Key updates

- A relative, albeit unpredictable, calm in Beni and Butembo has allowed for the resumption of near to normal operations. People continue to flee conflict hotspots which portends a high risk of disease spread as such events affect contact tracing, surveillance and vaccination activities.
- The later part of the period under review has recorded some encouraging trends, including a fall in the number of new cases. WHO reports that the epidemiological week of 20 to 26 January 2020 saw the smallest number of cases reported since the beginning of the response.
- Nevertheless, there have been some worrying updates like the new cases emerging in Beni. Of these cases “two individuals stayed four to five days in the community while symptomatic before isolation.” The decision to relocate the overall response coordination function from Goma to Beni is indeed timely.
- World Vision launched a report “Fear and Isolation” in which children tell stories of the impact of Ebola, conflict and violence on their lives. This publication has raised awareness about this children’s crisis, to inform programme and policy improvement, in addition to focusing attention on the mental health of children.
- The Ebola Vaccine Deployment, Acceptance and Compliance (EBODAC) project is enabling communities in Goma embrace health-seeking behaviours like voluntarily taking the Johnson and Johnson vaccine to safeguard against the disease. Similar activities are being extended to Beni.
- World Vision has engaged faith leaders, women and youth groups to reach a cumulative 759,872 people (322,841 children) with Ebola-related messages on prevention, treatment and vaccination. Additionally, 40,522 have received supplementary food, targeting patients, survivors, and contacts, while several others benefitted from Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) as well as protection and psychosocial initiatives.

Total number of cases: 3,431
(3,308 confirmed, 123 probable)

Total vaccinated: 292,832 (Combined)

Total number of deaths: 2,247
(fatality ratio 67%)

Total survivors: 1,164

Current spread of disease

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the World Vision International.

Sources: World Health Organisation, Ministry of Health
Response highlights

**RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND CHANNELS OF HOPE ACTION TEAMS TRAINED**

- 134 awareness sessions by faith leaders reached 63,169 people with messages of prevention, vaccination against Ebola and encouraged them to seek early treatment for the sick. 525 faith leaders received training to become influencers of change.

**PROTECTION & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT**

- Monitoring of activities by 22 field responders recently trained to deliver Psychological First Aid (PFA) continues.
- During this period, four training sessions were conducted in four primary schools. In total, 2288 people were reached, including 34 men, 21 women, 1073 girls and 1160 boys.
- The sessions focused on stopping stigma related to the Ebola Virus Disease in schools and avoiding or managing the resulting psychosocial consequences.
- Some children affected by different forms of stigma in Beni and Butembo have been identified to be supported by specialised trainers of trainers from South Africa. The trainers will be working with trainees drawn from the affected communities.

**FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR AFFECTED PEOPLE**

- 16,930 people (contacts, patients and survivors) received 110,007 tonnes of food. In total 79 community outreach events were conducted to discuss project objectives and Community Reporting Mechanism.

**HYGIENE KITS DISTRIBUTED**

- 658 people in Butembo were consulted on WASH needs and educated about hygiene promotion.
- Project activities are being co-implemented and monitored by 24 community-based volunteers identified.
- Work has started in 60 villages marked for World Vision WASH interventions. Sites are agreed and GPS mapped for construction of new latrines.

What is World Vision’s role in the Ebola response?

WV DRC response actions focus on response pillars I and III. Risk communication and risk management, WASH, protection, food security and livelihood activities in Goma, Beni, Butembo, Katwa, Oicha, Katwa, Masareka Kalunguta, Vuhovi, Lubero, Mangurudjipa, Rutshuru and Mabalako.

- Through faith-leaders, women’s and youth associations, we inform communities about Ebola, how to protect themselves, care for the sick and contain the spread of the epidemic.
- We provide food to at-risk populations to realise objectives of 3 key pillars to care, contain and protect.
- We provide psychosocial support to help affected families, especially children.
- We support prevention measures in schools to create a protective environment.
- We make water, hygiene and sanitation available in communities, schools and health centres.
- We respond to vulnerabilities that pre-existed the Ebola outbreak and which actively contribute to its spread.
- We coordinate with our partners to ensure the physical, emotional and psychological well-being of children.

World Vision appeal (US$)

- $ 9.6M cash
- $ 5.42M GIK
- $ 9.02M Funding received
- Funding gap

Response achievements

- 31,226 young girls and boys reached with life-saving messages in January
- 886 faith leaders trained on Ebola
- 201 action team members trained on Ebola
- 574 community health workers trained on Ebola
- 73 community feedback participants
- 63,169 reached with life-saving messages (2 weeks)
- 16,930 quarantined contacts and patients have received 110,007 MT of food
- 110,461 families, schools and churches reached with 11,065 hygiene kits
- cumulatively 759,872 people (322,841 children) have received prevention/treatment information and/or health monitoring

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Sources: World Health Organisation, Ministry of Health

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