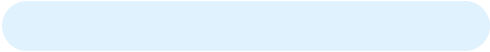


RADIO, AI AND COMMUNITY INSIGHT: STRENGTHENING THE EBOLA RESPONSE IN DRC

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

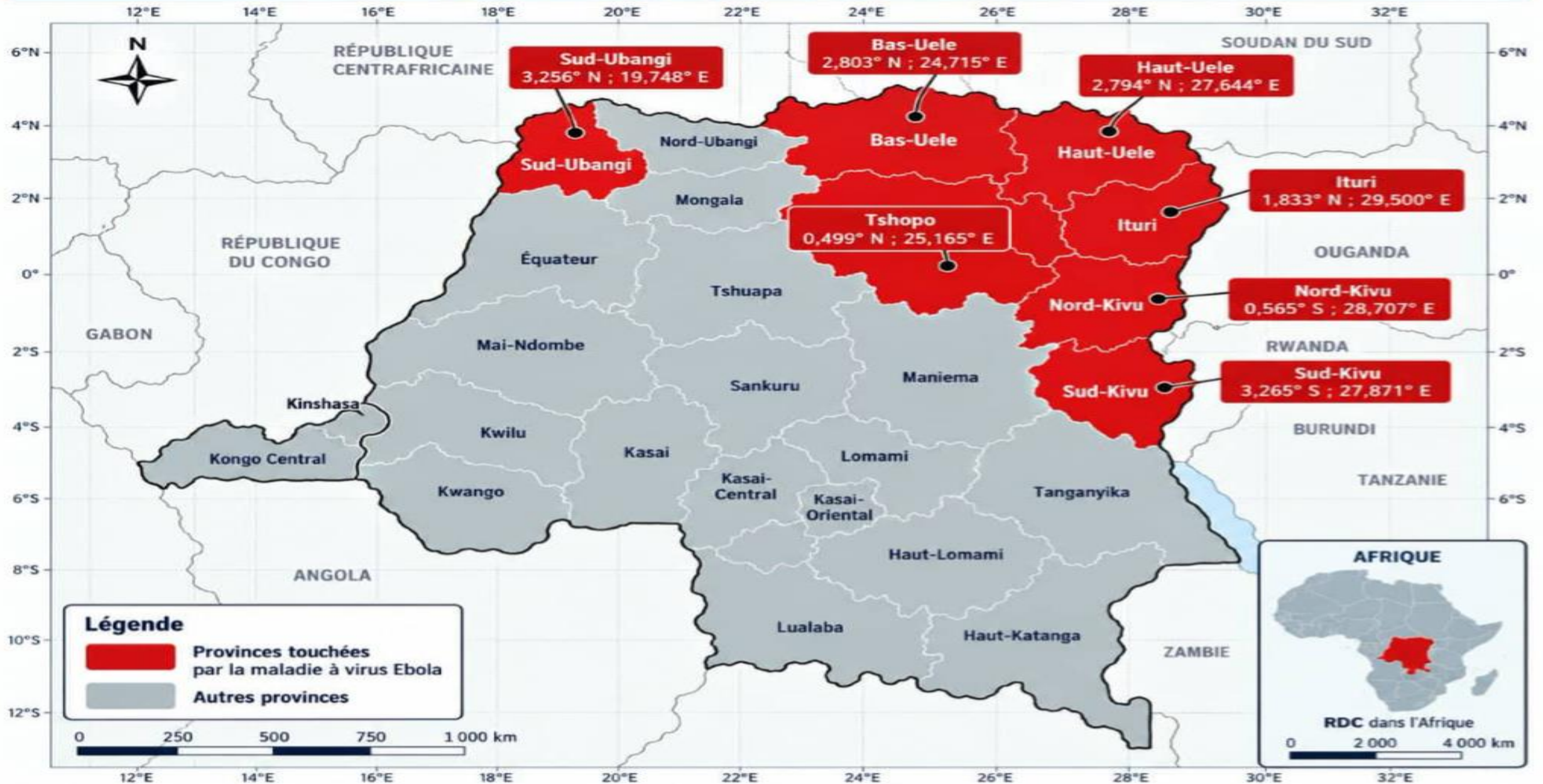


The Ebola situation in DRC: why communication matters



RDC — Provinces touchées par la maladie à virus Ebola

Coordonnées géographiques de référence



Note : Les coordonnées indiquées sont des coordonnées géographiques de référence (centre approximatif de la province) et ne représentent pas les limites exactes des provinces.

Situation au 21–22 septembre 2026
Sources : MSP RDC, OMS. | Réalisation : Carte indicative à des fins de santé publique.

Ebola Situation: RCCE is an Imperative

6,686+

Confirmed Cases

3,266

Deaths

48.3%

Estimated Case Fatality

71 / 155

Health Zones Affected

Community Engagement Need

Community transmission remains active, alongside mistrust, under-reporting and delayed detection.

The response requires communities to participate in risk identification, surveillance and alert notification.

Risk communication is not an add-on: **it is part of the response system.**

GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

DPS	Alerts received			Alerts verified and validated (non-cases suspected)		Suspected cases investigated		Number of suspected cases investigated	Number of suspects investigated and transferred to CTE/CTC (follow-up)
	Living	Deaths	Total alerts	Living	Deaths	Living	Deaths		
Haut-Uélé	7	6	13	6	6	1	0	12	0
Bas-Uélé	67	3	70	4	2	63	1	6	0
Ituri	1,066	89	1,155	143	86	908	3	225	124
Nord-Kivu	539	18	557	87	18	442	0	105	80
Sud-Ubangi	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Tshopo	103	0	103	7	0	95	0	7	2
Total General	1,782	116	1,898	247	112	1,509	4	355	212

Surveillance of alerts shows good performance, with 98.6% of the 1,898 verified alerts and 98.9% of the 359 suspected cases investigated.

WHY THE SITUATION HAS BEEN DIFFICULT TO BE CONTAINED???

Resistance and mistrust from some communities;

Underreporting and delays in detecting cases;

Incomplete contact tracing;

Insufficient logistics and transport resources

Challenges in evacuating positive cases

- Lack of infection prevention and control equipment;
- Delays in getting laboratory results;
- Shortage of qualified human resources in some areas;
- Access difficulties due to insecurity and road conditions;
- Weak psychosocial support for patients and families

The Communication Challenge



REACH

Reaching people consistently including those beyond direct community activities.

- Large and dispersed audiences
- Hard-to-reach populations
- People unable to join sessions



TRUST

Addressing rumors and building community confidence.

- Questions and concerns
- Rumours and misinformation
- Cultural and community realities



ACTION

Translating awareness into proactive behavior.

- Preventive behaviours
- Community vigilance
- Early reporting and engagement

Reported contribution to the Ebola response



LISTEN

Questions & concerns from the population



EXPLAIN

Clear, reliable messages adapted to context



REINFORCE

Prevention & community vigilance



CONNECT

Community ↔ response actors dialogue

Reported Impact: Stronger understanding, greater community vigilance, promotion of preventive behaviours, and reduced space for rumours.

| Key Takeaways for Future Ebola Responses

01

Build Risk Communication and Community Engagement around **listening**, not only broadcasting.

02

Use **radio to scale reliable messages** and reach populations missed by face-to-face activities.

03

Link **radio insights to community surveillance**, response teams and strategic decision-making.

From Broadcast Dialogue Insight Action

7. Strategic Message

“Ebola will not be defeated solely in Treatment Centers (ETCs)”

Risk communication is instrumental

 In communities, through trust

 In health facilities, through IPC

 In families, through early detection

 In villages, through community surveillance

 In burial sites, through SDBs (Safe and Dignified Burials)

 In data systems, through rapid and reliable surveillance

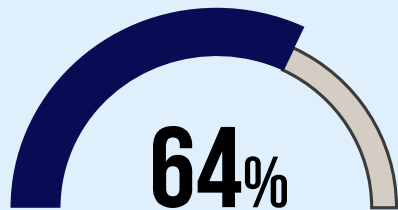
01. INTRODUCING WAIVE: TURNING LOCAL RADIO INTO NEAR-REAL-TIME INSIGHT

WHY DOES RADIO MONITORING MATTER?

Radio remains highly trusted and used across much of the world, including in the DRC



Trust in national radio as an information source during a crisis



*To verify, I also do research myself, I listen to the **radio***

**Community Leader
in Goma**

WHY DOES RADIO MONITORING MATTER?

However, it's often been hard to monitor at scale



WHY DOES RADIO MONITORING MATTER?

wAlve changes that



HOW DO WE MONITOR THE RADIO?

1

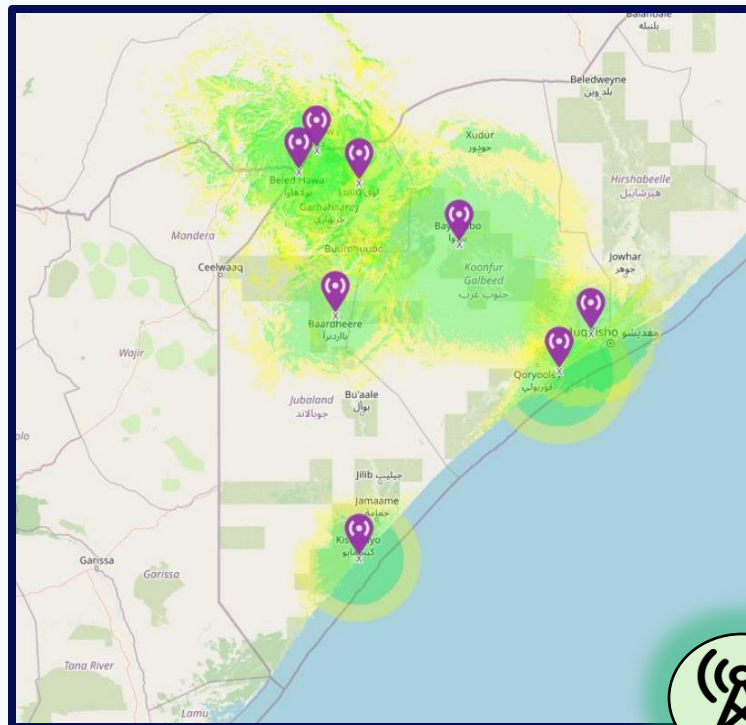
A device is installed in a selected location



HOW DO WE MONITOR THE RADIO?

2

Stations and programs chosen for monitoring



UTC Time	Radio Benin	Radio Parakou	Ocean FM	Prissons	Tokpa	Deeman	Fraternite	Cotonou
5:00 AM			Low relevance			Low relevance		
5:30 AM			Low relevance					
6:00 AM		News	!!! News in Fon	Low relevance	Low relevance	News	News	
6:30 AM				Low relevance				News 10
7:00 AM			Low relevance		Interviews / Discussion	Low relevance	Call-in show: Question of	Recording
7:30 AM	Press review		Low relevance	Local News	Interviews / Discussion	Low relevance	Call-in show: Question of	Recording
8:00 AM	Interview	News	8:15 - 9:00 News and opir	8 - 8:15 Local news	Low relevance	Youth employment	Interviews / Guests	Recording
8:30 AM			8:15 - 9:00 News and opir	Low relevance				Recording
9:00 AM	Call-In Show		Low relevance	Music, call-in in Fon	Low relevance	Low relevance		Call in sh
9:30 AM			Low relevance	Music, call-in in Fon	Low relevance	Low relevance		
10:00 AM	Interview (Thursdays)	Radioscopy (Sunday)	Fon soft news	Low relevance	!!! Newspaper in Yoruba!	Low relevance		
10:30 AM			Fon soft news	Low relevance	Religious	Low relevance		
11:00 AM	Call-In Show	Press Club (Saturday)	News	Low relevance	Religious	Interviews / Discussion		
11:30 AM			News	Low relevance	Religious	Interviews / Discussion		
12:00 PM		Actu - Le Mag (Sunday)	Low relevance	Low relevance	News	Low relevance	Local & Int'l News	Recording
12:30 PM			Low relevance	Low relevance		Low relevance		Recording
1:00 PM			Low relevance	Low relevance	Low relevance	News		Low relev
1:30 PM			Low relevance	Low relevance	Low relevance			
2:00 PM	Interviews		Low relevance	Low relevance	Low relevance	Low relevance	News and discussion	
2:30 PM			Low relevance	Low relevance	Low relevance		News and discussion	
3:00 PM			Low relevance	Low relevance	Local language soft news	Low relevance	Low relevance	
3:30 PM			Low relevance	Low relevance	Local language soft news			
4:00 PM	Call-In Show		Low relevance	Low relevance	Low relevance	Low relevance	Low relevance	Recording

HOW DO WE MONITOR THE RADIO?

3

3 AI transcribes, translates and classifies the audio in real time

Modern Medicine Scepticism	Discussions of traditional or herbal medicine as an alternative to modern medicine, and discussions of rejecting modern medicine in general (this includes vaccines, medicines, etc.).	
NGO Mentions	Mentions of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Vaccine Confidence Project (VCP), Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (Gates Foundation), Africa CDC or other health related NGO's.	
Polio	Discussions of Polio as a diseases, and discussions of polio vaccination campaigns, including mentions of polio drops.	
Vaccines	Discussion of injections, vaccines, vaccination campaigns, vaccine efficacy, vaccine risks, etc.	

```

return {
  alertContext: alertContextObj, //obj,
  //
  "name":
  "Analyze the text of the clip and determine if it matches any of the alerts.",
  "The alerts are listed below in format (ID): (NAME)(PRIORITY)",
  "If the clip matches one or more alert identifiers, return the alert key(s).",
  "If it does not match any alert identifiers, return 'other'."
  //
  "AVAILABLE ALERTS":
  "1: (10000001) (Terrorism) (HIGH)",
  //
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HOW DO WE MONITOR THE RADIO?

4

Output delivered

**CAMPAIGN RAISES AWARENESS OF CHILDHOOD CANCER CARE**

Radio Okapi reports that the association Elikia Hope is running its "Gold September DRC 2026" campaign in Kinshasa from 14 to 25 September to raise awareness about childhood cancers.

Updated 1 hour ago  1 (2)

**CONGO RIVER EBOLA PREVENTION CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED**

Radio Okapi and Top Congo FM report that health authorities in Tshopo province have launched a five-month Ebola prevention campaign centred on Kisangani and the Congo River corridor.

Updated 1 hour ago  2 (3)

**FIRE DAMAGES MAMBASA GENERAL REFERRAL HOSPITAL**

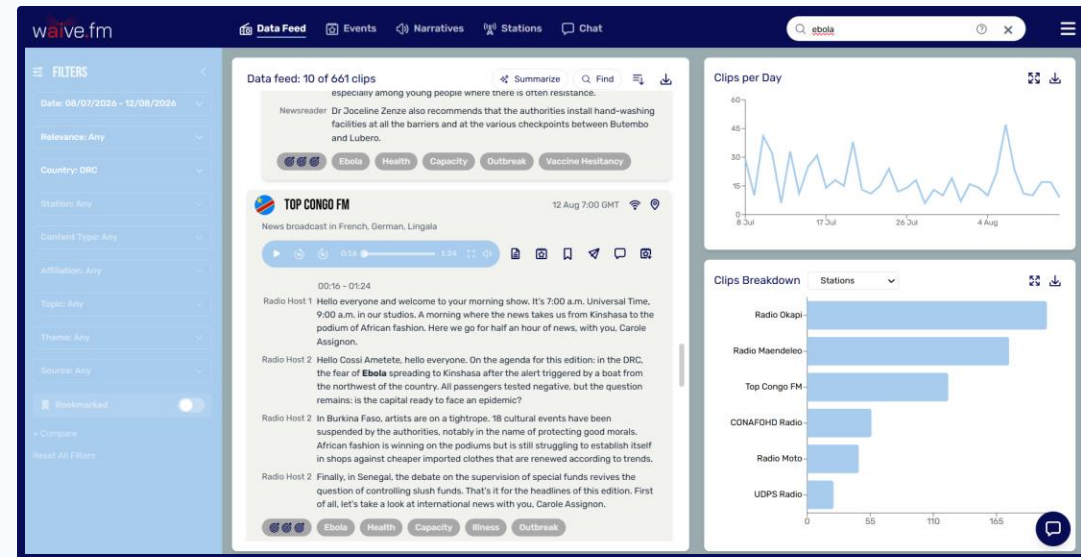
Radio Okapi reports that a fire damaged part of Mambasa General Referral Hospital in Ituri province during the night of Monday to Tuesday, reportedly on 2026-09-21 to 2026-09-22.

Updated 1 hour ago  1 (1)

**EBOLA WARNINGS INTENSIFY IN SOUTH KIVU**

Radio Maendeleo reports repeated public health warnings about Ebola in South Kivu, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, as local broadcasters urge residents to follow prevention and burial guidance.

Updated Sep. 16  3 (19)



Research Mode (slower, more detailed response) ☐

Ask a question...

02.

WHAT RADIO MONITORING CAN REVEAL ABOUT EBOLA OUTBREAK AND RESPONSE IN DRC?

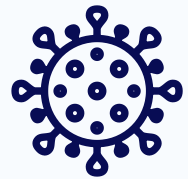
CONTEXT



Low institutional confidence



Local trust networks



High COVID scepticism



Goma

**8 interviews with
healthcare
workers and
community
leaders**

NARRATIVE 1: “EBOLA IS BEING DONE TO US.”

CROSS-CHANNEL AMPLIFICATION OF ANTI- WESTERN NARRATIVES



← ALIGNED NARRATIVES →



**MEDIA
MONITORING**

“There are beliefs, there are legends, there are perceptions that the West, on the one hand, creates these diseases for several reasons.”

Guest Commentator | RTE FM | AUG 02

“Since these, quote-unquote, 'vaccinations', I prefer to say these injections, people's health has been rapidly deteriorating.”

Guest Commentator | Sputnik Afrique broadcast on RTE FM | JULY 01



“Africa, let's be honest, is Bill Gates's playground.”

Guest commentator | Sputnik Afrique broadcast on RTE FM | JULY 01

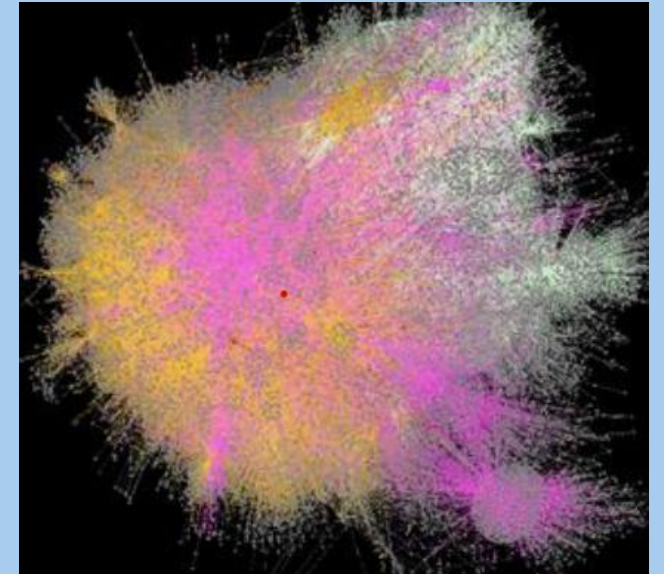
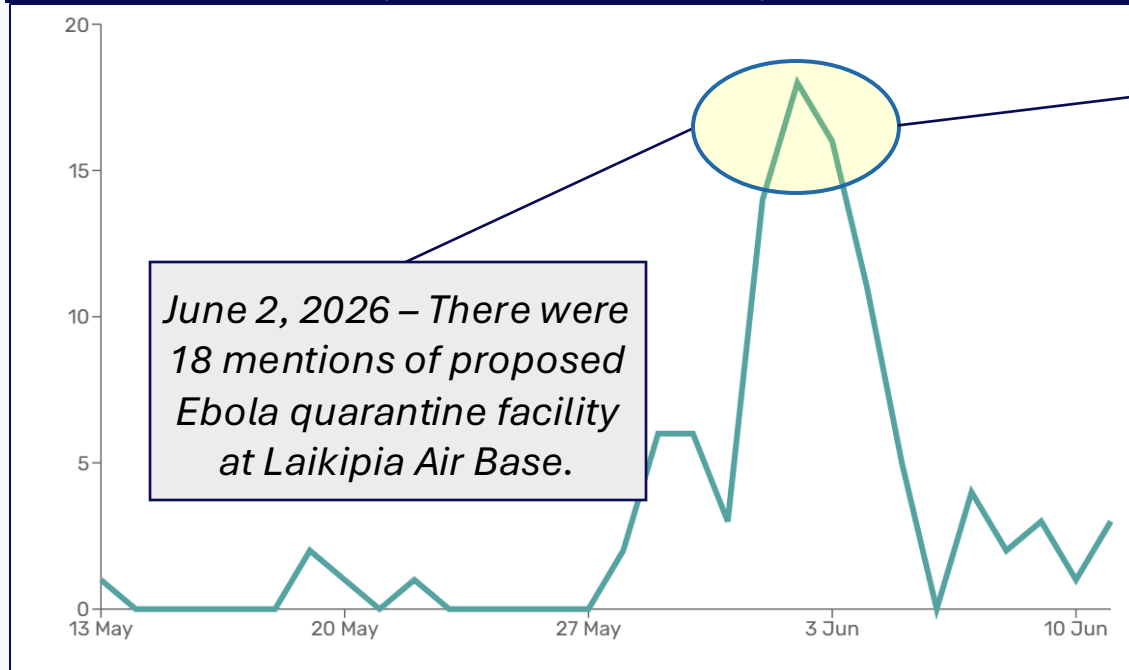


Fig. 1 Inauthentic networks targeting online information spaces in the DRC in the month of June. Pink and Green drive negative content, while Orange drives positive content.

PAN-AFRICAN RADIO MONITORING

INTERNATIONAL INTERFERENCE

*Frequency of clips per day mentioning Laikipia Air Base
(May 13- June 11, 2026)*



Radio Citizen
Speaker: Kenyan protester



“ We do not want an Ebola quarantine to be established in Kenya. If Ruto has taken Trump's money, he should enjoy it by himself. ”
June 2, 2026

NARRATIVE 2: “THE EBOLA RESPONSE IS NOT FOR US.”

ACCEPTANCE OF EBOLA CONTROL MEASURES BUT OBJECTION TO *HOW* IMPLEMENTATION IS OCCURRING



TERRESTRIAL
FM



“We are being discriminated against by international organizations as if we don't have the skills... We know the community's problems well, which is why it's vital that this localization belongs to us and that we take ownership of this localization of humanitarian aid on the ground.”

Humanitarian Aid Expert | CONAFOHD | JUNE 23



“The fight must involve village chiefs and influential leaders in order to strengthen community adherence.”

Civil Society Representative | Radio Okapi | JULY 26

THANK YOU. FOR MORE INFORMATION...

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