

Good news and bad news

Cases of Covid-19 are declining in our Companion Diocese of Bukavu, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, but Ebola is on the rise again, as Roger Dirokpa reports

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has already started to see a decline in cases of coronavirus. This is what the president of the Multisectoral Committee for the response to Covid-19 in the DRC, Professor Muyembe, said on 13 August 2020:

“The months of May and June 2020 were particularly difficult and during this period we noticed a considerable increase of cases Covid-19 and a high death rate in DRC.”

From the end of June 2020 until today, 13 August 2020, DRC has seen an increase in recovery rates and a decrease in mortality. This can be attributed to the improved response and care approach. The Covid-19 response team is reaping the dividends of the strategies put in place, with particular reference to "the strict application of barrier measures".



The current statistics, as of today, show that, in DRC, there have been 9,589 confirmed cases, of which 8,480 people have recovered and 234 have died. This brings the current number of active coronavirus cases in the DRC to 875. About 8,000 cases are in Kinshasa, the capital city of DRC and the rest are dispersed among 17 of our 26 provinces. The South Kivu Province, in which our Diocese of Bukavu is, has as, of today, 295 cases, with 44 people having died and about 238 having recovered. This would suggest that in South Kivu region there are still about 13 active cases.

Daily life will progressively return to normal from 15 August 2020, including the reopening of churches, airports, and ports.

Regarding the hemorrhagic fever, Ebola, the World Health Organisation and the DRC government declared, in June 2020, that the country was free from the latest Ebola outbreak, but not before 2,273 people had died from it in the eastern region of our country. Unfortunately, there was then another outbreak in the western part of DRC, especially in the Equator region, at the beginning of July 2020, with at least 74 cases being recorded (70 confirmed and 4 suspected). To date there have been 32 deaths and 28 recoveries from the 11th Ebola virus outbreak in Mbandaka, the capital of Equator Province.

