

b The yellow fever outbreak in Angola and Democratic Republic of Congo

In Angola, between 5 December 2015 and 11 September 2016, the yellow fever outbreak has resulted in approximately 400 deaths amongst 4 100 suspected cases, 884 of which were laboratory confirmed. More than 2 000 suspected cases were reported from the Democratic Republic of Congo, of which approximately 60 laboratory confirmed cases were associated with travel to Angola. A rapid vaccination response was launched in Angola and DRC, but faced challenges on account of vaccine stock availability and production, and logistic resources to reach the large non-immune population quickly. This situation allowed the outbreak to spread for a period when there was not adequate vaccination coverage in the outbreak-affected areas.

Although there have been no new confirmed yellow fever cases in Central Africa in the past three months, the WHO has not yet declared the outbreak over. Mop-up vaccinations and surveillance of febrile encephalitis syndrome are ongoing, and a prospective coverage survey is to be implemented in selected districts of Angola. In addition, stringent implementation of vaccination requirements in travellers to and from yellow fever endemic areas will limit the spread of yellow fever and reduce the risk of importation into adjacent countries.

Source: Centre for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases, NICD-NHLS; (januszp@nicd.ac.za)