



ASEAN BIODIASPORA VIRTUAL CENTER

DISEASE ALERT



February 3, 2025 | Issue No. 8

Third Alert

**First alert: January 21, 2025 | Marburg Virus Disease (MVD)
in Tanzania**

Sub-Locations Affected

Kagera Region (Biharamulo District)

Event Description

On January 30, 2025, in the Africa CDC weekly press brief, an additional MVD case and death was confirmed, raising the total two confirmed deaths.



Epidemiological Information

- On January 10, 2025, the WHO received initial reports of six Marburg Virus Disease (MVD) cases, with samples collected for laboratory testing.
- On January 11, 2025, nine cases including eight deaths remained under investigation. The case fatality ratio (CFR) stands at 89% in the two districts of Biharamulo and Muleba. Samples from two patients were sent for testing. Authorities are monitoring identified contacts, including healthcare workers. Symptoms include headache, high fever, back pain, diarrhea, hematemesis, malaise, and external bleeding in later stages.
- On January 14, 2025, the WHO released a risk assessment to inform of a suspected MVD outbreak in the Kagera region of the United Republic of Tanzania.
- On January 20, 2025, the government of Tanzania confirmed an MVD outbreak preceded by the WHO media briefing. There is limited information on how or if the number of affected/deaths changed since January 14, 2025, however, health officials confirmed one case of MVD while twenty-five other samples were negative.

- As of January 30, 2025, **two confirmed deaths and eight probable deaths** have been reported. There are 42 suspected cases, with one receiving treatment in hospital. Authorities conducted 42 tests (2 confirmed), with results pending. Contact tracing identified 281 individuals linked to suspected cases.
- The suspected Marburg cases are found in Biharamulo District, Kagera region. The region is an important transit hub west of Lake Victoria, which borders Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi.

Response Measure

- National rapid response teams have been deployed to affected regions, focusing on disease surveillance, testing, treatment, infection control, and case management. Public awareness campaigns aim to prevent further virus spread.
- The WHO delivered 1.4 tonnes of medical supplies from its Regional Emergency Response Hub to Tanzania for patient care and infection control. Over \$3 million was allocated for emergency response, including an initial \$50,000 for early investigations.
- In collaboration with partners such as the German government, the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat is advancing efforts to contain MVD outbreak while reinforcing pandemic preparedness. Key interventions include the deployment of mobile laboratories and the establishment of rapidly deployable experts (RDE) pool to ensure swift expert response in outbreak areas. The mobile laboratory supplied two testing kits, each capable of performing 96 tests.

Sources:

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4. Ghana News Agency. (2025, January 27). *WHO airlifts medical supplies to Tanzania amid MVD outbreak*. Retrieved February 3, 2025, from <https://gna.org.gh/2025/01/who-airlifts-medical-supplies-to-tanzania-amid-mvd-outbreak/>
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