An update on Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

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Source:
Ministry of Health, DRC https://us13.campaign-archive.com/?u=89e5755d2cca4840b1af93176&id=cbeda7ef08

The Lancet https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(18)31326-6/fulltext

As of June 14, 2018 a total of 66 cases of haemorrhagic fever were reported in DRC, including 38 confirmed, 14 probable and 14 suspected. 24 people have been cured of Ebola Virus disease since the beginning of the epidemic. To date, a total of 28 deaths (possibly 29 since MSF tweeted a death possibly due to Ebola) has been reported; 14 of them among the confirmed cases.

In a recent editorial on the Lancet from the Africa Centres for Diseases Control and Prevention, the swiftness of the response time and the introduction of ring vaccination, as innovative pre-emptive strategy to vaccinate the most at-risk of infection are emphasized; however, the authors evidenced six important gaps in outbreak governance and logistics management, including the leadership of the response, coordination of contributing partners’ effort, translating global material and financial commitment into country-level disbursement, commitments to support the response in DRC, inadequate support of the focal health care zones, and insufficient lab supply and shortage of experienced staff.

The outbreak of EVD in DRC is far from over and may take several months to bring under control; there is a need for supporting not only the response to the outbreak, but also the post-Ebola recovery plans to strengthen healthcare infrastructure and to develop a better national public health institute in DRC.

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