

1 June 2018

Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak in the DR Congo



Current Situation

On 8 May 2018, the Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo declared an outbreak of Ebola virus disease in the Bikoro Health Zone, Equateur Province.

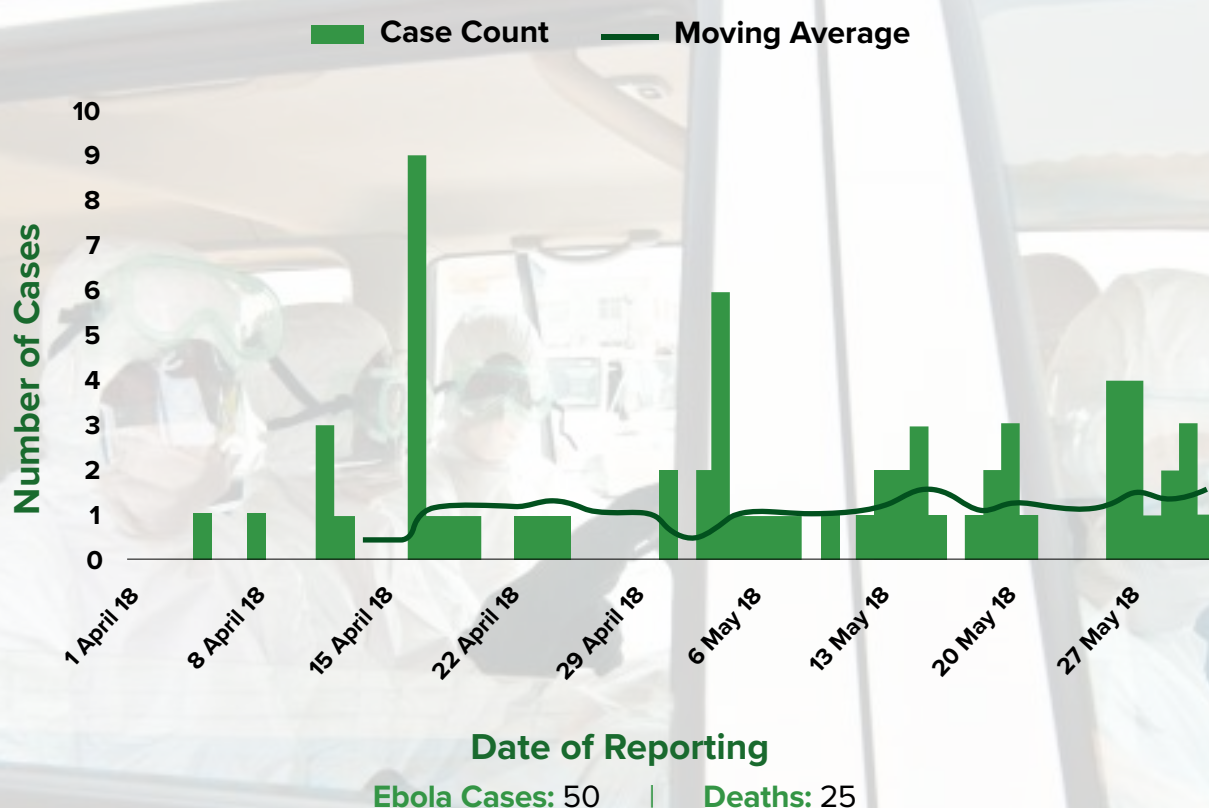


Figure 1: The number of Ebola virus disease cases in Equateur Province, Democratic Republic of Congo as of 29 May 2018.

Africa CDC's Response

On 8 May 2018 the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) activated the Emergency Operation Centre, the same day the Ebola virus disease outbreak was declared.



8 May

Declaration of Outbreak

The Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of Congo declared an outbreak of Ebola Virus in Bikoro Health Zone of the Equateur Province.

In Response

The Africa CDC activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on the same day.



16 May

Visit by the Africa CDC Director

Dr. Nkengasong, the Africa CDC Director, led a senior level delegation to Mbandaka and Bikoro to conduct a situational analysis with the Ministry of Health and support Ebola response efforts.



23 May

Deployment of Epidemiologists

Africa CDC deployed 25 epidemiologists to the affected districts to collaborate with the MOH in surveillance activities, such as contact tracing of index cases, conducting socio-contextual evaluations to improve vaccine acceptance, and implementing a ring vaccinology strategy.



11 May

Initial Deployment

Africa CDC deployed two epidemiologists to support the local Ebola response.



17 May

Development of Response Strategies

Africa CDC developed a laboratory testing and networking strategy, a surveillance and contact tracing strategy, and a Health Cordon strategy.

Africa CDC's Response



Figure 2: High level visit to the Ebola virus disease outbreak epicenter in Mbandaka and Bikoro by the Hon. Minister of Health of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Dr. Oly Ilunga; the Director of Africa CDC, Dr. John Nkengasong; and colleagues. Expeditious assessment of the gaps needed for an effective response to control the outbreak was critical.



Figure 3: Deployment of Africa CDC Ebola Contingent by the great leadership of His Excellency Abdou Abbary, the African Union Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Africa CDC Regional Collaborating Centres (RCC) prepare their respective regions to respond to potential Ebola outbreaks

A. Southern Africa

Africa CDC and WHO mandated to support SADC region to prepare for a potential Ebola outbreak



PRESS RELEASE

SADC Health Ministers discuss regional response to the 2018 Ebola outbreak and support to the Democratic Republic of Congo

24th May 2018 - Geneva, Switzerland: The Troika Ministers of Health in Southern African Development Community (SADC) held an Extra Ordinary Meeting on 23rd May 2018, in the margins of the 71st World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland to discuss the recent Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

- 3) **Recognized** that the WHO remains a critical partner in providing technical guidance for the implementation of interventions at the national level;
- 4) **Urged** SADC Member states to work closely with Africa CDC and WHO in the response;
- 10) **Urged Member States to** work through the existing coordinatino structures of Africa CDC Regional Collaboration Centre, WHO and national level mechanisms
- 11) **Will** continue to work tirelessly in engaging actively with DRC and providing the necessary support in a coordinated manner.

- Convened a SADC ministerial meeting on the sidelines of the 71st World Health Assembly on Ebola
- Africa CDC RCC in Zambia has:
 - a. Developed a standardize checklist for monitoring preparedness in the region
 - b. Supported countries to develop preparedness plans
 - c. Initiated screening at points of entry

B. Central Africa

- Africa CDC and Ministers of Health held an extraordinary meeting on 23 May 2018, at the margins of the 71st World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland to discuss the recent Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo
- Africa CDC hosts weekly sensitization meetings with member states via ECHO Zoom sessions
- Africa CDC developed Ebola preparedness plans
- Africa CDC will organize a meeting in Brazzaville, Congo in the coming weeks with ministers of health to prepare the region, should the Ebola virus spread to sub/region

C. Eastern Africa

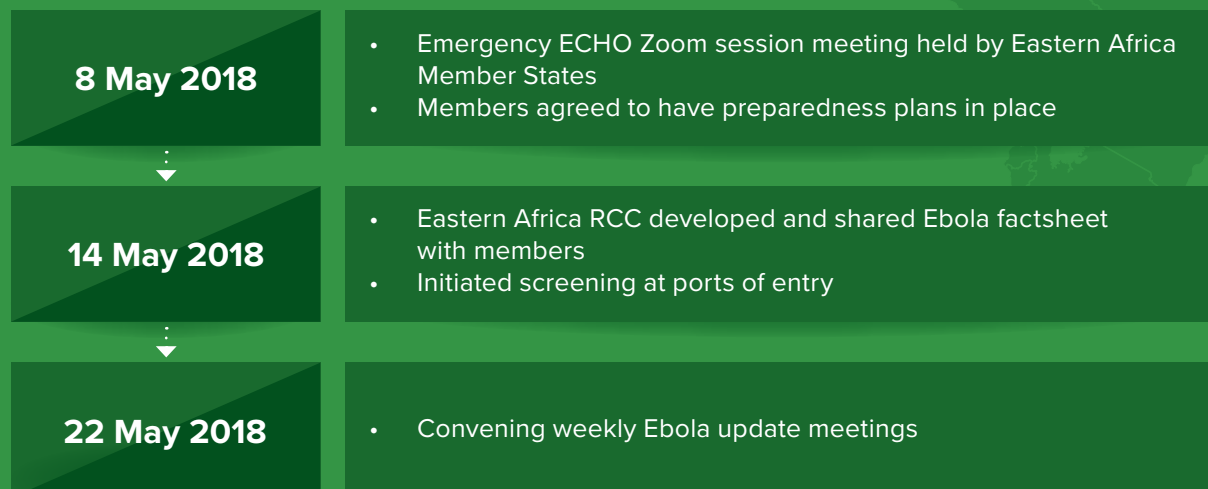


Figure 4: Timeline indicating active response by Africa CDC Eastern Africa RCC



Figure 5: High level meeting by the Africa CDC Governing Board Chair, Hon. Minister of Health of Ethiopia, Dr. Amire Aman; the Commissioner of Social Affairs, Mrs. Amira Elfadi; and the Director of Africa CDC, Dr. John Nkengasong at the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa. The purpose of the meeting was to strategize on the best approach

for containing the Ebola virus outbreak in the DR Congo. The Africa CDC Board Chair reemphasized the need to strengthen Africa CDC response to this current outbreak because it is the mandate of Africa CDC to safeguard the health of the DR Congo and the continent.

Next Steps:

- A.** Deployment of a mobile biosafety laboratory in Mbandaka
- B.** Procurement and deployment of GeneXpert platforms and cartridges
- C.** Deployment of anthropologists
- D.** Airlifting facilities needed and planning to complement the existing services
- E.** Africa CDC and the African Union Commission will host a conference on “Ebola in DR Congo” on July 6th in Addis Ababa

About Africa CDC

The Africa CDC supports all African countries to improve surveillance, emergency response, and prevention of infectious diseases. This includes addressing outbreaks, man-made and natural disasters, and public health events of regional and international concern. It further seeks to build the capacity to reduce disease burden on the continent.



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