

Ebola outbreak in DR Congo stabilises: WHO

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An outbreak of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo has stabilised, with no new deaths or cases in more than a week, the World Health Organisation said Tuesday.

For the past 10 days, the [death toll](#) from the haemorrhagic fever has remained at 36 and no new cases have been registered, the WHO said in a bulletin. The last case of hospitalisation dates back to October 11, according to the statement released to the press on Tuesday.

A total of 75 people are believed to have been infected and the fatality rate in the [outbreak](#) went to 48 percent.

"We are very, very vigilant," WHO Kinshasa representative Leodegal Bazira told AFP. "It takes just one case to start up a cycle of transmission." The fact that the disease had been confined to the town of Isiro and its neighbourhood was a positive factor, he added.

An epidemic was declared in mid-August in the northeastern Orientale Province. But researchers have dated the outbreak back to May.

The ministry of health, the WHO, the Centers for Disease Control based in Atlanta, Georgia, and Doctors Without Borders (MSF) have been working in close cooperation to combat the outbreak.

To date, there is no treatment or vaccine for Ebola, which kills between 25 and 90 percent of those who fall sick, depending on the strain of the

virus, according to the WHO.

The disease is transmitted by direct contact with blood, faeces and sweat, by sexual contact and by unprotected handling of contaminated corpses.

DR Congo has recorded eight outbreaks of [Ebola](#), one of the world's most virulent diseases, since the virus was first reported near a Congolese river that gave the disease its name in 1976.

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