Kenya, UNICEF Strengthen Ebola Response as Surveillance Continues

Kenya continues to make progress in containing the Ebola (Bundibugyo) outbreak, with no new cases reported since 19 October 2026 and no evidence of community transmission. The Government is sustaining surveillance, contact tracing and emergency response measures to protect communities.

Cabinet Secretary for Health Hon. Aden Duale met a UNICEF delegation led by Country Representative Ms Shaheen Nilofer and Associate Director for Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Dr Douglas Noble to review preparedness and strengthen collaboration. He reported that all nine confirmed cases were linked to a single transmission chain. Forty-six contacts had completed their 21-day monitoring period and were scheduled for release, while 52 remained under observation.

The response includes surveillance at 26 designated points of entry, coordination with high-risk counties, training of more than 4,900 healthcare workers, 349 rapid response teams on standby and five designated testing laboratories, supported by mobile capacity. UNICEF commended the response, particularly contact tracing, transparency and coordination.

CS Duale acknowledged UNICEF's delivery of over 43,000 items of personal protective equipment valued at US$462,994.06. Further protective equipment and water, sanitation and hygiene supplies are expected, bringing the total contribution to US$716,625.26. UNICEF support also includes 25 public health personnel and interventions in vulnerable border counties. The meeting called for sustained support, clear timelines and regular joint reviews to address gaps and maintain essential services.







PS Oluga Calls for Evidence-Driven Action to Address Healthcare Gaps

Principal Secretary for Medical Services Dr Ouma Oluga has called for accelerated, evidence-driven action to close persistent gaps in healthcare delivery. Speaking at the launch of the 2025/26 Kenya Mini Demographic and Health Survey report at Ole Sereni Hotel, he urged stakeholders to use the findings to guide targeted interventions and equitable resource allocation.

Dr Oluga welcomed progress in maternal healthcare, with facility deliveries rising from 88 to 91 per cent and health insurance coverage increasing from 26 per cent in 2022 to 39 per cent. He nevertheless expressed concern over full-schedule childhood immunisation coverage falling from 55 to 46 per cent and newborn mortality remaining at 19 deaths per 1,000 live births.

He called for stronger immunisation, maternal and newborn care, nutrition and reproductive health services. He also highlighted Taifa Care reforms, including expanded primary healthcare, maternity services through the Social Health Authority, infrastructure investments and digital transformation. The National Equipment Support Programme has equipped 443 facilities across 15 specialised service areas, enabling at least 1.43 million services.

On financial protection, the PS urged faster SHA enrolment, particularly for vulnerable households, and action to remove barriers to care. He called on national and county governments, development partners, professionals, researchers and communities to use the survey evidence to improve service quality, commodity availability and health outcomes.







CS Duale Briefs Parliamentary Committee on Ebola Response Rules

Cabinet Secretary for Health Hon. Aden Duale engaged the National Assembly Committee on Delegated Legislation, chaired by Ainabkoi MP Hon. Samuel Chepkonga, at Bunge Towers in Nairobi on legal measures supporting Kenya's preparedness and response to Ebola.

The meeting examined the Public Health (Declaration of Formidable Epidemic Disease) Order, 2026 and the Public Health (Ebola Disease) Rules, 2026, published through Legal Notices No. 203 and 204. Anchored in the Public Health Act, the instruments provide a framework for surveillance, screening, diagnosis, isolation, treatment, contact tracing, quarantine, infection prevention and control, safe burials and public communication.

CS Duale explained that the urgency following confirmation of the imported case required immediate publication without prior public consultation, as provided under Section 5A(2) of the Statutory Instruments Act. The Ministry is working with county governments and the Kenya National Public Health Institute on further rules under Section 36 of the Public Health Act.

He reported no new cases since 19 October 2026, full contact tracing coverage and laboratory testing turnaround times of six to eight hours. Preparedness includes surveillance at 26 designated points of entry, more than 4,900 trained health workers, 349 standby rapid response teams and five designated testing laboratories. The Committee recognised progress in coordination and transparency while calling for sustained vigilance and implementation of the legal measures.







Five Ebola Patients Discharged as Outbreak Response Advances



Kenya has recorded further progress in its Ebola response, with five patients discharged after successful treatment and laboratory confirmation that they had cleared the virus. Director-General for Health Dr Patrick Amoth announced the milestone in a press release issued on 3 November 2026.

Two patients were discharged from Kenyatta National Hospital and three from The Nairobi Hospital. Another 46 contacts completed monitoring and were released from quarantine, bringing the total released to 66. The remaining 52 contacts are expected to complete surveillance by 11 November.

Confirmed cases remain at nine, including two deaths, and no new infections have been recorded since 19 October 2026. All cases belong to one cluster linked to the imported case, with no community transmission. Two patients remain under treatment, one at each hospital.

Dr Amoth said heightened surveillance will continue. Once the final patient has recovered or been laid to rest, a 42-day countdown can begin before the outbreak is declared over, provided no new case occurs. Kenya remains open to travel, trade and public gatherings. The Ministry urged the public to seek early care for possible symptoms and welcome recovered patients without stigma. Alerts can be made through 719 or WhatsApp 0700 719 719.