

GABON:
EBOLA FEVER
Information Bulletin No. 1

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The context

The ebola virus first came to mass attention when an outbreak hit Kikwit in Zaire last year. The disease has reappeared in Northeastern Gabon and has begun to take its toll in human lives.

Latest events

Eighteen cases have been recorded since July, with, eleven proving fatal. Of the 94 persons who were in contact with the victims, 55 of are being monitored. The health referral centre in Makokou and the referral hospital in Boué are taking in sick persons and providing care.

Red Cross action

As soon as the Gabonese Red Cross Society was informed of the situation, it mobilised resources and attended a meeting yesterday at the Gabonese Ministry of Health to share information, make plans and co-ordinate actions.

The Brazzaville Regional Delegation, in the light of past experience in Zaire and Gabon, has made the following arrangements:

- One team of Red Cross doctors and social workers is prepared to leave for an awareness campaign.
- The Regional Delegation, in co-operation with the GRC, is preparing posters and leaflets to improve awareness among the general population.
- The Regional Delegation will provide GRC with technical support for information, education and communication.

The Federation/GRC is working in liaison with the WHO Regional Office in Brazzaville.

At present the Regional Delegation and the GRC need protective and disposable supplies, gloves, boots, aprons, masks and protective hats. A complete list of needs will be available shortly.

Conclusion

The forthcoming information bulletins will provide further details on how the situation is evolving.

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