

Guinea Ebola outbreak under control: foreign minister (Update)

April 14 2014

Guinea's Foreign Minister Francois Fall said on Monday the west African country had brought the spread of the deadly Ebola virus under control after more than 100 people have died.

"We are pleased to say we have controlled the spread of the epidemic," Fall told reporters after meeting his South African counterpart Maite Nkoana-Mashabane in Pretoria.

"We have even managed to cure some of those infected."

The outbreak is one of the most deadly, with 168 cases "clinically compatible" with Ebola virus disease reported, including 108 deaths, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in its latest update on Monday.

"We benefitted from help from the international community to stop the spread of the epidemic," Fall said.

International aid organisations last week launched a series of emergency measures in Guinea and across west Africa in a bid to contain one of the worst ever outbreaks of the deadly Ebola virus.

The outbreak began in the impoverished country's southern forests, but has spread to Conakry, a sprawling port city on the Atlantic coast and home to two million people.

The WHO has described west Africa's first outbreak among humans as

one of the most challenging since the virus emerged in 1976 in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"It is the first time we have faced this epidemic," said Fall, adding that despite acting "very quickly" to stem the tide of the epidemic, "sadly there were 100 people dead."

Fall said strict measures are being taken to prevent Ebola spreading. Everyone entering or leaving Guinea is checked for virus.

In neighbouring Liberia, there have been 21 cases, including 10 deaths.

The virus known as Zaire Ebola has had a fatality rate of up to 90 percent in past outbreaks, and there is no vaccine, cure or even specific treatment.

© 2014 AFP

Citation: Guinea Ebola outbreak under control: foreign minister (Update) (2014, April 14) retrieved 26 April 2024 from

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-04-guinea-ebola-outbreak-foreign-minister.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.