

Guinea Ebola Virus

Unprecedented: MSF



Conakry, Apr 1 (RHC), – 'Doctors Without Borders' has warned that the Ebola outbreak in Guinea is an "unprecedented epidemic" that is dangerously widespread across the African nation.

"We are facing an epidemic of a magnitude never before seen, in terms of the distribution of cases in the country: Gueckedou, Macenta, Kissidougou, Nzerekore, and now Conakry," said Mariano Lugli, the organization's coordinator in the Guinean capital, Conakry.

Lugli said the spread of the disease across the country has made it tough to control.

The warning comes after Guinea's President Alpa Conde appealed for calm as the number of deaths linked to the outbreak hit nearly 80 people.

"I call on people not to give in to panic or believe the rumors that are fueling people's fears," he said.

The aid organization, known by its French initials MSF, is adding to the number of its field workers with experience on the disease.

Meanwhile, authorities in neighboring Senegal have closed the land border with Guinea. Liberia, another neighboring country, has also confirmed its first cases of the deadly contagion.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced two Ebola cases among seven samples tested from Liberia's northern Foya district, confirming the spread of the virus across international borders for the first time.

The deadly viral infection, which is spread by close contact, was first discovered in Congo -- then known as Zaire -- in 1976. There is no vaccine or specific treatment for Ebola and the disease kills up to 90 percent of its victims who suffer extensive internal and external bleeding.



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