



In November and December 2025, Project HOPE's local partner, African Initiative for Relief and Development (AIRD), distributed PPE and other supplies in response to an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Kasai Province. Photo courtesy African Initiative for Relief and Development, 2025.

Ebola Outbreak in the DRC and Uganda

Situation Report #3

June 1, 2026

Project HOPE's Emergency Response Team is in Uganda and working with government officials and local partners to respond to the worsening outbreak of the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola virus in the DRC and Uganda.

Situation Overview

The number of suspected and confirmed cases of Ebola virus continue to rise in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and in neighboring Uganda. As of May 31, 2026, there have been 291 confirmed cases of the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola virus and 43 confirmed deaths across the DRC and Uganda, with the majority of the outbreak occurring in the DRC's northeastern areas, reaching 22 health zones.

There are an additional 1,100 suspected cases still under investigation in the DRC, where women currently make up 60% of suspected cases.

Key Updates

- **Project HOPE's team is in Uganda** and working closely with government officials to support surveillance measures, contact tracing efforts, and prevent further spread.
- Project HOPE, working with partners and suppliers, will be **distributing 12 pallets of critical PPE and IPC materials** in Uganda and the DRC, in coordination with local health officials.
- **Ebola case numbers continue to rise in the DRC** as the humanitarian response races to catch up with the expanding outbreak.

Contact tracing from confirmed and suspected cases remains vital to reducing the spread of the disease. **Due to the complex humanitarian environment, contact tracing in the DRC remains below 50%.** Testing infrastructure continues to be improved in the DRC, but test results have taken up to five days to process for some patients.

Ugandan officials are working to increase the capacity of health workers to identify suspected cases across high-risk communities. Although borders between the DRC and Uganda are closed — outside humanitarian deliveries and personnel — unofficial border crossings remain active.

The fluid-borne Ebola virus poses a significant risk to frontline health workers and other caregivers treating ill patients and family members, creating widespread fear and the potential for devastating burnout. Because personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection prevention and control (IPC) supplies are significantly limited, maintaining basic health services has become increasingly difficult.

Due to a lack of access to healthcare, ill patients may travel further from their homes to seek care, raising the risk of spread. Additionally, community resistance to recognizing the disease and transmission mechanisms remains a serious challenge in addressing, controlling, and ending the outbreak.

As of the writing of this report, there is no confirmed transmission outside of the DRC or Uganda, but testing capabilities remain limited in nearby South Sudan.

When neighboring countries close their border checkpoints, tracking population movements, especially ill patients, can become more difficult.

Project HOPE's Response

Project HOPE's Emergency Response Team is in Uganda responding to the ongoing outbreak and coordinating closely with local partners and health authorities on interventions to support and reinforce the capacity of health workers.

In conjunction with Ugandan officials, Project HOPE is aiming to enhance surveillance and contact tracing services. Although cases in Uganda appear low, more can be done to improve surveillance practices at at-risk health facilities in the capitol of Kampala and districts bordering the DRC.

Project HOPE has partnered with African Initiative for Relief and Development (AIRD) to rapidly deliver PPE to frontline responders in the DRC and Uganda.

Project HOPE, working closely with partners and suppliers, will be distributing 12 pallets of critical PPE and IPC materials, including gloves, face masks, and biohazard equipment in Uganda and the DRC in coordination with local health officials.

Project HOPE's technical teams are positioned to provide technical training and skills reinforcement that is localized to the ongoing outbreak to frontline responders in topics such as: surveillance and contact tracing, IPC, and mental health and resilience. Our teams would conduct this work in coordination with local health leadership.

Project HOPE is engaged in outbreak response activities across the African continent. Our teams work in Ethiopia to improve virus detection, train frontline health workers, and establish community-level disease surveillance programs to

respond to outbreaks. This intervention helped eradicate Marburg virus in Ethiopia earlier this year. In Ghana, Project HOPE is helping frontline health workers in the north of the country detect and manage epidemic-prone diseases like meningitis and viral hemorrhagic fevers.

Project HOPE also responded to the 2014 West African Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone, providing medicines, medical supplies, and medical consumables such as PPE.

For further information, contact media@projecthope.org

