

DR Congo launches mass vaccination against cholera

July 30 2020

Health workers in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo have launched a bid to vaccinate more than a million people against cholera in five days after their region was hit by heavy floods.

Immunisation teams have started fanning out in the territories of Fizi, Idjwi, Minova, Nundu and Uvira, near Lake Kivu and Lake Tanganyika, where [cholera](#) is endemic, Eugene Kabambi, of the DRC branch of the World Health Organization (WHO), said Thursday.

"We are using a door-to-door strategy to prevent potential clustering of people at fixed (vaccination) sites," he said, referring to the risk of coronavirus infection.

The five territories were badly hit by floods in April that left dozens of dead and destroyed thousands of homes.

Eastern DRC is a vast, remote region that last month declared an end to a prolonged outbreak of Ebola, but has ongoing epidemics of cholera and measles that are far less recognised internationally.

Nationwide, the country has so far recorded 9,010 cases of coronavirus, of which 215 have been fatal.

By comparison, 12,271 cases of cholera have been documented since the start of the year, leading to 177 deaths.

© 2020 AFP

Citation: DR Congo launches mass vaccination against cholera (2020, July 30) retrieved 18 July 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-07-dr-congo-mass-vaccination-cholera.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.