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## Secure Cross-border Social, Economic and Commercial Activities in the Great Lakes Region

### FLASH REPORT

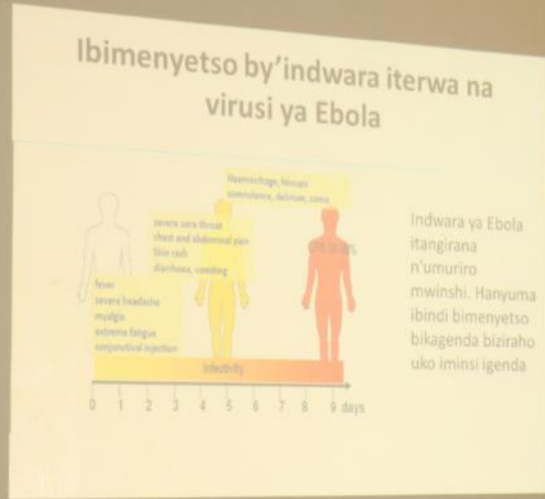
Awareness Raising for EVD Preparedness, Surveillance and Response In The Rusizi District

21-22 October 2019



©Photo: IOM Rwanda  
Community health workers, asking questions during the EVD presentation.

The **EU funded Action**, “Secure Cross-Border Social, Economic and Commercial Activities in the Great Lakes Region”, implemented by **IOM** in partnership with **TMEA**, works towards improving facilities and operating systems at the border area of **Rusizi II/ Bukavu**. This joint action will improve institutional capacities, ensure the seamless movement of people and goods, and enhance community welfare and cross border cohesion.



“I have contributed to enhancing knowledge on EVD preparedness and my trainees are now equipped to continue raising awareness of border communities” Bibiane Uwamahoro, Gihundwe District Hospital Supervisor and Community Health Trainer, Rusizi District. ©Photos: IOM Rwanda

Following the Training of Trainers (ToT) that was jointly organized in Kigali by IOM and the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC) on 30 September 2019, IOM Rwanda together with the Rusizi District Council facilitated two awareness raising sessions on EVD preparedness, surveillance and response in Rusizi, on 21-22 October 2019.

These sessions were delivered by the newly up-skilled community health trainers to border agencies and community health workers in the Rusizi District.



“Today, I have learned a lot about EVD, IOM and the OSBP project. Thanks to this awareness session, I will now be able to provide migrants, tourists and traders crossing the border, the necessary information on EVD and prevention measures”- Rucakatsi Ibrahim, Tourism Destination Management Officer, RDB, Rusizi District. ©Photos: IOM Rwanda





“Today's EVD training is crucial for leaders of border & health agencies, as the information acquired will be used to conduct mass mobilization for Ebola prevention in the Rusizi District”, says Vice Mayor in Charge of Social Affairs in the Rusizi District, Emmanuel Nsigaye.

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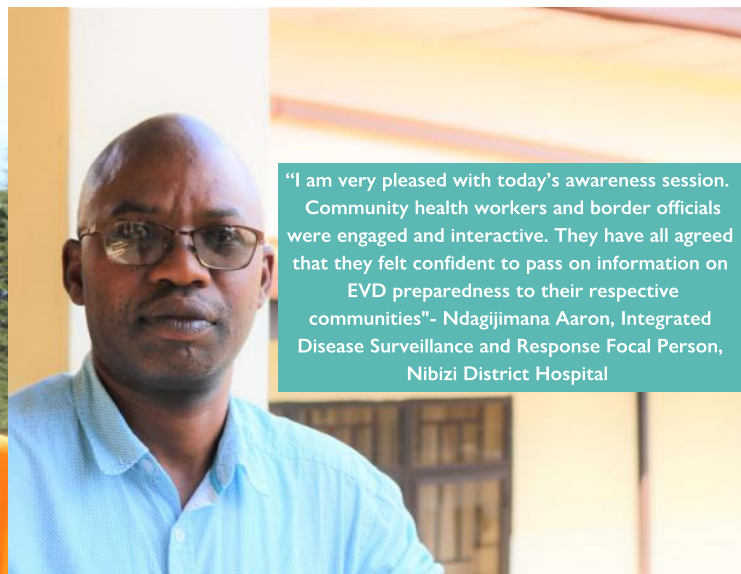


As a result of the **awareness raising session**, community health workers and border agencies have gained an understanding in:

- EVD preparedness and surveillance **measures**;
- How to **communicate** on EVD outbreaks and possible cases via existing community structures;
- EVD symptoms, treatment and prevention measures that they will **cascade** to community members and migrants;
- How to conduct awareness raising **campaigns** and mass **mobilization** for EVD preparedness;
- The One Stop Border Post (OSBP), cross border trade and social cohesion project components.

The community health workers and border agencies will now take the **information obtained** to raise awareness in their communities and to **migrants** crossing the **Rusizi/ Bukavu border**.

“These sessions are important as they bring together staff of local authorities – from the District Council and other agencies - involved in EVD prevention, to build the same understanding on EVD and transfer the knowledge to the community”-Habarugira Wenceslas, Health Promotion Officer, Rusizi District.



“I am very pleased with today's awareness session. Community health workers and border officials were engaged and interactive. They have all agreed that they felt confident to pass on information on EVD preparedness to their respective communities”- Ndagijimana Aaron, Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response Focal Person, Nibizi District Hospital

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