the VHTs to do house to house case identification.
- Daily OPD and in-patient education messages on Ebola, Rift valley fever and CCF are still being conducted by UNHCR
- UNHCR is also training health workers, protection, and community services on rapid response commenced on 15 August 2018 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. In Isingiro district, the training will start on 16th/08/2018 and in Arua, health workers to be trained have been identified pending training. 50 health workers trained by MoH in Hoima district supported by UNHCR
- Daily monitoring of new arrivals from DRC for symptoms within the reception center in Hoima district – conducted by the UNHCR team
- Two alerts have been received from Komamboga HC IV in Wakiso about two patients with VHF manifestations. These are being investigated.

iii) Risk Communication

- Airing of radio messages in 13 languages on 21 radio stations continues throughout the 13 high-risk districts. The messages were shared with District health officials, Uganda Red Cross for further dissemination through various communication channels including social media platforms. These messages will run for three months (August – October 2018)



- UNICEF continue distribution of posters and leaflets to the 13 high risk districts (English and several local languages). A full report of the end-users will be compiled in the week of 20 August 2018. The local languages include Rufumbira, Rubwisi, Rukonjo, Ruyankole-Rukiga, Runyoro-Rutoro, Alur and Lugbara.
- Dissemination of EVD message through U-report platform and mTrack continues.
- UNICEF has distributed 1000 English posters to Entebbe International Airport, the military base, and the UN Regional service centre in Entebbe
- UNICEF also used the U- report platform, ten approved short messages on Ebola prevention and control were sent to 98,665 U-reporters in 22 districts high and medium risk districts bordering DRC (14 of which have been identified as high-risk areas).
- UNHCR has continued with mass campaign and sensitization on Ebola on going in the community and market places in refugee settlements

iv) *Cross-border Activities*

- UNHCR completed the isolation facility in Rwekubo HCIV and is currently finalizing the sanitation facilities.
- In Ntoroko district, hand washing was established at two border crossing points namely Hyabaale East and Hyabaale North using local resources and materials supplied by UNICEF. At each site, two personnel were trained on site on how to wear the gears and assist the people to wash their hands properly. They were also oriented on the use of infrared thermometers and on personal safety while working.
- Discussions are underway with Baylor Uganda to establish permanent check points at the border and also set up a permanent isolation ward.
- Screening on the Mpondwe border continued and one alert case was identified taken to the isolation unit for further examination



v) Case management

- Construction of Isolation facility in Isingiro supported by UNHCR is complete with WASH facilities being installed. In Kamwenge (Rwamwanja settlement), an assessment of the designated isolation health facility has been done arranging of the health facility has started.
- In Hoima, Assessment of the proposed isolation centres was conducted by UNHCR and partners and a lay out of required structures to be established this week
- WHO/MoH team conducted active case search in three facilities namely Musandama, Ntoroko Medical Center, and Karagutu Health Center IV in Ntoroko district. This included orienting VHTs found in the facilities in community active case search and reporting. The team also sensitized communities in Karagutu. Musandama on proper hand washing and universal precautions.
- WHO supported training of 10 health workers at Bwera Hospital in case management and Infection Prevention and Control. The team had a chance to practice by receiving and examining two alert cases. They donned and collected lab samples which were shipped to UVRI

vi) Logistics

- UNICEF delivered 200 hand washing facilities, 33 buckets (1485 kgs) of HTC chlorine, 120 cartons (3000) of washing soap and 24 boxes (384,000 tablets) of water purification tablets to Kisoro, Kasese, Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Kabarole, Kikuube, Kyegegwa and Kamwenge. The following facilities received these items;
 - (Kisoro district– 7 HF



- Ntoroko district – 6 HF
 - Bundibugyo district – 10 HF
 - Kasese district– 31HF
 - Kabarole district – 25HF
 - Kyegegwa district -9HF
 - Kamwenge district-16HF
 - Kikuube – 8HF)
- The hypochlorite solar powered generators dispatched to Kisoro and Ntoroko districts are now operational.
 - WHO erected tent (34x6) at the Bwera I solution unit and 10 beds assembled. A ground sheet is still required to make this tent usable. MSF will further assess how this tent can be improved.
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vii) Challenges

- There is need for stand by ambulances to handle cases.
- Inadequate means of transport for surveillance team.
- Lack of training for volunteers and VHTs

-End-

For more information, please contact:

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