

INTERNATIONAL OUTBREAKS OF IMPORTANCE**Ebola virus disease, DRC**

The World Health Organization (WHO) is supporting health authorities of Butsili, North Kivu Province, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) following the death of a 2-year-old boy with Ebola-like symptoms in a health facility on 6 October 2021. The investigation confirmed that the child was from the same community where three family members died displaying Ebola-like symptoms. The child was later confirmed with Ebola on 8 October 2021. North Kivu has been burdened with multiple previous Ebola outbreaks, leading to a strengthened response to the disease, early disease recognition, intervention, and control.

Ebola vaccination commenced in the North Kivu Province, using the “ring vaccination” approach by prioritizing those at highest risk, including the contacts of the confirmed case and the first responders. Approximately 1 000 doses of the

rVSV-ZEBOV Ebola vaccines with additional medical supplies were delivered from the capital Kinshasa to Gomo city in the province, of which 200 doses were sent to Beni city, near the Butsili health zone. The country has more than 12 000 vaccine doses in Kinshasa available for utilization when necessary.

The DRC has reacted to the outbreak with great urgency and prioritized public health measures, with the support of the WHO, by strengthening their human resources, contact tracers, disease surveillance, isolation, and testing capabilities. Over and above the vaccination drive, Ebola awareness is improving in communities throughout and the emergency response teams have identified more than 170 contacts who are being monitored, and infected spaces are being decontaminated.