



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE PREPAREDNESS IN UGANDA

15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2018 (12:00 HRS) – UPDATE No 11

### Situation Update from Democratic Republic of Congo as on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018

- Cumulative cases: 66
- Confirmed cases : 39
- Probable : 27
- Total deaths : 42
- Cases under investigation : 36
- 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. Six alert cases
  - a. Three alert VHF samples from Kasese were tested by UVRI and are all negative by PCR for Ebola, Marburg, CCHF, RVF and Sosuga.
  - b. Three alert cases from Mpondwe boarder; Kyaka Refugee camp, Kyegegwa District and Hakitara, Bundibugyo District. Samples sent to UVRI, no results yet

#### **i) Coordination**

- The National Task force meeting was held yesterday 14th August 2018 and Noted the following among others:
  - Preparedness in Uganda is still not good enough to cope with potential cases
  - The health system in not strong system



- More work and support still need to effectively deal with the high cross border movement especially on the weekly market days.
- UNICEF deployed three teams to the high risk districts to help with situation review in areas of areas of WASH, Infection Prevention and control, community awareness and social mobilization and to ensure that supplies reach the intended communities.
- 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 in Mbarara. The objective was to ensure Ebola preparedness actions are integrated in all humanitarian activities in the settlements and the transit centres.

**ii) *Laboratory investigations/Surveillance***

- The three alert VHF samples from Kasese district (two from Bwera Hospital and one from Kagando) which we reported in Update No 10, were tested by Uganda Virus Research Institute yesterday. After routine testing the samples are negative by PCR for all Ebola, Marburg, CCHF, RVF and Sosuga.
- EVD screening continues at Mpondwe border entry point in Kasese district. Preparation were made to establish more screening points in the district. MoH/WHO teams distributed more surveillance tools to health facilities.
- A sample was picked from an alert case (TM) at Mpondwe border crossing and sent to UVRI for testing.
- There was one alert case (ST) in Kyaka Refugee camp, Kyegegwa District. A blood sample was taken and sent to UVRI. This was a 5 year old boy from Sweswe Dam 1. The family came to Kyaka on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018. He fell sick on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2018. He is being treated for Malaria as well.



- Active case search ongoing in health facilities in Kabarole district. The WHO Surveillance Officer is working with the District Surveillance Team to visit the facilities and share the case definitions, and SOPs for EVD Management.
- RM a 24 year old male from Hakitara, Bundibugyo District was identified at Busunga border post with history of fever, headache, joint pains, general body weakness. He was transferred to Bundibugyo Hospital. A samples was taken and is being transported to UVRI.
- So far, surveillance committee has participated in establishing of screening points at Busunga and Butoogo borders. A total of 5142 individuals have been screen at the borders. Others activities includes sensitization of Red Cross Volunteers and responding to rumours. From the briefing, results for samples taken so far to UVRI are negative.
- In Bunyangabu, the District Surveillance Team continues to conduct active case search and awareness raising at the health facilities.

### ***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
- UNICEF supported distribution of IEC materials printed in local languages in the high risk districts. 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. The messages were sent to 98,665 U-reporter in 22 high and medium risk district and to 52,946 health workers through mTrack.
- UNHCR is printing IEC materials that were translated into refugee languages.



- In Kasese, risk communication team reached 600 school children in two (2) primary schools with EVD messages.
- The social mobilization team had two (2) talk shows on UBC and also visited the Nyahuka Market.

**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.
- Yesterday was market day in DRC and many people from Uganda crossed over to attend the market. They were required to wash hands before crossing and were also given EVD information to protect themselves and their communities. Posters on Ebola in different local languages supplied by UNICEF were also distributed.
- Discussions are underway with Baylor Uganda to establish permanent check points at the border and also set up a permanent isolation ward.

**v) *Case management***

- Bundibugyo district received one kit of PPEs from WHO. There is concern however on the location of the mounted tents. They are close to the wards.

**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 hypochlorite solar powered generators dispatched to Kisoro and Ntoroko districts are now operational. District staff in those districts were trained on the operation of the generators. The Kisoro generator serves seven health facilities and the one in Ntoroko serves six.
- 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
- Kabarole District received assorted supplies for the region from WHO which included IV fluids, examination gloves, digital thermometers, Heavy duty gloves, Aprons.
- Fuel and chlorine (JIK) from Baylor Uganda were received. Another consignment was also received from the UNICEF yesterday. The logistics committee was asked to create a special store for Ebola logistics. All requisitions to this special store must be endorsed by the DHO.

#### **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-**

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