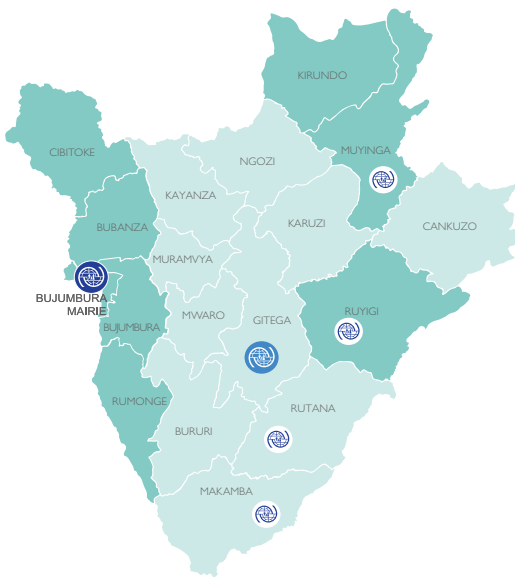




TEMPERATURE CHECK OF A MIGRANT AT A POINT OF ENTRY, ©IOM 2019/R.MANIRAKUNDA



Due to its proximity and linkage with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), especially the provinces of South- and North-Kivu, Burundi is considered to be at a high risk for an Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak. The two countries share porous borders, coupled with high volumes of cross-border movement of goods and people – primarily traders, refugees and travelers.

Statistics provided by the Ministry of Health for July 2019 show that approximately 274,197 travelers crossed over into Burundi through the 21 Points of Entry (POEs) identified as priority 1 and 2 for EVD surveillance. The World Health Organization (WHO) Emergency Committee has called not only for an intensification of the response in DRC, but preparedness and surveillance in neighboring countries, as the outbreak accelerates.


IOM Burundi is currently part of the National EVD Task Force which meets weekly to review progress of the outbreak and recommend preparedness measures, and the lead agency in crossborder coordination for Ebola preparedness in Burundi. In this capacity, IOM has been providing assistance in strengthening public health surveillance at border areas, training of border officials, and provision of health and non-health equipment and materials at POEs.

As the lead agency for crossborder coordination for EVD preparedness, IOM is also supporting close collaboration between health and border authorities in DRC and Burundi, in partnership with DRC IOM, and other key partners.


EVD RESPONSE AT IOM'S MIGRATION HEALTH ASSESSMENT CENTER (MHAC)

IOM's MHAC in Bujumbura provides health-related services to migrants and Congolese refugees as they move across geographical, health system and epidemiological boundaries. Matters of public health concern, such as EVD, are addressed through a variety of interventions ranging from health assessments and services to awareness-raising on the prevention and control of communicable diseases.

Between October 2018 and September 2019:



5,500+ migrants and Congolese refugees screened for Ebola through temperature checks, symptomatic screens and fitness for travel checks



5,500+ migrants and Congolese refugees reached by awareness raising and health education on Ebola

TO DATE, IOM HAS:



Provided technical support to the Ministry of Health in the 2018 revision of the national EVD contingency plan; development of the National Health Development Plan; and development of the National Health Security Plan.



Developed educational materials to raise awareness of EVD prevention and treatment, and drafting the Crossborder Ebola Preparedness Roadmap for Burundi with the Ministry of Health, WHO, and OCHA.



Trained a total of 164 border officials on health, border and mobility management as well as humanitarian border management between December 2018 and October 2019. The training brought together border officials from POEs at the border between Burundi and DRC as well as Rwanda.



Conducted assessment of 9 POEs to identify and understand capacity gaps on health and humanitarian border management.



Procured equipment for 6 POEs in response to capacity gaps identified by border officials in Gatumba to aid in EVD surveillance at Gatumba, Vugizo, Ruhwa, Mparambo, Rumonge, Kagwema POEs.



Conducted Population Mobility Mapping (PMM) Exercises for selected communes in priority 1 health districts as follows: Cibitoke (Rugombo Commune), Bubanza (Gihanga Commune), Bujumbura (Mutimbuzi Commune), Bujumbura Mairie (Ntakangwa and Mukaza Communes).



Conducted flow monitoring in 3 POEs following the PMM exercises in Gatumba, Vugizo and Kagwema.



Supported the WHO in a simulation exercise at the Ebola treatment unit to assess the level of preparedness.



Participated in the training of laboratory personnel in safe handling of potentially infected Ebola specimens.



Participated in the national training on EVD Rapid Response Teams (RRTS).

THROUGH ITS ONGOING HEALTH-RELATED PROGRAMMES, IOM BURUNDI IS:

- Providing basic equipment and material for POE and catchment health facilities in priority provinces along the border with DRC.
- Supporting health districts in conducting community mobilization on prevention and response to EVD and other diseases of epidemic potential in crossborder communities.
- Conducting crossborder population mobility mapping and flow monitoring to measure migration flows and patterns between DRC in Burundi, through both unofficial and official points of entry, in order to strengthen crossborder surveillance efforts and inform epidemiological and public health decisions aimed at preventing, detecting and responding to the public health threat of EVD.
- Training border officials on Health and Mobility Management at POE in Cibitoke, Bubanza, Bujumbura Rural, Rumonge, and Makamba provinces.
- Supporting Burundi and DRC health and border officials to draft operational plans and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure an effective and coordinated response in the event of crossborder EVD transmission, including roleplay and simulation exercises to test protocols.
- Continuing to provide technical assistance to the efforts made by the Ministry of Health on effective epidemic preparedness and response.
- Facilitating joint crossborder meetings between the border officials of Burundi and DRC to improve communication and coordination between governments on EVD.
- Continuing crossborder coordination efforts between Burundi and DRC as well as inter-agency coordination.



For more information please contact: Maeva PEEK, Migration Health Coordinator, Email: mpeek@iom.int, www.iom.int

WITH FUNDING FROM:



United Nations
CERF

Central
Emergency
Response
Fund



Humanitarian Aid
and Civil Protection



IOM DEVELOPMENT FUND
DEVELOPING CAPACITIES IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT



From
the People of Japan