

EBOLA OUTBREAK SPREADS TO M23-HELD SOUTH KIVU

BUKAVU

An Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has spread to a part of eastern South Kivu province under the control of the M23 militia, the group's spokesman said on Thursday, heightening fears of the deadly disease's growing spread.

Efforts to get a grip on the latest outbreak of the highly contagious haemorrhagic fever, which the World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared a global emergency, have been hampered by the DRC's long-running conflicts, including between the Congolese army and the M23.

Having seized swathes of land in the mineral-rich east, the M23 has set up to govern for the long run in areas under its control, installing a parallel administration to the Congolese government.

But the armed group has never had to manage the response to a serious epidemic of a disease like Ebola, which has killed over 15,000 people in Africa in the past half-century and whose latest outbreak is already believed to have killed more than 130 people.

According to the M23 spokesman, tests "confirm a new positive case" from



An Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo soldier washes his hands at the entrance at the Bunia Airport in Bunia, yesterday

Bukavu in South Kivu. He did not specify whether the sample came from the city itself, which fell into M23 hands in February 2025, or the rural areas surrounding the South Kivu provincial capital.

But the case involved "the person concerned, a compatriot aged 28, unfortunately succumbed to the disease before the diagnosis was confirmed," the spokesman added.

"The burial was carried out in strict compliance with safety standards."

The Congolese authorities were yet to comment on the

reported case.

According to the WHO, the latest outbreak in the DRC, the 17th to hit the vast central African country of more than 100 million people, is already suspected of having caused 139 deaths out of nearly 600 probable cases.

SPLIT BY FRONT LINES

Many of the cases have been recorded in the epidemic's epicentre in north-eastern Ituri province, many in hard-to-access areas plagued by the Congolese east's litany of armed groups.

Cases have also been

GLOBAL PANIC

While the World Health Organisation believes the risk from the Ebola outbreak is high both in the DR Congo and the wider central African region, the United Nations health agency considers the risk of a worldwide pandemic to be "low".

In response to the outbreak, the US on Monday announced stepped-up screening procedures for air passengers coming from DR Congo, Uganda and South Sudan. A day after, Bahrain announced a month-long ban on visitors from the three countries.

Additionally, the DRC football team has canceled a training camp in Kinshasa in preparation for the World Cup in the US, which is co-hosting the tournament with Canada and Mexico, a team official told AFP on Wednesday.

The outbreak comes at a time when humanitarian organisations have seen their budgets slashed, particularly as a result of USAID spending cuts under President Trump.



LAW DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

BID NOTICE

ABRIDGED BID NOTICE UNDER OPEN DOMESTIC BIDDING

1. Law Development Centre invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for:

No.	Procurement Reference Number	Subject Matter of Procurement:	Bid Security(UGX)
2	LDC/SUPLS/2025-2026/00103	Supply of heavy duty printers	6,500,000 (Six million five hundred thousand shillings)

2. The Bidding document(s) shall be inspected and issued at Law Development Centre, Procurement and Disposal Unit, Plot 339, Makerere Hill Road Room 2.10.

3. The deadline for bid submission shall be at 11:00Am on 8th-June-2026

4. The detailed bid notice is available at the Entity's website at www ldc ac ug.

ACCOUNTING OFFICER

recorded in North Kivu and neighbouring Uganda having two imported cases with one person dead, but up till now not in South Kivu.

Given the difficulties in accessing the areas hit by the outbreak, few samples have been laboratory-tested and figures are based mostly on suspected cases.

Both North and South Kivu are split in two by the front lines dividing the Congolese army from the M23 armed group and its Rwandan allies.

The airport in North Kivu's provincial capital Goma, which once helped funnel urgently needed aid into the eastern DRC by air, has been shut since the M23 seized the city in January 2025.

No vaccine or clinical treatment exists for the Bundibugyo strain of the Ebola virus responsible for the current epidemic.

AFP