



Democratic Republic of Congo

Improving Response and Programming in Humanitarian Emergencies



Context



The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) continues to face an acute and complex humanitarian crisis marked by five main factors: population movements, acute food insecurity, acute malnutrition, epidemics and protection issues.



According to the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), 19.6 million people will require humanitarian assistance in 2021, four million more compared to 2020. Currently, there are approximately 11.3 million in need of health support due to the recent population movements and ongoing epidemics across the country, which include Cholera, Measles, Malaria, Ebola (EVD) and COVID-19, while more than 7.9 million individuals are in need of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support and 9.5 million people in need of Protection interventions.

iMMAP in DRC



Since 2019 iMMAP has continuously provided support the World Health Organization (WHO), humanitarian health partners and the Ministry of Health in the DRC through two projects. One of which is working in the responses to the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and other epidemics, and the second project working with the Health Cluster to strengthen information management for coordination of the overall health response.

The main goals of the projects are to provide a range of tools, services and capacity strengthening to WHO and health partners in order to improve response efforts for public health and disease outbreaks. iMMAP, as a part of these projects, provides data collection, analysis, visualization and capacity strengthening for localization of IM capacity in health programs.

Donors: CDC and USAID

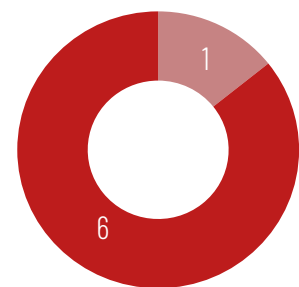
Years of presence in DRC: Since 2019

Current project: Improving Response and Programming in Humanitarian Emergencies

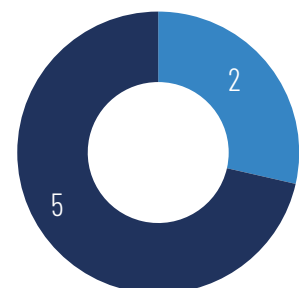
Main partner supported: World Health Organization (WHO)

Personnel

Number of personnel: 7



- Women
- Men
- National
- International



Health Program



EVD Survivor Program: This program follows iMMAP's support to the earlier implementation of the Go.Data project. Initiated in February 2020, the program aims to support the care program for people who have recovered from EVD. The current module aims to collect and analyze quality data to support the physicians and psychologists who follow the survivors of EVD. The program provides data entry continuity, resolution of technical problems encountered by users, and analysis of collected data.

During the resurgence of EVD near Butembo, North Kivu in February 2021, an iMMAP information management officer (IMO) was deployed to the emergency response for four weeks to provide mapping, database management, alerts & VHF situation reports.



Ebola Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) Cadaveric Surveillance Tool:

iMMAP partnered with CDC, the National Institute of Biological Research, Ministry of Health (MoH) and humanitarian partners in DRC to successfully design, develop and deploy the RDT Tool in 2020, which captures data from RDTs used in cadaveric surveillance. This tool can now be easily replicated in any EVD epidemic emergency at a low cost to capture data offline, which can be uploaded automatically online to be displayed in a user-friendly dashboard providing dynamic visualization. This tool can facilitate the identification of hidden chains of transmission and supports decisions on traditional or safe and dignified burials.

Standby Partnership



Under this project, iMMAP is providing four IMOs for the DRC Health Cluster at both the national and sub-national levels to support health partner coordination and critical decision-making activities. This support helps to ensure that the Health Cluster has the IM capacity required to provide key deliverables and facilitate the establishment of more robust and capable IM systems, improve coordination and data sharing, provide a foundation for structured sectoral data collection, and strengthen national IM capacity building.



Capacity Building: iMMAP, to enhance and share IM expertise at the cluster level, provides on-site training for four WHO/WHE reporting officers on PowerBi dashboard, QGIS, Publisher and Adobe Illustrator. Furthermore, an on-line session was provided on the use of the Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) tool and the People in Need (PiN) calculator for 52 personnel at both the national and Buhavu sub-national levels. In February 2021, during the emergency EVD response, iMMAP trained and supported 8 MoH information managers across four health zones in eastern DRC on contacts and alert databases.

Outcomes

As a part of the services provided to the Ebola Response Coordination Unit, iMMAP's efforts supported the larger response that made possible to end the latest Ebola Virus Outbreak in northeast DRC on June 25th, 2020, after almost two years of response interventions. The Go.Data module platform has now been established with partners responding to public health crises trained on the use of the tool.

iMMAP's support to WHO has been highlighted as instrumental and successful in the DRC response to the EVD epidemic. Moving forward, iMMAP will provide support in the effective analysis of the collected data and define indicators to be reported by partners.

Rapid implementation of the OraQuick® Ebola Rapid Diagnostic Test was successfully conducted through good coordination. After a condensed two-day training, health partners received the tool and acquired the knowledge for effective use across field locations.