OVERVIEW

Latest information on WHO, health partners and health needs in the current North Kivu crisis:

- WHO sending medical kits to Beni, North Kivu.
- 486 cholera cases (9 deaths) and 148 measles cases (2 deaths) between 10-16 Nov.
- Humanitarian corridors needed.
- WHO sends 100 litres of IV fluid to Virunga for cholera treatment.

SITUATION UPDATE

- Security situation remained tense in North Kivu on 20 November where armed clashes occurred in the morning in the villages of Katoro and Nyongera, about 5 km north of Kiwanja (75 km north of the provincial capital, Goma). UN security sources said the attacks were between Mai Mai militiamen and CNDP forces.
- British Foreign Secretary Mark Malloch-Brown traveled to Rwanda to meet President Paul Kagame after a 3-day visit to the DRC.
- In Goma, MONUC continues rehabilitating roads to enable many of the 65,000 displaced people currently at the Kibati I and II camps to relocate to the Mugunga III camp, further from the front line for better protection and assistance.

HEALTH SITUATION ASSESSMENT

- **Cholera** cases continue being reported, according to provincial health inspectors, with 26 new cases being notified on 20 November 20 (14 in the cholera treatment centre of Rutshuru referral hospital, 8 in the cholera treatment centre of Kibati I camp and 4 in the cholera treatment centre of the Virunga referral hospital.
- During the 46th epidemiological week (10-16 November), 486 suspect cholera cases were reported (with 9 deaths) in North Kivu. WHO-led field investigations established that more than 70% of patients reached had been moved to higher levels of care. Efforts have been taken to improve access to drinking water, as well as personal and collective hygiene.
- During the same period, 148 **measles** cases were reported (with 2 deaths). The Masisi health zone was the most affected area, with 138 measles cases (2 deaths). A vaccination campaign is planned to commence next week.
HEALTH CLUSTER RESPONSE

• WHO and other UN agencies participated in a meeting of the provincial inter-agency committee that was also attended by a Spanish government Minister who is currently in Goma. WHO also participated in the epidemiological surveillance meeting to evaluate recommendations and follow up on the provincial epidemiological situation. The increasing incidence of cholera and measles cases in North Kivu was a key issue for discussion.
• WHO provided 100 litres of IV fluid (Ringer lactate), to replenish out-of-stock materials at the cholera treatment centre at Goma’s Virunga referral hospital.
• WFP on 20 November distributed food supplies to the do the Mugunga displaced people’s camp west of Goma.
• In Kinshasa, the Country Health Cluster, coordinated by WHO, met on 20 November and reviewed the humanitarian situation in the Kivu and Orientale provinces. Also discussed were the activities and interventions of the Health Cluster partners and the evaluation of the needed responses.
• The above review revealed that population displacements were continuing in the three provinces and health sector operations had resumed following the end of health workers strike. It was agreed to prepare a “who doing what and where” map and distribution plan for medicines and supplies was approved. This plan ensures the distribution of 10 tons of medicines provided by Belgium to the following health zones:
  o Goma
  o Karisimbi
  o Rutshuru
  o Kirotshe
  o Mweso
  o Masisi
  o Pinga
  o Walikale
• The Health Cluster meeting also recommended that HIV prevention activities be integrated to humanitarian interventions.

URGENT NEEDS

• Protection of displaced and humanitarian staff.
• Opening of safe humanitarian corridors.

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