

WHO chief says Ebola outbreak in DR Congo 'not over'

June 13 2018

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom on Tuesday called for tighter monitoring as he wrapped up a visit to Ebola-hit DR Congo, saying the outbreak was far from over despite the number of cases stabilising in recent weeks.

The outbreak—the ninth in the Democratic Republic of Congo since 1976—was declared on May 8 and has claimed 27 lives.

"On the basis of statistics, we can say that the situation has stabilised but the war is not over, we must reinforce vigilance and surveillance," he said at the end of a three-day assessment visit.

"One case in an urban setting can set off an outbreak," he warned.

His comments come after the WHO and NGOs since May 21 began helping DRC immunise front-line workers with a vaccine that has shown to be highly effective in trials, though it still awaits regulatory approval.

The WHO chief said more than 2,000 people had been vaccinated in the Ebola-hit Equateur province in the sprawling country's north west.

In Mbandaka, a city of 1.2 million people, "there have been no new cases since May 12," he said, adding that there were no new cases since May 13 at Bikoro—about 100 kilometres away—where the [outbreak](#) was first detected.

On Thursday the WHO gave a total of 59 confirmed, probable and

suspected Ebola [cases](#), of which 27 people had died with one new case confirmed on June 6.

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