

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: INSECURITY COULD SLOW  
THE CONTAINMENT OF NEW EBOLA OUTBREAK****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Berlin, 20.08.2018.* Nach dem Ebola-Ausbruch in Kongo entsendet Save the Children sein Notfall-Einsatzteam und ein Länderteam in das betroffene Gebiet in Nord-Kivu, um dort Menschen zu identifizieren, die an der Krankheit leiden, und sie in Ebola-Behandlungszentren zu bringen. Außerdem sollen die Experten mit Gemeinden zusammenarbeiten und ihnen dabei helfen, die Warnzeichen und Symptome des Virus zu erkennen und so die weitere Übertragung zu verhindern.

Heather Kerr, Save the Children's DRC Länderdirektorin, sagte:

„Kinder sind besonders anfällig für die Auswirkungen des Virus, nicht nur, weil sie sich infizieren können, sondern auch, weil sie Waise werden können, wenn ihre Eltern oder Betreuer sterben, was zu einer Stigmatisierung innerhalb der Gemeinschaft führt. Wir müssen alles in unserer Macht Stehende tun, um zu verhindern, dass sich der Ebola-Ausbruch weiter ausbreitet. Unsere Notfallstation wird dazu beitragen.“

Save the Children befürchtet, dass eine der weltweit größten humanitären Krisen mit schätzungsweise 13 Millionen Menschen, die lebensrettende Hilfe benötigen, sich noch verschlimmern könnte, wenn das Ebola-Virus außer Kontrolle gerät.

**Die vollständige Pressemitteilung in Englisch:**

In response to the Ebola outbreak in conflict-hit DRC, which has already claimed at least 41 lives, Save the Children is urgently deploying its Emergency Health Unit and in country team to the area. They will help trace the contacts of confirmed cases and identify people who may have the disease, before referring them to Ebola treatment centres.

The Ebola virus is highly contagious and can kill within days. During this outbreak, children and women have been more likely than men to fall ill, according to the WHO. This is a change from past experience, but the reasons aren't yet known.

**Heather Kerr, Save the Children's DRC Country Director, said:**

*“Children are particularly vulnerable to the impact of the virus, not just because they can contract it, but also because they could be orphaned if their parents or caregivers lose their lives, leading to stigmatisation within the community.”*

*“We're also concerned for the safety of civilians and humanitarian workers in the outbreak zone, with multiple armed groups operating in the area. The insecurity could slow down our efforts to respond to this outbreak and save lives. We must do everything in our power to prevent the Ebola outbreak spreading further. Our Emergency Health Unit will help do just that.”*

Save the Children is concerned that one of the world's biggest and most underreported humanitarian crises, with an estimated 13 million people in need of life-saving aid, could become much worse if the Ebola virus spirals out of control.

The disease has spread to five health zones in North Kivu and one in neighbouring Ituri. North Kivu is among the most populated provinces in the DRC, with eight million inhabitants. It shares borders with four other provinces (Ituri, South Kivu, Maniema and Tshopo) as well as international borders with Uganda and Rwanda. Eastern DRC has been experiencing intense insecurity and a worsening humanitarian crisis, including the continuous movement of people within the country and refugees fleeing to neighbouring countries. During the months of June and July an average of 1,300 people were crossing into Uganda every week.

The epicentre of this latest outbreak is in Mangina, 38km south west of the town of Beni in North Kivu. Beni is insecure as it's surrounded by different armed groups and is frequently attacked. This can make accessing remote communities to trace the sources of Ebola and provide the necessary containment measures challenging.

On August 1<sup>st</sup> the DRC declared its tenth Ebola outbreak since 1976. Given its history in dealing with the virus, the DRC government, with help from the World Health Organization and other partners, should be well placed to contain this outbreak. But the current situation is made worse by the mass displacement of civilians in the country's far east as a result of years of conflict between various armed groups and the government. Because of this the total number of suspected Ebola cases and associated deaths may be higher than reported.

**ENDS**

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**About Save the Children**

Save the Children believes every child deserves a future. Around the world, we work every day to give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. When crisis strikes, and children are most vulnerable, we are always among the first to respond and the last to leave. We ensure children's unique needs are met and their voices are heard. We deliver lasting results for millions of children, including those hardest to reach.

We do whatever it takes for children – every day and in times of crisis – transforming their lives and the future we share.