

## GLOBAL CONTEXT

On August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, an Ebola outbreak was declared in Eastern DR Congo. As of 13<sup>th</sup> August, there were 27 probable and 39 confirmed cases, with 36 suspected cases currently under investigation. There have been 42 deaths (according to the Ministry of Health Situation Report, 14<sup>th</sup> August). Under the leadership of the Congolese Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation, Medair and other partners are working to prepare and respond.

## WEEKLY UPDATE

From 9<sup>th</sup> August to 14<sup>th</sup> August:

- Mabalako health zone in Nord Kivu Province has recorded the majority of new cases in the region, with 14 new confirmed cases (for a total of 27 confirmed and 21 probable).
- Mandima health zone in Ituri Province has nine cases (seven confirmed, two probable), with six cases confirmed on 13<sup>th</sup> August alone.
- Four healthcare workers are confirmed Ebola cases, and a further five healthcare workers are understood to have symptoms.
- Health workers considered high risk contacts at the General Hospital in Beni and Mangina Reference Health Centre have been replaced.
- 96 frontline individuals were vaccinated against Ebola between 8th and 10th August (56 in Mabalako health zone and 40 in Beni).
- A 13-year old girl treated at Beni Ebola Treatment Centre (ETC) is the first patient to be discharged from an ETC.
- Ebola-specific response plan is expected to be launched alongside the regular HRP for covering additional needs

## MEDAIR RESPONSE SUMMARY

Medair supports 47 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 centres, in order to:

- 1) Ensure suspected Ebola patients receive timely care
- 2) Prevent further spread of 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 will ensure 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 will be 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 will be equipped with personal protective equipment 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.

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

In addition to support health centres covered by pre-existing projects, Medair will begin working in five health centres where there is the highest risk of suspected cases emerging. This will include a package of infection prevention and control measures, and water, sanitation, and hygiene support both in the health facilities and surrounding communities.

#### PROGRESS UPDATE: BENI

- Screening at the base has been enhanced to include temperature checks with contactless thermometers.
- Team members have engaged in coordination meetings with WHO, Ministry of Health, and other partners, in addition to meetings the overall response focal point, and UNICEF and ECHO response focal points.
- New, detailed Terms of Reference have been created, specific to Health and WASH-related activities included in the response.
- Under its COD180-1 project (supported by ECHO and SDC), the Beni team will support safe screening and WASH in five health facilities close to epicentre of the outbreak.<sup>1</sup>

#### PROGRESS UPDATE: BUNIA

- Nine health centres out of 13 supported from Bunia have received briefings on Ebola symptoms and prevention. Evaluation reports have been collected from the same nine health centres.
- A model isolation and screening facility has been built at the Bunia base. This will be used to help guide decision-making and advocacy for furnishing supported health centres with screening and isolation facilities that reflect their level of risk.
- A PR has been submitted for screening equipment, to be sent to the 11 OFDA-funded health centres supported from Bunia.
- Supported health centres have been analysed to understand their relative risk of exposure, and have been prioritised for intervention, accordingly.
- Medair has started engaging with OCHA, the Provincial Health Department, and the Governor through coordination meetings and calls.

#### PROGRESS UPDATE: NATIONAL / GLOBAL LEVEL

- Two members of Medair's Global Emergency Response Team have received their visas.
- An emergency Project Manager has been hired to support the Ebola response. She has also received her visa.
- Goma logistics have distributed contactless thermometers to Beni, Bunia, and Kirumba to aid screening at Medair bases, and to be pre-positioned for distribution to health centres along with other screening equipment. Purchase requests for personal protective equipment have been submitted.
- The Goma team have made contact with UNICEF about a possible project to support Ebola prevention and preparedness in Goma city.

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<sup>1</sup> These will be Sayo, Rwangoma, Linzo health centres, and Oicha referral centre, in Nord Kivu Province, and Katanga health centre in Ituri Province. Katanga health centre will be supported from Beni, despite being in Ituri Province, as it is more accessible from there.

- Medair's HQ-based Marketing & Relationships have launched a funding appeal online, with a marketing email and an initial mail campaign within Switzerland.

### PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Following announcement of the outbreak, Medair's planning has focused on ensuring the safety of its staff working in the field, enabling them to continue their vital work in supporting 47 health centres in Beni Territory and the surrounding areas.

Medair will support the response at health centres covered under its existing projects by establishing Ebola-specific infection prevention and control protocols and equipping staff to screen patients at supported health centres and to safely isolate and refer suspected Ebola cases.

Medair will also support five health centres in the highest risk areas, with evaluations of these health centres beginning on 15<sup>th</sup> August.

Medair is participating in the coordination 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

- Need to clarify what packages of activities will be implemented in which health centres (nearly complete). Related to this, specific trainings (agreed with WHO and the Ministry of Health) need to be available, so that teams working in the field know what trainings accompany what screening / WASH activities.
- Health Supervisors need better protective equipment, rather than simply adhering to no-touch protocols.
- Coordination: multiple streams of coordination and information occurring at the same time, making it difficult to understand whose approval is needed for what actions, and whether information is being shared across coordinating partners
- Meetings: spending 5+ hours in coordination meetings each day makes accomplishing other tasks difficult
- Procedures: switching into "emergency response" mode regarding processes and procedures has been difficult, as it is unclear what can now change (regarding procurement, hiring, logs) and what will stay the same
- Difficulty in getting updated lists of available materials from partners (especially WHO)

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*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 supports 45 health centres, with funding from OFDA, ECHO, SDC, the Common Humanitarian Fund and private funders.*

**Annex I: Health centres supported by Medair**

| #  | Province  | Health Zone | Health Area  | Can screen, isolate & refer? |    |    | Funding Partner |
|----|-----------|-------------|--------------|------------------------------|----|----|-----------------|
| 1  | Ituri     | Lita        | Katoto       | No                           | No | No | OFDA            |
| 2  | Ituri     | Lita        | Bahwere      | No                           | No | No | OFDA            |
| 3  | Ituri     | Lita        | Zumbe        | No                           | No | No | OFDA            |
| 4  | Ituri     | Fataki      | Jina         | No                           | No | No | OFDA            |
| 5  | Ituri     | Fataki      | Bule         | No                           | No | No | OFDA            |
| 6  | Ituri     | Nizi        | Iga Barrière | No                           | No | No | OFDA            |
| 7  | Ituri     | Komande     | Luna         | No                           | No | No | OFDA            |
| 8  | Ituri     | Gety        | Bukiringi    | No                           | No | No | OFDA            |
| 9  | Ituri     | Gety        | Kagaba       | No                           | No | No | OFDA            |
| 10 | Ituri     | Boga        | Tchabi       | No                           | No | No | OFDA            |
| 11 | Ituri     | Rethy       | Rethy        | No                           | No | No | Pooled Fund     |
| 12 | Ituri     | Rethy       | Mola         | No                           | No | No | Pooled Fund     |
| 13 | Nord Kivu | Oicha       | Kainama      | No                           | No | No | OFDA            |
| 14 | Nord Kivu | Oicha       | Mbau         | No                           | No | No | OFDA            |
| 15 | Nord Kivu | Oicha       | Masosi       | No                           | No | No | OFDA            |
| 16 | Nord Kivu | Oicha       | Kitevya      | No                           | No | No | OFDA            |
| 17 | Nord Kivu | Beni        | Mukulya      | No                           | No | No | OFDA            |
| 18 | Nord Kivu | Beni        | Paida        | No                           | No | No | OFDA            |
| 19 | Nord Kivu | Kalunguta   | Butuhe       | No                           | No | No | OFDA            |
| 20 | Nord Kivu | Kalunguta   | Mabuku       | No                           | No | No | OFDA            |
| 21 | Nord Kivu | Kalunguta   | Kalunguta    | No                           | No | No | OFDA            |
| 22 | Nord Kivu | Kalunguta   | Vurondo      | No                           | No | No | OFDA            |
| 23 | Nord Kivu | Kalunguta   | Kivethya     | No                           | No | No | OFDA            |
| 24 | Nord Kivu | Mutwanga    | Lubiraha     | No                           | No | No | OFDA            |
| 25 | Nord Kivu | Mutwanga    | Luolo        | No                           | No | No | OFDA            |
| 26 | Nord Kivu | Kayna       | Mulinde*     | No                           | No | No | ECHO-SDC        |
| 27 | Nord Kivu | Alimbongo   | Bingi*       | No                           | No | No | ECHO-SDC        |
| 28 | Nord Kivu | Alimbongo   | Kalungu      | No                           | No | No | ECHO-SDC        |
| 29 | Nord Kivu | Alimbongo   | Alimbongo    | No                           | No | No | ECHO-SDC        |
| 30 | Nord Kivu | Alimbongo   | Bunyatenge   | No                           | No | No | ECHO-SDC        |
| 31 | Nord Kivu | Alimbongo   | Lunyasenge   | No                           | No | No | ECHO-SDC        |
| 32 | Nord Kivu | Lubero      | Bukununu*    | No                           | No | No | Pooled Fund     |
| 33 | Nord Kivu | Lubero      | Baraka       | No                           | No | No | Pooled Fund     |
| 34 | Nord Kivu | Lubero      | Kagheri      | No                           | No | No | Pooled Fund     |
| 35 | Nord Kivu | Lubero      | Kaghuli      | No                           | No | No | Pooled Fund     |
| 36 | Nord Kivu | Lubero      | Kasima       | No                           | No | No | Pooled Fund     |
| 37 | Nord Kivu | Lubero      | Kasalala*    | No                           | No | No | Pooled Fund     |
| 38 | Nord Kivu | Lubero      | Katolo       | No                           | No | No | Pooled Fund     |
| 39 | Nord Kivu | Lubero      | Kipese*      | No                           | No | No | Pooled Fund     |
| 40 | Nord Kivu | Lubero      | Kisima*      | No                           | No | No | Pooled Fund     |
| 41 | Nord Kivu | Lubero      | Kiviriri     | No                           | No | No | Pooled Fund     |
| 42 | Nord Kivu | Lubero      | Lubero Cité  | No                           | No | No | Pooled Fund     |

|    |           |          |         |    |    |    |             |
|----|-----------|----------|---------|----|----|----|-------------|
| 43 | Nord Kivu | Lubero   | Mubana  | No | No | No | Pooled Fund |
| 44 | Nord Kivu | Lubero   | Vukendo | No | No | No | Pooled Fund |
| 45 | Nord Kivu | Lubero   | Kisaka  | No | No | No | Pooled Fund |
| 46 | Nord Kivu | Kibirizi | Bulindi | No | No | No | ECHO-SDC    |
| 47 | Nord Kivu | Kibirizi | Kilambo | No | No | No | ECHO-SDC    |

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