

INTERNATIONAL OUTBREAKS OF IMPORTANCE**An update on the Ebola virus disease, DRC**

As of 11 December, no new cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) have been reported in the preceding 39 days, with the total number of cases remaining 11, eight of which were confirmed (including three community deaths) and three probable cases in Beni Health Zone. This brings the case fatality rate to 81.8% (9/11) with two EVD survivors who have been registered. Thus far, three of the 18 health areas in Beni Health Zone have reported confirmed cases, six of which were reported in Butsili and one each in Bundji and Ngilinga respectively. Children under five years of age accounted for 50.0% (4/8) of the confirmed cases.

On 10 December, In Beni Health Zone, 295 new alerts including nine deaths were notified. A total of 378 alerts was notified from six health zones, out of which 376 (99.5%) were investigated, 31 were validated as suspected cases of EVD and all were sampled for laboratory testing.

A total of 1 508 persons has been vaccinated since the onset of the campaign including 98 high risk contacts, 300 contacts of contacts and 258 probable contacts, with either rVSV-ZEBOV-GP or ERVEBO vaccines.

Alert monitoring is ongoing through both active case finding and passive surveillance. Radio stations and newsletters in three different languages have been utilized to spread awareness on the risks of EVD. The bodies of all nine of the reported community deaths were secured and two dignified and safe burials were carried out.

With six days remaining until the end of the EVD outbreak in Beni Health Zone can be declared, the country is on course to have successfully controlled its 13th EVD outbreak. While there are currently no contacts under active follow-up, those seven lost to follow-up remain a concern. Resource limitations continue to hamper activities against EVD in Beni. There is an ongoing need to strengthen community engagement to improve uptake of EVD preventive measures, especially vaccination. Challenges around community surveillance, contact follow-up and other response measures need urgent action.