

MAY 2026 REPORT

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR EBOLA OUTBREAK IN BUNIA AND OUTSKIRTS

The announcement of the 17th episode of EBOLA on the 17th May 2026 came rather late than it was supposed to be. Everything started with the mysterious interpretation of sudden deaths notice at the beginning of May, in rich mineral town of Mungbwalu, 90 km south of Bunia, in a zone where the population is highly concentrated.



Despite the patients who died showed signs of fever and bleeding, it took some weeks before the Ministry of Health officially announced the outbreak of a new Bundibugyo strain of Ebola which has no cure nor vaccine. This announcement was followed by the death of two medical

doctors in Bunia. At the same time, the Brethren Church Medical center of Nyankunde (Bunia branch) and Rwampara in the outskirts of Bunia were already on the headlines of most affected medical structures, most probably by patients from Mungbwalu.

Firstly, the spread of Ebola is increasing because of the denial of the virus by the community members who instead, burnt down isolation centers of Mungbwalu and Rwampara, causing patients under medical surveillance to flee into the communities. Secondly, the loss of trust in the health system and the taking over the responsibility of the management of the crisis by the church leaders on claims that it can be contained by prayers led to further spread of the disease into the community. Thirdly, the improper funeral rites of the dead according to the diverse traditions worsens the spread of the disease into the villages. Fourthly but not least, the breakdown of health system is noticeable as Democratic Republic of Congo seems to have not learnt a lesson from the 16th past episodes of Ebola.

It is unfortunate that awareness is increasing only after the death of two medical doctors, approximately 4 nurses and 3 prominent pastors in Bunia. To make matters worse, the last week of May was marked by the increase of death cases including nurses from different health structures. Right now, Bunia is in crisis as well as other towns of the region. The discovery of other cases in Goma and Kampala has led to the closure of the borders of the DRC with Rwanda and Uganda. These measures have not only increased frustration but hiked the cost of living in Bunia and throughout the Ituri province.

Ministering in a complex context

Despite these hard moments, our field staff is still ministering in the Komanda center. We praise God that in May, our ministry team shared the word of God with 134 children in the Sunday School, prayed with 33 patients, 17 orphans and 13 widows. As a result, there are three families who have joined the team for Sunday services.

The context in which our team operates is complex owing to the fact that many militiamen



families have come to live with in the vicinity. The area sounds insecure but the staff has taken the move to share the word of God with family members and children. As stated, other families are willing to pray with our staff, which is an encouraging sign.

Furthermore, the school is becoming a very strategic asset to link parents with teachers through children. Slowly, building trust with stakeholders is opening the doors to share the gospel. Thanks to materials provided by the Samaritan Purse, Robert and Timothy (the head teacher) can illustrate better some teachings.

Despite the fact that Komanda sounds secure, the situation on the way to Beni and the outskirts of is not good. In the night of May 30th to 31st, ADF rebels stormed into the Pygmy camp of Ngadi, killing 7 Pygmies. This death toll records are for Sunday 31st. We are not sure whether there are other undiscovered bodies still lying in the bush.

Praises:



- We praise God for the outreach of the community through our ministry team.
- We praise God for the trust that is increasing between the team and the surrounding community
- We praise God for the support of Samaritan Purse to our Sunday school by supplying

teaching materials and gifts for children.

- Praise God for your continuous prayers towards this ministry. When we look back into 2022, we have come to understand that our evacuation from the forest was in God's plan and He is fulfilling what He has planned through us.

Pray for:

- Hygiene measures among the Pygmies, school and the Komanda community.
- An appropriate hanger for Sunday school children.
- Shalom who has to undergo scan and endoscopy for further medical diagnosis as back pain persists. The closure of the borders has worsened the situation.
- Security in the region
- For the team so that God can grant them more wisdom to nurture the small church community that is being born on the site.