

Updates on Disease Outbreaks in Tanzania.

6th November, 2019



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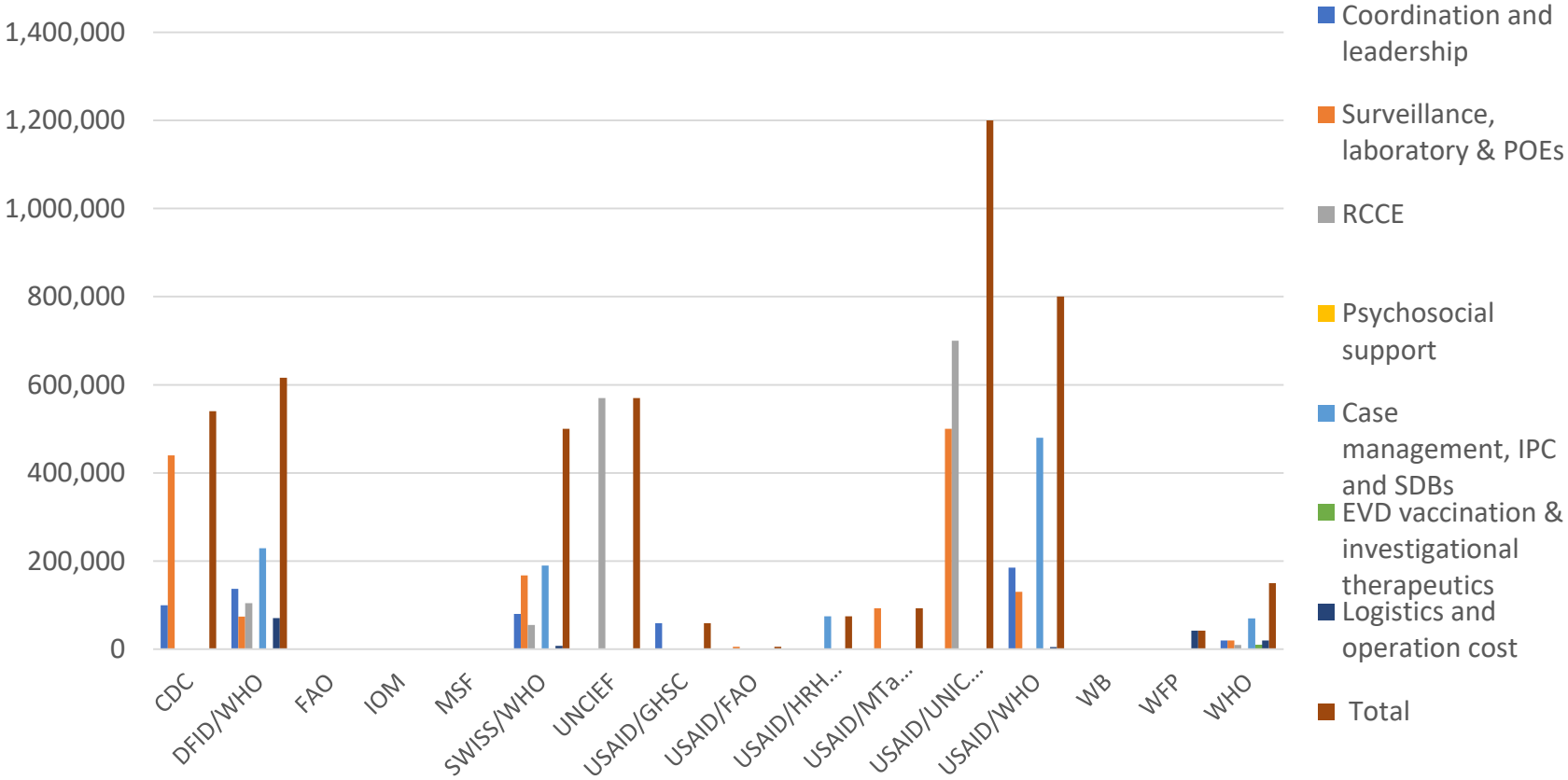
Democratic Republic of the Congo as at 4th November 2019

- The Democratic Republic of the Congo is grappling with the world's second largest Ebola epidemic on record
- Over the last few weeks, a low number of cases has been reported (59 Vs 130), concentrated in a smaller geographical area. The current hotspots are Mandima (Biakato Mine Health Area) and Mabalako
- Total of 3274 cases (3157 confirmed & 117 probable), including 2185 deaths (CFR 67%), there has been 1054 survivors including pregnant women who delivered health babies (did not happen in previous outbreaks)
- A total of 163 health workers have been infected, nearly half have died.
- 223,000 vaccinated in DRC with rVSV ZEBOVGP and is estimated to offer effective protection for 97.5 percent of participants ten days after vaccination
- 2 Ebola Rx are being used as part of clinical trial, when used at the right time 9 out of 10 lives are saved

Current EVD activities in the United Republic of Tanzania

- ❖ No EVD Suspected case was Reported in the week
- ❖ Screening is on-going at 30 POEs in URT
- ❖ Surveillance has been intensified in all areas for rapid detection and investigation
- ❖ Rapid Response team training is ongoing in Kagera and Kigoma for regional ToTs and it will be followed by cascade training in regions and districts in high risk
- ❖ Case management training has been conducted for Tz mainland and continue this week for Zanzibar at national level
- ❖ 10 laboratory scientists have completed EVD specialized training last week
- ❖ Risk Communication and community engagement training was done in two regions of Songwe and Mbeya

Funding contribution by partners and by pillar



Key challenges

- Ending the Ebola outbreak remains a complex endeavor. While fewer people have been confirmed to have Ebola in recent weeks, the epidemiological data show that further efforts are needed to improve the response.
- New Ebola patients are confirmed with an average delay of five days from the onset of symptoms to diagnosis—a time in which they are infectious to others and miss out on the benefits of receiving early treatment that would improve their chances of survival.
- Only 25 percent of new Ebola cases in the overall outbreak—33 percent in the last two months—are identified and monitored as contacts of people previously confirmed to have Ebola. Two-thirds of direct and indirect contacts are lost or never followed-up with, risking further transmission.

Key challenges

- The new treatments for confirmed Ebola patients that are available in ETCs are used under a study protocol framework that does not allow access beyond a particular patient or health worker. Extended use, like for additional protection for high-risk contacts, is not currently supported by the protocol. While confirmed patients and health workers benefit from the medication, their overall use remains restricted.
- Persisting fears and misconceptions around Ebola treatment facilities and vaccination activities in local communities pose an additional challenge. A third of all deaths have occurred in people's homes and communities where treatment was not available, and people weren't properly isolated to minimize the risk of spreading the disease.
- Additionally, fighting between armed groups as well as targeted violence can limit crucial activities like vaccination, surveillance and contact tracing, community health promotion, and safe burials in some areas.
- While it is paramount that health care providers and their facilities are respected, it is equally as important that health care providers work to truly earn the trust of the communities they seek to serve.

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