

Zambia Measles Outbreak - Situational Report No. 10

Date: 11th April 2025

Epidemiological Week #13

Summary

As of week 13, of 2025, Zambia has recorded a total of 43 new suspected measles cases, bringing the cumulative total to 856 suspected cases. Out of these, 15 new samples were sent to the laboratory for testing with 259 cumulative samples tested this year. The laboratory confirmed 8 new measles cases from Serenje (2), Chipangali (2) and Luampa (4) totaling to 58 cumulative confirmed cases since the start of 2025.

In response to the current measles outbreak, the National Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC) is actively monitoring the situation and conducting surveillance in the affected districts. Concurrently, the Ministry of Health/ZNPPI is intensifying community engagement and healthcare worker training. However, they are encountering challenges due to limited resources for cross-border meetings, data audits, and community active case search activities.

Background

Since 2021, Zambia has been grappling with recurring measles outbreaks. Initially, the majority of cases were reported in Lusaka, Northwestern, and Southern Province¹. However, the disease has since spread to all ten provinces of the country, affecting both urban and rural areas. The majority of the affected individuals are children under five years old, 84% of whom were either unvaccinated or had an unknown vaccination status against measles, significantly increasing their vulnerability to the disease. The Ministry of Health has emphasized the urgent need for vaccination and medical attention to contain the spread of this highly contagious disease.

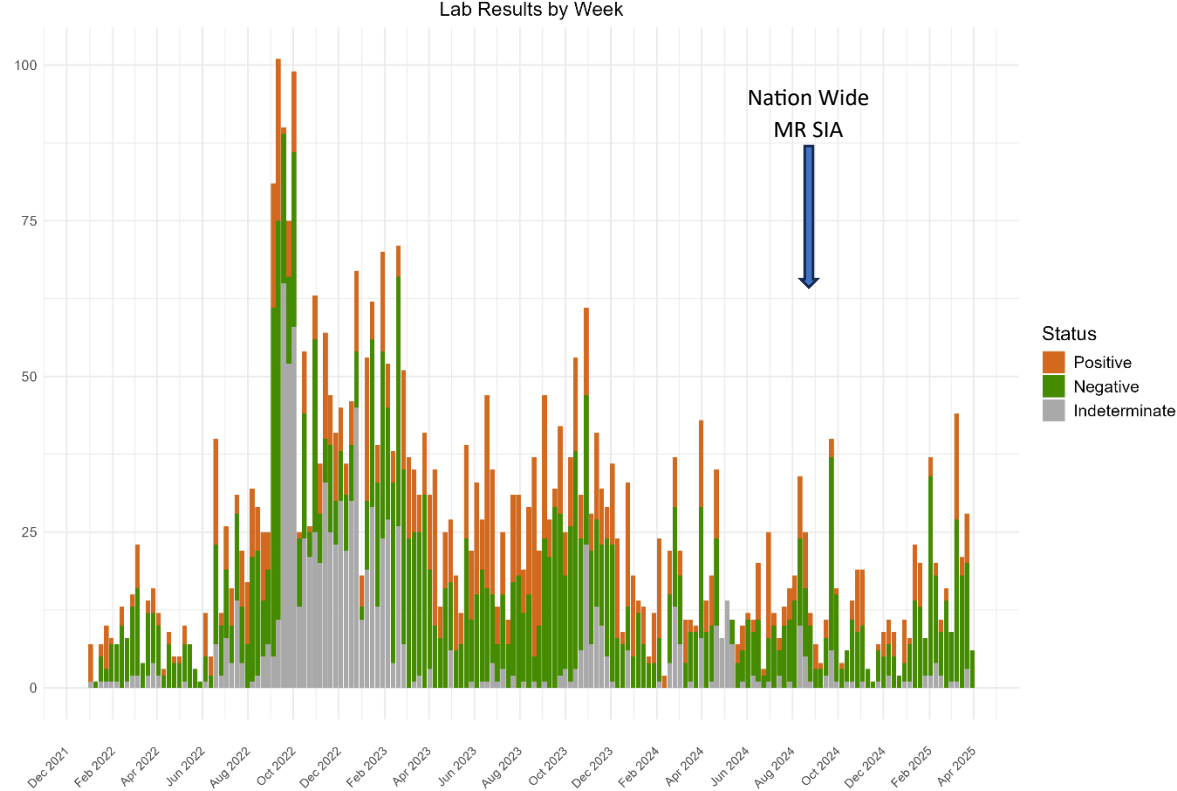
Situational Update

a) Epidemiology

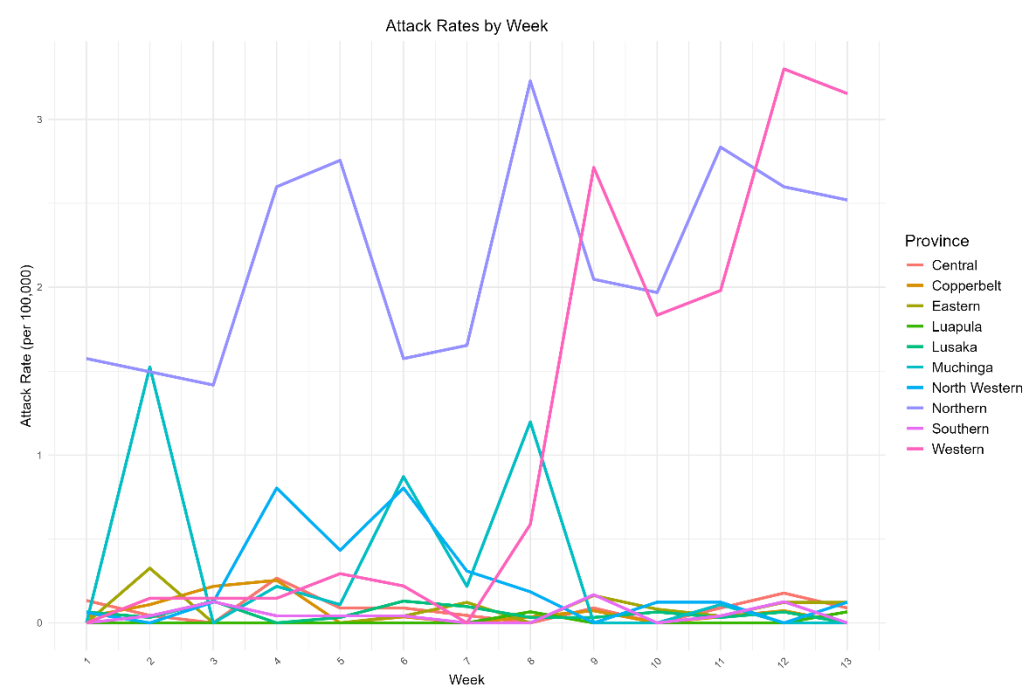
1. Number of Suspected and lab confirmed cases by province.

Province	Suspected		Sent to the lab		Measles Confirmed		Rubella Confirmed	
	Wk13	Cum	Wk13	Cum	Wk13	Cum	Wk13	Cum
Central	2	32	7	35	2	2	0	2
Copperbelt	0	24	0	38	0	8	0	3
Eastern	3	25	6	19	2	2	1	1
Luapula	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lusaka	0	25	0	14	0	0	0	0
Muchinga	0	39	0	17	0	10	0	1
North Western	2	58	0	42	0	5	0	4
Northern	32	401	0	33	0	17	0	6
Southern	0	17	0	9	0	1	0	0
Western	43	233	15	55	4	13	1	7
Total	83	856	28	259	8	58	2	24

II. Lab results by week (2023 & 2024)

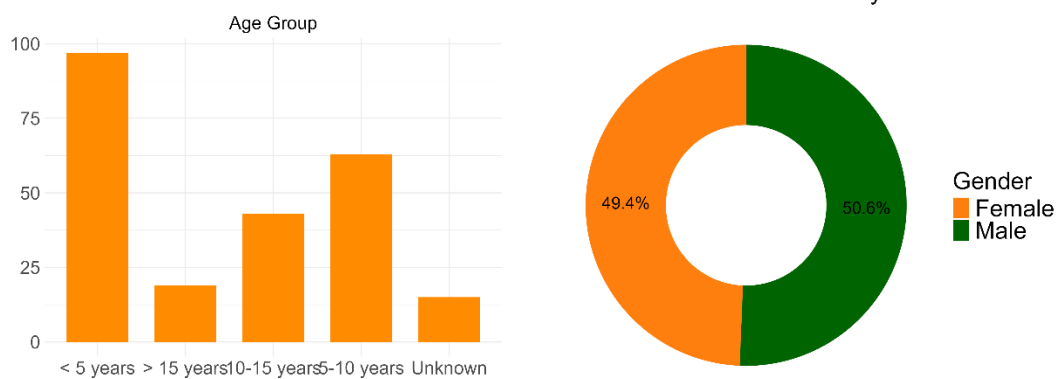


III. Provincial Attack Rates for Suspected cases per 100,000 population



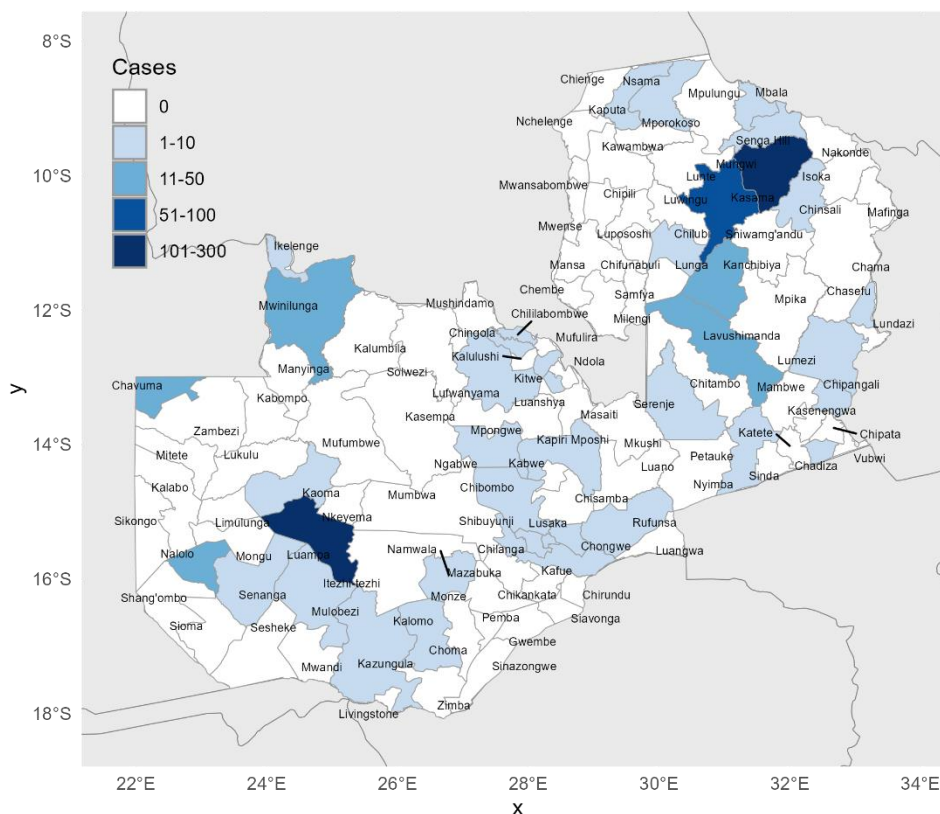
IV. *Percentage of Cumulative Measles Lab confirmed cases by age and gender.*

Measles Lab Confirmed Cases by Gender

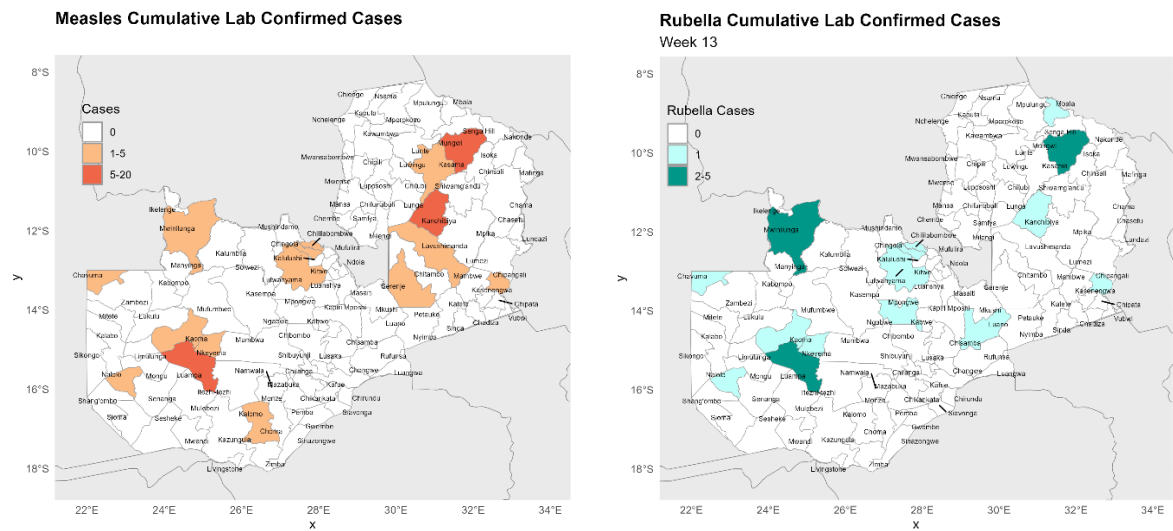


V. *Measles Suspected cases by district (cumulative)*

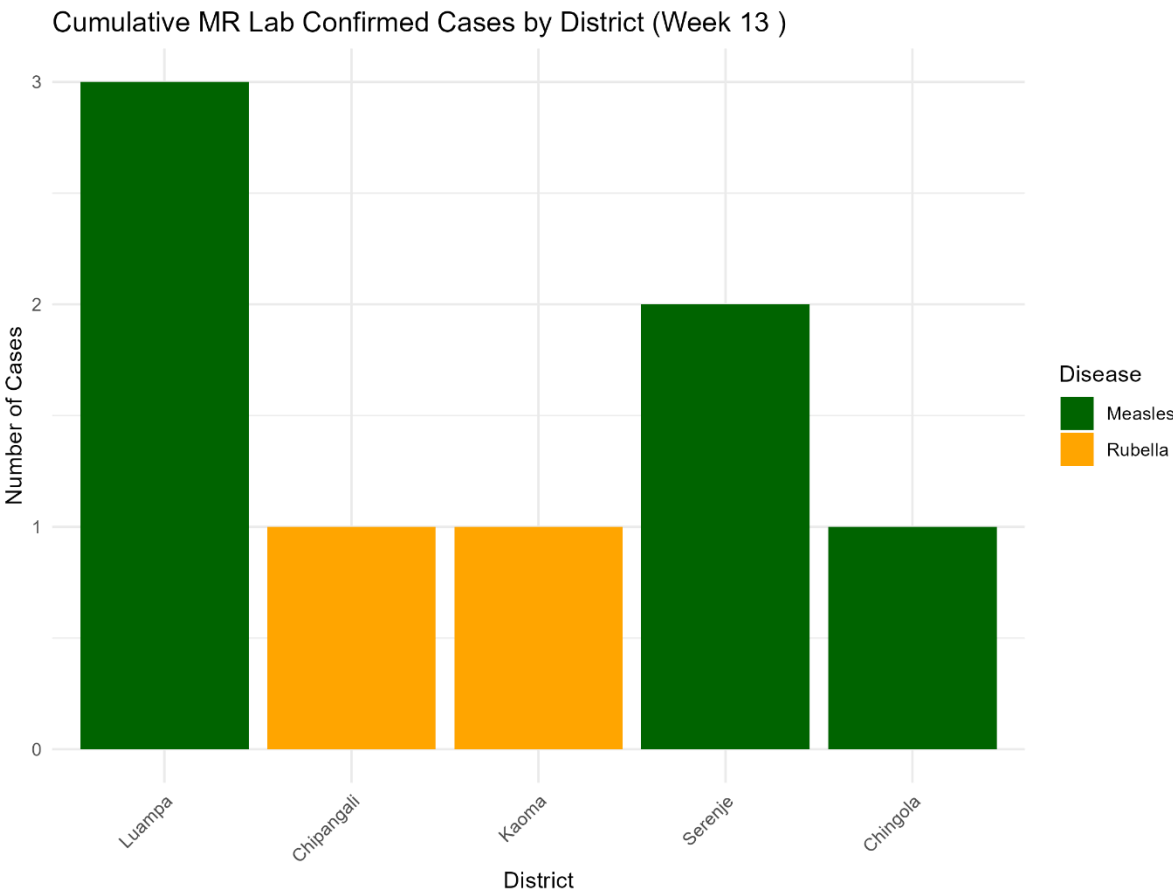
Measles Cumulative Suspected Cases



VI. Measles & Rubella lab confirmed cases by district (cumulative)



VII. Districts with lab confirmed cases



Public Health Interventions and Response Efforts

i. Response activities

- The National PHEOC has been activated, and the IMS structure is operational.
- Weekly meetings are held within the measles IMS framework.
- Daily monitoring of suspected cases is conducted at both national and sub-national levels.
- Active surveillance and contact tracing activities continue in all affected districts.
- Neighbouring districts have been placed on high alert.
- Ongoing community sensitization efforts are being carried out in affected provinces.

ii. Priority Follow-Up Actions Ministry of Health/ ZNPHI (10.0):

- Mobilize resources to engage communities and community gatekeepers in cross-border areas.
- Reorient healthcare workers on the identification, investigation, and management of measles cases.
- Advocate for resources to procure IEC materials on measles in both English and local languages.
- Train Community-Based Volunteers (CBVs) in measles community-based surveillance.
- Intensify community-based surveillance, active case search, and contact tracing activities.

iii. Constraints, challenges, priority needs

- Limited resources for conducting cross-border collaborative meetings and community active case search activities at the subnational level.
- Insufficient resources for conducting measles data audits in provinces and districts.
- Inadequate resources to support measles community active case search activities.

Contact information

Name	Position	Phone	email
Dr Davie Simwaba	Director, Surveillance and Disease Intelligence, ZNPHI	+260 966 841 062	mkapina100@gmail.com
Dr Musole Chipoya	Lead VPD epidemiologist, ZNPHI	+260 972 459 747	musolochipoya@gmail.com
Ms Priscilla Gardner	VPD Epidemiologist, ZNPHI	+260 977 699 385	priscillagardner82@gmail.com
Mr Moses Mwale	Data Manager, WHO	+260 977 466 624	mwalem@who.int

The Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI)