Ebola virus disease (formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever) is a severe, often fatal illness, with a death rate of up to 90% caused by Ebola virus, a member of the filovirus family. The Ebola virus was first identified in 1976 when 2 simultaneous outbreaks occurred, 1 in Yambuku, a village not far from the Ebola River in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the other in a remote area of Sudan. The origin of the virus is unknown, but current evidence suggests that fruit bats (Pteropodidae) may be a host.

Source: Frequently asked questions on Ebola virus disease

In March 2014, a rapidly evolving outbreak of Ebola haemorrhagic fever started in Guinea. The outbreak subsequently spread to Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Senegal, and Mali.

1 Aug 2014: WHO and the government of Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia launched a joint US$ 100 million response plan.


28 Aug 2014: WHO issued a "roadmap" to scale up the international response.


31 Jul 2015: UNMEER closed and transitioned oversight of the UN system's Ebola emergency response to WHO as of 1 Aug.

7 Nov 2015: WHO declared Sierra Leone free of Ebola virus transmission.

29 Dec 2015: WHO declared the end of Ebola virus transmission in the Republic of Guinea.

14 Jan 2016: WHO declared the end of the most recent outbreak of Ebola virus disease in Liberia and said all known chains of transmission have been stopped in West Africa.

15 Jan 2016: A new case of Ebola has been confirmed in Sierra Leone. The country is still in a 90-day period of enhanced surveillance following the declaration on 7 November 2015 of the end of Ebola transmission in the country.

17 Mar 2016: WHO and the government of Sierra Leone marked the end of the recent flare-up of Ebola virus disease in the country.

18 Mar 2016: Guinean health officials in the region alerted WHO and partners on 16 March to 3
unexplained deaths in recent weeks in the village of Koropara and said other members of the same family are currently showing symptoms characteristic of Ebola.


9 Jun 2016: WHO declares the end of the most recent Ebola virus disease outbreak in Liberia.

Source: ReliefWeb


UN Entities

- **Global Ebola Response:**
  The UN system and the international community are coming together as never before to deliver a rapid, robust and effective response to help the Governments and the people of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

- **International Ebola Recovery Conference, 9-10 July 2015:**

- **United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER):**
  UNMEER, the first-ever UN emergency health mission, was established on 19 September 2014 and closed on 31 July 2015, having achieved its core objective of scaling up the response on the ground.

- **Global Health Crises Task Force:**
  The Global Health Crises Task Force was established by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for a period of one year, beginning on 1 July 2016.
Selected documents:


  on condemning attacks by armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and their role in exacerbating the Ebola virus outbreak


    and

    http://undocs.org/A/70/737/Corr.1


  - A/69/1014 (1 September 2015): Letter dated 1 September 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly: http://undocs.org/A/69/1014

    Reports on the work of the UN in the response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and covers developments from 1 to 31 July 2015, the 300-day mark since the establishment of the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER); records activities carried out by the Special Envoy on Ebola and UNMEER, and provides an update on progress made in the Ebola response pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/1 since the update of 24 July 2015 (A/69/992).


    Reports the work of the UN in the response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and covers developments from 1 June through 1 July 2015 since the establishment of the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER); provides an update on progress made in the Ebola response pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/1 since the update of 16 June 2015 (A/69/939).

  - A/69/908 (26 May 2015): Letter dated 22 May 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly:
http://undocs.org/A/69/908
Reports the work of the UN in the response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and covers developments from 1 Apr. to 1 May 2015; provides an update on progress made in the Ebola response pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/1 since the update of 16 Apr. 2015 (A/69/871).

- S/2015/282 (27 April 2015): Letter dated 23 April 2015 from the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council:
http://undocs.org/S/2015/282
Reports, in the capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, the visits to Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Senegal/UN Office for West Africa, from 5 to 10 Apr. 2015, to assess the impact of the Ebola crisis on peacebuilding.

- A/69/871 (16 April 2015): Letter dated 16 April 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly:
http://undocs.org/A/69/871
Reports the work of the UN in the response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and covers developments from 1 Mar. to 1 Apr. 2015; provides an update on progress made in the Ebola response pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/1 since the update of 13 Mar. 2015 (A/69/812).

- A/69/812 (13 March 2015): Letter dated 12 March 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly:
http://undocs.org/A/69/812
The report covers developments from 1 February to 1 March 2015, the 150-day mark since the of UNMEER.

- A/69/759 (10 February 2015): Letter dated 10 February 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly:
http://undocs.org/A/69/759
Reports the work of the UN in the response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and covers developments from 1 Jan.-1 Feb. 2015; provides an update on progress made in the Ebola response pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/1 since the update of 12 Jan. 2015 (A/69/720).

- A/69/720 (13 January 2015): Letter dated 12 January 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly:
http://undocs.org/A/69/720
Reports the work of the UN in the response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and covers developments from 1 Nov. 2014-1 Jan. 2015.

- A/RES/69/132 (Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 11 December 2014): Global health and foreign policy:
http://undocs.org/A/RES/69/132

- A/69/573 (12 November 2014): Letter dated 12 November 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly:
http://undocs.org/A/69/573
Reports the work of the UN in the response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and covers developments from 19 Sept. through 31 Oct. 2014.

http://undocs.org/A/RES/69/3

the Office of the Special Envoy on Ebola: report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions:  

  http://undocs.org/A/69/404

- **A/RES/69/1** (Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 September 2014): Measures to contain and combat the recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa:  
  http://undocs.org/A/RES/69/1


- **A/69/389-S/2014/679** (18 September 2014): Identical letters dated 17 September 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council:  
  http://undocs.org/A/69/389

  In this document the Secretary-General sets forth the Mission’s six guiding principles and 12 actions deemed critical by the Senior United Nations System Coordinator to carry out the Mission’s aims.

- Further documents – click [here](#)

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**Selected press releases & news stories:**

- New emergency Ebola response chief in DR Congo promises more listening, to end ‘frequent interruptions’ in fightback (28 May 2019):  

- DR Congo: Strengthened effort against Ebola is paying off, but insecurity still major constraint – UN health agency (28 May 2019):  

- DR Congo: ‘No time to lose’ says newly appointed UN Ebola response coordinator (23 May 2019):  

- More resources needed to control Ebola outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo, Secretary-General says, urging all Congolese leaders to work together (SG/SM/19571, 8 May 2019):  

- Six months into DR Congo’s deadliest Ebola outbreak, top UN official praises ‘brave’ response effort (1 February 2019):  

- DR Congo: Ebola response returns to full speed despite ‘risky environment’ (8 January 2019):  

- Uganda’s Ebola preparedness ‘will go a long way’ says WHO chief (3 January 2019):  
- Ebola outbreak in DR Congo conflict zone ‘remains dangerous and unpredictable’ – UN chiefs (8 November 2018):  
- Frontline workers vaccinated in Uganda over Ebola fears, as top UN officials visit outbreak epicentre in DR Congo (7 November 2018):  
- Security Council urges responder-safety focus, as DR Congo Ebola outbreak worsens (30 October 2018):  
- Ebola in DR Congo: UN chief ‘outraged’ by recent killings of civilians and health workers (22 October 2018):  
- World Health Organization calls crisis meeting over deadly Ebola outbreak in DR Congo (15 October 2018):  
- DR Congo: Amid renewed risk of spread, Ebola virus leaves over 150 children orphaned or unaccompanied (UN News, 21 September 2018):  
- DR Congo: new cases of deadly Ebola virus, as UN steps up response (UN News, 14 September 2018):  
- New cluster of Ebola cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo - World Health Organization (UN News, 1 August 2018):  
- Ebola outbreak in DR Congo declared over, now let’s tackle other health challenges: WHO chief (UN News, 24 July 2018):  
- Ebola Outbreak in Democratic Republic Congo is ‘largely contained’: WHO (UN News, 26 June 2018):  
- WHO reports ‘very strong progress’ in battling DR Congo Ebola outbreak (UN News, 8 June 2018):  
- Ebola outbreak puts DR Congo on an ‘epidemiological knife-edge’ (UN News, 23 May 2018):  
- DR Congo Ebola outbreak not yet a global ‘health emergency’, but strong response to disease vital – UN health experts (UN News, 18 May 2018):  
- Emergency meeting called as Ebola spreads to Congolese city – UN health agency (UN News, 17 May 2018):  
- DR Congo: UN prepared for ‘all scenarios’ despite low risk of Ebola spreading (UN News, 11 May 2018):  
- New Ebola outbreak confirmed in DR Congo: UN health agency scales up response (UN News, 8 May 2018):  
- UN chief appoints 12 experts to his task force to prevent and manage future health crises (UN News Centre, 29 June 2016):  
- Drawing on Ebola Response, Secretary-General, in Video Message to Munich Conference, says global security demands swift, concerted action on public health challenges (SG/SM/17539, 15 February 2016):  


World Health Organization (WHO)

Ebola virus disease
http://www.who.int/ebola/en/
- Ebola: Then and Now - What a difference a year has made (Updated January 2016): http://www.who.int/features/ebola/then-and-now/en/index.html

- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)

- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- Ebola:  
  https://www.iaea.org/topics/ebola
  http://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/2014/prn201425.html
- Early Warning for Ebola: Strengthening Africa's Capacity to Anticipate Risk of Outbreaks (27 February 2015):  

- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- ILO's role and response to the 2014 Ebola outbreak:  
- What can the fight against HIV teach us about Ebola? (19 December 2014):  
  http://iloblog.org/2014/12/19/what-can-the-fight-against-hiv-teach-us-about-ebola/

- International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- Ebola virus disease:  
  http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/HotTopics/ebola/Pages/default.aspx

- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- IMF Response to The Ebola Crisis:  

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- FAO in Emergencies - Ebola outbreak in West Africa:  

- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- UNICEF web portal on Ebola:  
  http://www.unicef.org/emergencies/ebola/
- Ebola: Getting to zero – for communities, for children for the future (March 2015):  

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Ebola Crisis in West Africa:  
  https://www.undp.org/content/undp/fr/home/ourwork/our-projects-and-initiatives/ebola-resp
- **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)**
  - Socio-Economic Impacts of the Ebola Virus Disease on Africa (January 2015): [http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/PublicationFiles/eca_ ebola_report_final_eng_0.pdf](http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/PublicationFiles/eca_ ebola_report_final_eng_0.pdf)

- **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**
  - The Ebola Outbreak: [http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/ebola-outbreak](http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/ebola-outbreak)

- **United Nations Volunteers (UNV)**

- **World Bank**

- **World Food Programme (WFP)**
- Support to Populations in Areas Affected by the Ebola Outbreak in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone

Support to Populations in Areas Affected by the Ebola Outbreak in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone (This operation has expired on 31 December 2015):

https://www.wfp.org/operations/200761-support-populations-areas-affected-ebola-outbreak-guinea-liberia-and-sierra-leone

Secretary-General

The Secretary-General held a High-level Meeting on Response to the Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak on 25 September 2014:


General Assembly

Briefing to the General Assembly: Progress of Ebola outbreak response and the road towards recovery, 13 January 2016

- Letter from the President of the General Assembly, dated 7 January 2016, to all permanent representatives and permanent observers: https://un4.me/2maWfIL
- Webcast: https://un4.me/2mM3vOn

General Assembly meeting on 19 September 2014 on “Measures to contain and combat the recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa”: 
Ebola virus outbreak - General Assembly, Informal meeting, 69th session (10 October 2014):

- Webcast: https://un4.me/2n5zbdF


General Assembly Information Meeting on Ebola, 18 February 2015:


Informal Meeting of the General Assembly – Progress of the Ebola outbreak response and recovery efforts, 13 January 2016:

UNRIC Library Backgrounder: Ebola

Emergency Session on Peace and Security in Africa (Ebola), 18 September 2014:

- Meeting Record: http://undocs.org/S/PV.7268
  , Part 3 - http://webtv.un.org/search/part-3-ebola-security-council-7268th-meeting/3795332575001

7279th meeting of the Security Council on Peace and Security in Africa regarding Ebola, 14 October 2014:

- Meeting Record: http://undocs.org/S/PV.7279


- Meeting Record: http://undocs.org/S/PV.7318
7502nd meeting of the Security Council on Peace and Security in Africa - The global response to the 2013 Ebola virus disease outbreak, 13 August 2015:


Economic and Social Council

Special Meeting on “Ebola: A threat to sustainable development”, 5 December 2014


Further Information

- Interview with Dr. David Nabarro, United Nations Special Envoy for Ebola (UN News
Centre, 16 January 2015):
- 'The world is on the side of those who are involved in this fight' against Ebola – UN envoy
(UN News Centre, 28 November 2014):
- Interview with David Nabarro, UN System Coordinator on Ebola (UN News Centre, 21 August 2014):
- UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library Research Guides: Ebola Virus Outbreak - Quick Guide:
- ECA Library - Resources on Ebola:
http://libguides.uneca.org/eca_ebola
- UN Blog: UN Updates on Ebola Outbreak – Online Resources (16 August 2014):
http://blogs.un.org/blog/2014/08/16/un-updates-on-ebola-outbreak
- Special Coverage on Ebola: How people’s lives are changing (Africa Renewal, December 2014):
- Ebola: A bumpy road to zero transmission: Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone remain vigilant as infections decline in the three countries (Africa Renewal, April 2015):

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