

EBOLA IN CONGO: MORE THAN 5,500 DEAD AND THE EPIDEMIC CONTINUES TO GROW.

Description

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The Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo is now the second largest in history. Six months after it was declared, on May 15, 2026, the countryâ??s health authorities have recorded 11,254 confirmed cases and 5,505 deaths, a fatality rate of almost 49%. Between 400 and 500 new cases are still reported every week.

The World Health Organization (WHO) warned on Sunday that the virus keeps spreading into remote rural communities and that armed violence is hampering the response. An attack in the Cantine-Aloya area, in North Kivu, killed 66 civilians, including three health workers, and left three health facilities looted. The UNâ??s senior Ebola coordinator, Julien Harneis, said that in parts of Ituri and Kivu, violence by armed groups is now killing more people than Ebola itself.

Children are the hardest hit: they account for more than a quarter of confirmed cases and around a third of deaths. Seven in ten children under five with confirmed Ebola have died, according to the WHO. The outbreak, caused by the Bundibugyo strain of the virus, for which there is no approved vaccine, has now reached eight Congolese provinces and four countries: Congo, Uganda, Kenya and Nigeria. On Friday, the WHO announced the start of the first clinical trial of a vaccine against this strain.

Source: WHO, health authorities of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Al Jazeera

Category

1. Health

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