

Background

As of 12 September Ebola virus disease (EVD) transmission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continue last week with 40 new confirmed cases reported in North Kivu and Ituri provinces; this is the lowest weekly incidence since March 2019. While these signs are promising, it remains too soon to tell if this trend will persist. Emerging hotspots continue to pose challenges in terms of accessibility, insecurity, and violence. Surveillance indicators highlight that public health risks of further spread remain very high.

During the past 21 days (from 21 August through 10 September 2019), a total of 157 confirmed cases were reported from 15 health zones (Table 1, Figure 2), with the majority coming from the health zones of Kalunguta (19%, n=30), Beni (18%, n=28), Mambasa (16%, n=25), and Mandima (13%, n=20). Alimbongo, Oicha, and Pinga health zones recently passed 21 days without a new confirmed case of EVD.

As of 10 September, a total of 3091 EVD cases were reported, including 2980 confirmed and 111 probable cases, of which 2074 cases died (overall case fatality ratio 67%). Of the total confirmed and probable cases, 56% (1737) were female, 29% (886) were children aged less than 18 years, and 5% (157) were health workers.

Under Pillar 1 of the current Strategic Response Plan, the estimated funding requirement for all partners for the period July to December 2019 is US\$ 287 million, including US\$ 120-140 million for WHO. As of 12 September 2019, US\$ 54.9 million have been received by WHO, with further funds committed or pledged. Currently available funds will close the financing gap up until the end of September 2019. Further resources are needed to fund the response through to December 2019, and WHO is appealing to donors to provide generous support.

Purpose of the session and summary

This session will consist in 5 presentations: (1) Overview of SAGE recommendations and introduction to the session (2) Update on outbreak epidemiology (3) Status of implementation of SAGE recommendations (4) Preliminary observations regarding effect of rVSV ZEBOV vaccination in DRC (5) Update on status of Ebola candidate vaccines and ongoing efforts towards global vaccine security

For this SAGE meeting, the members will be informed about the progress of the epidemic in DRC the vaccination activities in DRC and status of the latest SAGE recommendation on the vaccination in children > 6 months old, pregnant and lactating women; and rVSV adjusted dose.

SAGE Yellow book

1. SAGE Interim Recommendations on Vaccination against Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) May 7, 2019.

Background documents on the web

1. Ebola virus disease – Democratic Republic of the Congo Disease outbreak news: Update
2. EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE. Democratic Republic of the Congo. External Situation Report 58.
3. SAGE Interim Recommendations on Vaccination against Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) May 7, 2019.
4. Preliminary results on the efficacy of rVSV-ZEBOV-GP Ebola vaccine using the ring vaccination strategy in the control of an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo: an example of integration of research into epidemic response.
5. Overview of candidate Ebola vaccines as of August 19, 2019