

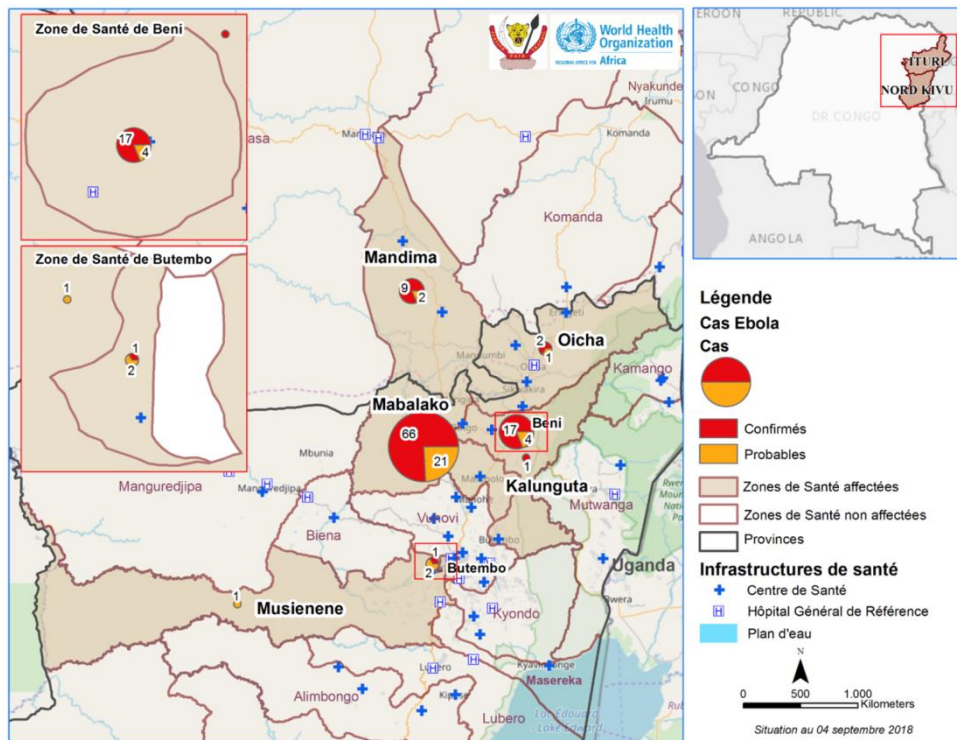
GLOBAL CONTEXT

On August 1st, 2018, an Ebola outbreak was declared in Eastern DR Congo. As of 04th September, there were 31 probable and 93 confirmed cases, with 16 suspected cases currently under investigation. There have been 85 deaths. Up to today, 22 patients have treated with mAb 114, Remdesivir or Zmapp; out of them, 11 have recovered (according to the Ministry of Health Situation Report, 04th September). Under the leadership of the Congolese Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation, Medair and other partners are working to respond and mitigate the outbreak.

WEEKLY UPDATE

From 29th August to 04th September:

- There have been 9 new confirmed cases, and 10 deaths.
- With 8 new confirmed cases in the past week, Beni health zone is the place where the majority of cases are emerging.
- Vaccinations are still ongoing in the Nord Kivu and Ituri provinces. So far 6,134 people have been vaccinated in Mabalako, Beni, Mandima, Oicha and Katwa health zones where cases have been confirmed, as well as in Kinshasa.



Source: Ministry of Health Situation Report, 04th September 2018

MEDAIR RESPONSE SUMMARY

Medair supports 54 health facilities in Eastern DR Congo, with Health, Nutrition, and WASH related interventions. Medair’s first priority is to ensure that suspected Ebola cases can be safely identified, isolated and referred at these health facilities, in order to:

- 1) Ensure suspected Ebola patients receive timely care
- 2) Prevent further spread of the Ebola Virus Disease
- 3) Enable affected populations to continue to access quality primary health care in a safe environment

Beginning with areas where the risk is most elevated, Medair is ensuring that supported health centres are equipped to triage patients at the entrance to the health centre before isolating suspected Ebola cases in a temporary isolation area, while arranging for referral.

Health centre staff are being trained on how to consistently implement screening, isolation and referral without exposing themselves or other patients to the risk of being infected with Ebola Virus Disease. To support this, they are being equipped with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and receive instruction - derived from the WHO guidelines for responding to Ebola in DR Congo - on how to safely screen and isolate suspected Ebola patients.

In addition to support to health centres covered by pre-existing projects, Medair has prioritised and begun working in seven additional health centres to be supported as part of the Ebola response where there is the highest risk of suspected cases emerging. All of them are now trained and equipped to properly screen and isolate suspected Ebola cases, as well as refer them safely to the nearest Ebola Treatment Center (ETC). This includes a package of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures, and water, sanitation, and hygiene support both in the health facilities and surrounding communities.

The health centres that Medair supports are included as an annex.



During a practical demonstration, Oicha Referral Hospital staff listen as Medair WASH supervisor Guyguy explains how to safely clean up a spill when caring for an Ebola patient.

PROGRESS UPDATE: BENI

- Three new national staff (one Finance/Admin, two WASH supervisors) have been hired to add capacity for the response as well as support the other ongoing projects.
- Further Interviews have been completed and additional staff will shortly join the team, including one M&E assistant, two health/hygiene promoters and two health supervisors.
- The Health PM, who was on her way out for holidays as the Ebola epidemic started, is now able to take her due break. She left the Beni base on September 4th, and will be back in three weeks. She has handed over her responsibilities to the two national health managers in Beni, one focusing on the Ebola response, and the other one taking over the ongoing health and nutrition projects.

- On September 1st, a training on safe donning and doffing of full PPE was organised at Oicha General Hospital for two head nurses and eight hygienists. All the participants have also taken part in a simulation exercise as well as in a demonstration of how to safely clean up bodily fluids when looking after an Ebola patient. Also, the isolation structure of Oicha General Hospital has been fully equipped with essential furniture and supplies including two beds enabling the hospital to safely hold two suspected Ebola patients simultaneously while awaiting ambulance transport.
- The focus continues to be on the training of health care workers on Ebola and its transmission, as well as the implementation of screening and isolation areas in health facilities. In the past week, three new health centres in Oicha health zone (Ngandilama, Ngele and Kitevyva) have been supported with training and materials. In parallel, supervision has been ongoing in all supported health facilities in order to ensure and reinforce good IPC practices.

PROGRESS UPDATE: BUNIA

- The flight chartered from Nairobi arrived to Bunia on August 29th with essential supplies including PPE. The team has been able to put aside some of these supplies to equip the health facilities around Bunia. The rest of the supplies will be shipped to Beni to reinforce the health facilities in this area.
- On Saturday 1st of September, the Bunia team began the set-up of screening stations and temporary isolation areas in the four prioritised health facilities in the area (Kainama, Tchabi, Bukiringi, Kagaba), which are located along the road between Bunia and Oicha. They had intended to start with Kainama and Tchabi, but due to activity between ADF and FARDC close to Kainama, they reviewed their plan and started with Tchabi and Bukiringi. After a two-day training, these two health facilities are now equipped for triage and safe isolation of suspected cases. A total of 40 health care workers (20 in each facility) have been trained on Ebola and triage. In the coming days, the team will implement similar activities at Kainama and Kagaba health centres.

PROGRESS UPDATE: NATIONAL / GLOBAL LEVEL

- The Roving Emergency Logistician has arrived in Goma in order to support the team with the increased logistics support that the Ebola response has created.
- The two suspected cases in Goma highlighted in the last Sitrep have tested negative. Therefore, Goma remains Ebola free at the moment.
- All the health facilities supported by Medair, which are located in Beni, Oicha, Mutwanga, and Kalunguta health zones have been trained on Ebola and its transmission and triage (phase 2). A similar work has begun in Lita health zone, led by the Bunia team.
- Case rates are currently down to one or two per day (no case was confirmed September 1st) so unless the situation worsens significantly, it is likely that the Ebola outbreak will end by the end of the year. However, it is probable that Medair will continue activities even after the outbreak is declared over, as the activities are preventative rather than curative (e.g. set-up of hand washing stations and training of health care workers on good hygiene practices and IPC).

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

In addition to the health facilities Medair supported before the outbreak, seven health facilities in the highest risk areas have been added, evaluations of these health facilities have been conducted and safe screening and isolation have already been established in the seven additional health facilities.

Medair also continues to carry out ongoing supervision in supported health facilities to ensure compliance and improve upon IPC practices in the health facilities.

Medair is participating in the coordination of the Ebola response, helping to ensure coverage and avoid duplication of activities. It is liaising closely with partners to ensure that its work achieves its objective of stopping disease spread and complements that of other humanitarian organisations.

CHALLENGES & NEEDS

- **Security:** Insecurity remains a major challenge within the region. The ADF activities in the area have created difficulties to access health facilities. The Bunia team had to review the possibility of travelling to Kainama health centre, after ADF incidents on the Bunia - Kainama road. In addition, the truck that was due to deliver the materials to Kainama on the Sunday 2nd of September turned around on arriving in the village after hearing what they thought was shooting; it was in fact a battery that had exploded. In parallel, on Monday 3rd of September, ADF attacks on the Beni - Mavivi road created insecurity in the town; pending security clearance, the teams had to consider reviewing their activities planned for the following day. We can therefore observe frequent security incidents around both project areas (Beni and Bunia) causing not only verified incidents but also general fear in the communities.
- **Human Resources:** Both national and international staff are working overtime, including working every Saturday since the beginning of the Ebola outbreak. A new timesheet template is now being used, enabling the teams to better monitor overtime as well as accurately track on a daily basis which grant each staff have been working on.
- **Space:** As the number of staff in Beni keeps increasing, space for the base staff and office remains a concern. The search for additional office and/or team base is still ongoing. However, in the light of the recent insecurity incident on the main road of Beni town, one of the options previously considered may have to be discarded and new opportunities are being considered. Similarly, the warehouse space and means of transportation in Beni remain a challenge. During the past week, the team received a loan of five motorbikes from UNICEF and three additional ones (from the ECHO project) should shortly be shipped from Goma. However, there is still a need for additional vehicles to easily move the team and equipment around as activities are increasing for the Ebola response.
- **Procurement:** With all the new projects starting, the programme team has been quickly preparing procurement requests with short timelines. The lack of time for procurement planning has therefore been a challenge for the work of the logistics team. Even though the emergency procurement procedures have been established at the beginning of the response, the team is trying to cover the normal procurement procedures as much as possible. The team will return to normal logistics procedures in the near future.

Medair is a humanitarian organisation striving to relieve human suffering in some of the world's most remote and devastated places. We bring relief and recovery to people in crisis, regardless of race, creed, or nationality. In Eastern DR Congo, Medair is supporting 54 health centres, with funding from OFDA, ECHO, SDC, UNICEF, the Common Humanitarian Fund and private funders.

Annex I: New health facilities to be supported as part of Ebola response^{1,2}

#	Province	Health Zone	Health Area	Trained on case definition & surveillance?	Can screen, isolate & refer?			Funding Partner
					Yes	Yes	Yes	
1	Nord Kivu	Oicha	Oicha*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	ECHO-SDC
2	Nord Kivu	Oicha	Mabasele	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	ECHO-SDC
3	Nord Kivu	Oicha	Mambabeka	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	ECHO-SDC
4	Nord Kivu	Oicha	Ngandilama	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	ECHO-SDC
5	Nord Kivu	Oicha	Ngele	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	ECHO-SDC
6	Nord Kivu	Beni	Rwangoma	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	ECHO-SDC
7	Nord Kivu	Beni	Sayo	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	ECHO-SDC

All health facilities are primary health facilities, unless indicated with a * (referral centres)

Annex II: Health centres supported by Medair's current projects

#	Province	Health Zone	Health Area	Trained on case definition & surveillance?	Can screen, isolate & refer?			Funding Partner
					Yes	No	No	
1	Ituri	Lita	Katoto	Yes	Yes	No	No	OFDA
2	Ituri	Lita	Bahwere	Yes	Yes	No	No	OFDA
3	Ituri	Lita	Zumbe	Yes	No	No	No	OFDA
4	Ituri	Fataki	Jina	Yes	No	No	No	OFDA
5	Ituri	Fataki	Bule	Yes	No	No	No	OFDA
6	Ituri	Nizi	Iga Barrière	Yes	No	No	No	OFDA
7	Ituri	Komande	Luna	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	OFDA
8	Ituri	Gety	Bukiringi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	OFDA
9	Ituri	Gety	Kagaba	Yes	Yes	No	No	OFDA
10	Ituri	Boga	Tchabi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	OFDA
11	Ituri	Rethy	Rethy	Yes	No	No	No	Pooled Fund
12	Ituri	Rethy	Mola	Yes	No	No	No	Pooled Fund
13	Nord Kivu	Oicha	Kainama	Yes	Yes	No	No	OFDA
14	Nord Kivu	Oicha	Mbau*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	OFDA
15	Nord Kivu	Oicha	Masosi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	OFDA
16	Nord Kivu	Oicha	Kitevya	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	OFDA
17	Nord Kivu	Beni	Mukulya	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	OFDA

¹ High priority health centres are highlighted in orange. Further health facilities will be identified as 'priority' depending on the direction of outbreak spread.

² Following the 2 confirmed cases in Oicha, new health facilities have been identified as a priority for IPC based on proximity to Oicha General Hospital and the patient volume. This table has therefore been revised based on these new priority health centres.

18	Nord Kivu	Beni	Paida	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	OFDA
19	Nord Kivu	Kalunguta	Butuhe	Yes	Yes	No	No	OFDA
20	Nord Kivu	Kalunguta	Mabuku	Yes	Yes	No	No	OFDA
21	Nord Kivu	Kalunguta	Kalunguta	Yes	Yes	No	No	OFDA
22	Nord Kivu	Kalunguta	Vurondo	Yes	Yes	No	No	OFDA
23	Nord Kivu	Kalunguta	Kivethya	Yes	Yes	No	No	OFDA
24	Nord Kivu	Mutwanga	Lubiriha	Yes	Yes	No	No	OFDA
25	Nord Kivu	Mutwanga	Luolo	Yes	Yes	No	No	OFDA
26	Nord Kivu	Kayna	Mulinde*	Yes	No	No	No	ECHO-SDC
27	Nord Kivu	Alimbongo	Bingi*	Yes	No	No	No	ECHO-SDC
28	Nord Kivu	Alimbongo	Kalungu	Yes	No	No	No	ECHO-SDC
29	Nord Kivu	Alimbongo	Alimbongo	Yes	No	No	No	ECHO-SDC
30	Nord Kivu	Alimbongo	Bunyatenge	Yes	No	No	No	ECHO-SDC
31	Nord Kivu	Alimbongo	Lunyasenge	Yes	No	No	No	ECHO-SDC
32	Nord Kivu	Lubero	Bukununu*	Yes	No	No	No	Pooled Fund
33	Nord Kivu	Lubero	Baraka	Yes	No	No	No	Pooled Fund
34	Nord Kivu	Lubero	Kagheri	Yes	No	No	No	Pooled Fund
35	Nord Kivu	Lubero	Kaghuli	Yes	No	No	No	Pooled Fund
36	Nord Kivu	Lubero	Kasima	Yes	No	No	No	Pooled Fund
37	Nord Kivu	Lubero	Kasalala*	Yes	No	No	No	Pooled Fund
38	Nord Kivu	Lubero	Katolo	Yes	No	No	No	Pooled Fund
39	Nord Kivu	Lubero	Kipese*	Yes	No	No	No	Pooled Fund
40	Nord Kivu	Lubero	Kisima*	Yes	No	No	No	Pooled Fund
41	Nord Kivu	Lubero	Kiviriri	Yes	No	No	No	Pooled Fund
42	Nord Kivu	Lubero	Lubero Cité	Yes	No	No	No	Pooled Fund
43	Nord Kivu	Lubero	Mubana	Yes	No	No	No	Pooled Fund
44	Nord Kivu	Lubero	Vukendo	Yes	No	No	No	Pooled Fund
45	Nord Kivu	Lubero	Kisaka	Yes	No	No	No	Pooled Fund
46	Nord Kivu	Kibirizi	Bulindi	Yes	No	No	No	ECHO-SDC
47	Nord Kivu	Kibirizi	Kilambo	Yes	No	No	No	ECHO-SDC