

## Key updates

- Last Friday, the D.R. Congo Ministry of Health announced a new case of Ebola in Beni, in a country that is already burdened by an increasing number of COVID-19 cases – now at 267 people. The new case was discovered just two days before the Country could be declared free of Ebola!
- COVID-19 "stay-at-home" prevention measures make it more challenging to conduct contact tracing in a community that is already suspicious and distrusting of humanitarians.
- Beni, an epicentre of the Ebola outbreak, has already reported 2 cases of COVID-19. Addressing two most dreaded and highly contagious health crises in an area characterised by spikes of conflict poses an unprecedented challenge for the country currently battling the World's worst measles epidemic!
- Amidst much needed lockdown strategies, to check the spread of COVID-19, World Vision advocates facilitated humanitarian access to ensure child protection and life-saving operations continue. 15.6 million people in DRC are in dire need of humanitarian aid, including food assistance, other health interventions, including responding to the needs of refugees and IDPs.
- World Vision is advocating the prioritisation of sharing age-appropriate, COVID-19 and Ebola, information with kids, because even if they don't know the details, they know something dreadful is going on! Many children may suffer psychological challenges if this gap is left unattended.
- World Vision is reorienting and equipping its 800 Channels of Hope influencers (105 faith leaders so far) and Channels of Hope Teams (CHATS) to, counter rumours and initiate protective health behaviour to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and Ebola.
- To listen to affected communities and help address misinformation, World Vision is utilising dialogue and listening groups, championed by the Ebola Vaccine Deployment Acceptance and Compliance initiative, as channels for community engagement and participation.
- World Vision has reached more than one million people (379,775 children) through its integrated response (food assistance, WASH, community engagement / Infection Prevention Control (IPC), protection and psychosocial initiatives.

**Total number of cases: 3,456**  
(3,311 confirmed, 145 probable)

**Total vaccinated : 322,192** (numbers reflect the two vaccines)

*\* WHO surveillance numbers fluctuate daily due to many factors, including continuous monitoring, investigation and reclassification*

**Total number of deaths: 2,266**  
(fatality ratio 67%)

**Total survivors: 1, 169**

## STOP TRANSMISSION OF DEADLY EBOLA

1. The tenth epidemic of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in the DRC currently raging in the North Kivu and Ituri provinces
2. August 01, 2018 - Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo declares health emergency - 1 August 2018.
3. Second most deadly Ebola outbreak after the 2014 West Africa epidemic.
4. Unprecedented impact on children with nearly **30% of Ebola cases are children**
5. **968 infected children; 6,753 separated children; 2,552 orphans** (Unicef, as at Feb 15)
6. Crisis in area of intense insecurity, where people are suffering acute humanitarian crises.
7. Population in the region lacks access to basic services and is hosting over one million IDPs and a caseload of refugees from neighboring countries.

### HOW CHILDREN ARE AFFECTED

**REACH**

**1.2m people reached** through response interventions

**FUNDING**

- Target: **US\$ 24m**
- Raised: **US\$ 15.02m**
- Gap: **US\$ 9.02m**

**DONORS**

WFP; USAID/OFDA; Irish AID; Government of Germany; The Kingdom of the Netherlands; EBODAC and ADH

**World Vision**

**WV RESPONSE**

**World Vision started work in DRC in 1984**

World Vision's multi-disciplinary actions against Ebola focus on

- Food Security and Nutrition
- Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
- Localised efforts of engaging community, through faith-leaders, to embrace health seeking behaviours and behavior change
- Psychosocial Support and Child Protection
- Ebola Vaccine Deployment, Acceptance and Compliance (EBODAC)
- Post-Ebola planning and engagement

**CHALLENGES**

- Insecurity impeding access to affected communities, limiting surveillance and response
- Funding gaps and impact of under-funding
- Strong community mistrust
- Vastness of affected region
- Massive needs and gaps pre-existing the response
- Risk of spread to neighbouring countries

*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

- 797 awareness sessions by faith leaders reached 131,647 people, including 6,706 IDPs with messages of vaccination against Ebola and encouraged them to seek early treatment when sick.

#### PROTECTION & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

- Four awareness sessions on reducing stigma against children, affected by EVD, were completed in 8 schools, for school children, community members and teachers. A total of 2,682 people, drawn from the host as well as IDP communities with messages to stop stigma related to Ebola in schools and avoiding or managing the resulting psychosocial consequences.
- 89 people (74 teachers and head teachers, 12 parents of families affected by EVD and 3 community leaders) were trained on "Psychological First Aid for Ebola". They also learned how to make referrals to facilities charged with Mental Health/Psychosocial Support.
- Eight children received individualised psychotherapy.

#### FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR AFFECTED PEOPLE

- World Vision is adapting food distribution protocols from the Ebola response, including social distancing and ensuring tailored beneficiary messaging, to inform food assistance programmes for COVID-19 in other parts of the country.

#### WASH SANITATION AND HYGIENE

- A total of 29,805 persons (15,827 children) have been reached with hygiene and sanitation promotion messages as part of the infection, prevention and control programme.
- Public handwashing kits, including water tanks, chlorine and soap have been distributed to 64 churches and mosques, in Butembo, Katwa and Kalunguta.
- 76 Water Management Committees (WMCs) have

been constituted in Butembo, Kalunguta and Katwa.

## World Vision's combined Ebola and COVID-19 response?

WV DR Congo is engaged in risk communication and risk management, WASH, protection, food security and livelihood activities to stop the spread of Ebola and COVID-19 in the areas affected by Ebola as well as other parts of World Vision's operations in the country.

- Reorienting faith leaders, women's and youth associations, to innovate ways of informing communities about Ebola and COVID-19, empowering them to protect themselves, care for the sick and contain the spread of the twin crises
- We provide psychosocial support to help affected families, especially children.
- We support infection prevention control measures in schools and in communities 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.
- We are providing personal protective equipment to safe frontline responders, health workers and carers.

## World Vision appeal



### RESPONSE DONORS



90,449

children reached with life-saving messages in March



93

faith leaders trained on Ebola and COVID-19



131

action team members trained on Ebola and COVID-19



134

community health workers trained on COVID-19



7,317

community feedback participants



164,134

reached with life-saving messages



123,765

beneficiaries, 1,459.4 MT



9,126

people reached with hygiene kits



cumulatively over 1,000,000 people (379,775 children)

## Primary contact information

Johnson Lafortune - Response Manager

Email: [Johnson\\_Lafortune@wvi.org](mailto:Johnson_Lafortune@wvi.org)

Skype: jolaf26

Geoffrey K. Denye - Communications Specialist

Email: [Geoffrey\\_Denye@wvi.org](mailto:Geoffrey_Denye@wvi.org)

Skype: geoffreydenye