



International Medical Corps staff gather for an mpox orientation in South Sudan.

On August 14, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared mpox—formerly referred to as monkeypox—an emergency of international concern. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has seen the majority of confirmed cases, but neighboring countries are reporting increased numbers of confirmed and suspected cases as the virus spreads through the region.

As of September 13, the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** had confirmed 5,398 cases of mpox, and 801 deaths, since January 2024, with an additional 386 confirmed cases reported between September 5–13. According to Ministry of Public Health the provinces with the highest number of suspected cases are Équateur (bordering the Republic of Congo in the west), Sakura (in central DRC) and South Kivu (in the east, bordering Burundi and Rwanda).

The **Central African Republic (CAR)** has seen 48 confirmed and more than 285 suspected cases of mpox since the outbreak was declared there on July 20. Of the 31 suspected cases reported between September 1–7, three were confirmed as mpox. Three suspected cases were also reported in new areas of Batangafo, Kembe-Satema and Vakaga health districts. Bangassou, Kembe-Satema, Mbaiki and Sanga-Baere health districts are currently reporting active outbreaks of mpox, with 11 health districts recording confirmed cases in 2024.

**Nigeria** has confirmed 67 cases and more than 1,000 suspected cases of mpox since beginning of 2024. Nine confirmed cases and 72 suspected cases were reported between September 1–7, compared to five confirmed cases and 53 suspected cases reported the previous week, according to the Nigerian Center for Disease Control and Prevention. To help control spread of the disease, Nigeria received 10,000 doses of the mpox vaccine from the United States on August 27.

## International Medical Corps Response

International Medical Corps is developing both an organization-wide response strategy, as well as individual country response frameworks, to ensure that this response is context specific and best serves affected populations.

In the **DRC**, International Medical Corps is training healthcare providers in the case prevention, identification and management of mpox, so far reaching more than 50 health areas across Fizi and Minova provinces in South Kivu, a hard-hit province. We have distributed 2,000 pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection prevention and control (IPC) items to two treatment centers in Kinshasa, supporting more than 800 health workers responding to

## FAST FACTS

- The WHO declared mpox a public health emergency of international concern on August 14.
- The global number of cases reported so far this year has exceeded last year's total. The Clade I variant of the virus has been confirmed in countries across Africa, Asia and Europe.
- Though the outbreak is centered in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, confirmed cases of mpox have rapidly been rising in neighboring countries.

## OUR RESPONSE

- International Medical Corps' response is specific to each country's unique context and needs.
- In the DRC, International Medical Corps has distributed more than 2,000 pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection-prevention and control materials to two treatment centers in Kinshasha. We also have supported surveillance in South Kivu by transporting samples for testing, while conducting training for health workers on mpox prevention, identification and treatment.
- In CAR, our teams have distributed more than 2,000 pieces of PPE to Birao Hospital, while supporting the MoH's disease surveillance efforts by providing community health workers and by transferring samples for testing. We are carrying out awareness and sensitization activities in densely populated refugee camps in Birao and Korsi, and have supported the development of radio messages in Vakaga Health District on mpox prevention.

mpox and other communicable diseases. In South Kivu, our team is helping local health actors transport testing samples to labs for diagnosis and case confirmation.

International Medical Corps is a member of the DRC Centre d'Opérations d'Urgence de Santé Publique (the national public health emergency operation center, known as COUSP), where national strategic plans to respond to mpox are shared and discussed. Our DRC mission also leads the Health Cluster meetings in the targeted mpox zone of Minova, ensuring coordination between UN subsidiaries, the Ministry of Health (MoH), and a number of International and national NGOs.

In **CAR**, International Medical Corps is working with the MoH to coordinate response mechanisms, as well as with community health workers (CHWs) to conduct community surveillance and contact tracing of mpox. The team has donated 2,000 pieces of PPE to the MoH hospital in Birao to protect frontline health personnel, and is providing logistical support for the transportation of suspected mpox samples to the national laboratory in Bangui for testing and diagnosis.

International Medical Corps has provided sensitization and awareness information to 680 community and protection committee members on mpox (including 127 people in Birao), and IPC activities in the PK-3 and Bria camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs), and plans to conduct similar awareness and sensitization activities for IDPs in Birao and Korsi. Our team in CAR has helped the Vakaga Health District management team develop mpox-prevention radio messages that now play two times per day in the district.

In **Nigeria**, International Medical Corps is displaying MoH-developed mpox risk-communication infographics in supported health facilities, and is developing mpox-related training programs for health workers.