

EBOLA OUTBREAK IN DRC (weekly update):**Epidemiological situation** (June 15, 2018):

Cases: 57 (38 confirmed, 14 probable, 5 suspected).

Deaths: 27 (8 out of the confirmed cases)

Although the number of suspected cases has been fluctuating, the number of confirmed cases remains stable, which is good news. All new probable cases are from known chains of transmission and mostly from Ibiko.

WHO has expressed cautious optimism that the outbreak may be under control.

<http://www.who.int/ebola/situation-reports/drc-2018/en/>

Vaccination

Vaccination efforts continue in all the outbreak locations, according to the latest health ministry report. So far, 2730 people have been immunized with Merck's experimental vaccine, VSV-EBOV, including 813 in Mbandaka, 660 in Bikoro, 1222 in Iboko, 30 in Ingende, and 5 in Kinshasa.

Treatments

Given the few patients currently in care, administering and testing new drugs will be difficult, despite approval by DRC authorities.

Funding

The World Bank says it has activated its Pandemic cash disbursement through the Emergency Financing Facility (PEF) cash window to provide a \$12 million grant to assist in the response to the recent Ebola virus outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

<https://independent.ng/ebola-outbreak-world-bank-disburses-12m-grant-warns-on-risk-of-spread/>

Oxfam announced that it has started distributing food to about 4525 people affected by the outbreak in the DRC's Equateur Province.

Air Serv International has sent one of its aircraft to assist Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) in reaching the more remote areas of the outbreak.

WHO has published a timeline of the Ebola outbreak response: (see attached pdf)