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Information bulletin

Uganda: Ebola outbreak

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation.

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The situation

A deadly outbreak of Ebola has been confirmed in Kibaale Western Uganda by the Ministry of Health of Uganda. So far, 20 cases have been reported, 13 people are reported dead, 3 cases have been admitted to Kagadi hospital and 3 patients confirmed still in the village (about 200 km from the capital Kampala). Kibaale district, in which the cases have been confirmed, has a total population of about 646,700 people.

According to the World Health organization (WHO), there is no treatment and no vaccine against Ebola, which is transmitted by close personal contact and, depending on the strain, kills up to 90 percent of those who contract the virus. WHO has also stated that the origin of the outbreak had not yet been confirmed, but 18 of the 20 cases are understood to be linked to one family.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The government of Uganda is coordinating needs assessments and response efforts aimed at containing the outbreak. According to WHO, "(a) team of experts from the government, WHO and CDC (U.S. Centers for Disease Control) are in the field and following up on all suspected cases and those who got into contact with patients."

Uganda Red Cross has been asked by the Ministry of Health to prepare for support to case tracking, social mobilization and community awareness. Uganda Red Cross has mobilized volunteers and staff who are now standing ready for deployment as soon as the modalities for engagement have been confirmed. Uganda Red Cross will need support from the Federation and from other Movement partners in order to fully engage in the situation.

A DREF is anticipated in the coming days and a Federation team composed of a medical doctor and a Disaster Management specialist is being dispatched from Nairobi to support Uganda Red Cross efforts.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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