Ebola virus disease (formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever) is a rare but severe, often fatal illness, with a death rate of up to 90% in humans caused by the Ebola virus, a member of the filovirus family. Death rates have varied from 25% to 90% in past outbreaks. 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: World Health Organization (WHO) - Frequently asked questions on Ebola virus disease


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
  Prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 69/274 B. 
  "Annex: Asset disposal breakdown": p. 23
- **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).
  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](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](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](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:

- **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](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](http://undocs.org/A/RES/69/3)

  [http://undocs.org/A/69/408](http://undocs.org/A/69/408)

  [http://undocs.org/A/69/404](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](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:

  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.**


**Selected press releases & news stories:**

- DR Congo: Ebola response returns to full speed despite ‘risky environment’ (8 January
UNRIC Library Backgrounder: Ebola


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): [Link]

Welcoming end of Ebola flare-up in Liberia, Secretary-General calls upon global community to continue supporting affected countries (SG/SM/17456-AFR/3302, 14 January 2016): [Link]

Ending recent Ebola outbreak demonstrates what proper multilateralism can achieve, Secretary-General tells General Assembly (SG/SM/17454-GA/11752, 13 January 2016): [Link]

Secretary-General, in High-Level Healthy Future Event, urges continued work with Ebola-affected countries, predictable support for health systems (SG/SM/17118, 26 September 2015): [Link]

Secretary-General announces closure of Ebola Emergency Response Mission as core objective achieved, oversight to be led by world health organization (SG/SM/16982, 31 July 2015): [Link]

Ban to convene international Ebola recovery conference in New York (UN News Centre, 2 June 2015): [Link]


Ebola: UN crisis response mission opens new office in Mali (UN News Centre, 26 November 2014): [Link]

Secretary-General appoints Abdou Dieng of Senegal Ebola Crisis Manager for Guinea (SG/A/1526-BIO/4667, 26 November 2014): [Link]

Secretary-General appoints Marcel Rudasingwa, Peter Jan Graaff, Amadu Kamara Ebola Crisis Managers for Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone (SG/A/1518, October 2014): [Link]

Secretary-General Appoints David Nabarro Special Envoy for Ebola, Anthony Banbury Special Representative, Head of UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (SG/A/1511, 23 September 2014): [Link]

UN announces mission to combat Ebola, declares outbreak ‘threat to peace and security’ (UN News Centre, 18 September 2014): [Link]

Ban launches UN Ebola response mission; advance teams to arrive in West Africa on Monday (UN News Centre, 20 September 2014): [Link]
- World Health Organization (WHO)
  - Ebola virus disease
    https://www.who.int/health-topics/ebola/
  - Ebola virus disease – Disease outbreak news:
    http://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/disease/ebola/en/
  - Ebola outbreak 2014-2015:
    http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en/
  - Final trial results confirm Ebola vaccine provides high protection against disease (News release, 23 December 2016):
  - 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
  - Building resilient health systems in Ebola-affected countries (10-11 December 2014, Geneva, Switzerland):
    http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/meetings/2014/ebola-health-systems/en/
  - IHR Emergency Committee regarding Ebola:
    http://www.who.int/ihr/ihr_erp_15/en/
  - Situation Assessments:
  - Ebola Situation reports - archive:
  - Ebola infographic: What you need to know:
    http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/infographic/en/
  - WHO Publications, technical guidance on Ebola:
  - WHO response to the Ebola Interim Assessment Panel report (Statement, 7 July 2015):

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

- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
  - Ebola:
https://www.iaea.org/topics/ebola
  http://www.iaea.org/newscenter/pressreleases/2014/prn201425.html

- 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:

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

- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)
- Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak: Overview of needs and requirements (September 2014):

- 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/ebolaresp
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onse-in-west-africa.html [FR]
  https://un4.me/2mwj10o
- Socio-Economic Impact of Ebola Virus Disease in West African Countries (March 2015):
  http://www.africa.undp.org/content/dam/rba/docs/Reports/ebola-west-africa.pdf
- Assessing the Socio-Economic Impacts of Ebola Virus Disease in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone: The Road to Recovery (December 2014):

  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_ela_report_final_eng_0.pdf
  - Business leaders commit $28.5 million initial emergency fund towards Africa’s Ebola response (Press release, 8 November 2014):

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

  United Nations Volunteers (UNV)
  - UNV’s Ebola emergency response to support WHO in DRC (19 July 2019):
  - One year on, volunteers are still essential in fight against Ebola (14 August 2017):
  - Ebola prevention on the ground (5 July 2016):
    https://www.unv.org/our-stories/ebola-prevention-ground
  - UNV supports UN system response to Ebola (3 December 2014):

  World Bank
  - World Bank Publications:
- World Food Programme (WFP)
  - Health Emergencies: [https://www.wfp.org/news?f%5B0%5D=topics%3A2173](https://www.wfp.org/news?f%5B0%5D=topics%3A2173)
  - Support to Populations in Areas Affected by the Ebola Outbreak in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone (This operation has expired on 31 December 2015):

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](https://un4.me/2maWfIL)
- Webcast: [https://un4.me/2mM3vOn](https://un4.me/2mM3vOn)

General Assembly meeting on 19 September 2014 on “Measures to contain and combat
the recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa”:

- Meeting Record:  [http://undocs.org/A/69/PV.3](http://undocs.org/A/69/PV.3)
- Resolution A/RES/69/1:  [http://undocs.org/A/RES/69/1](http://undocs.org/A/RES/69/1)

Ebola virus outbreak - General Assembly, Informal meeting, 69th session (10 October 2014):

- Webcast:  [https://un4.me/2n5zbdF](https://un4.me/2n5zbdF)

General Assembly Briefing on the Ebola virus outbreak, 20 January 2015:  

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:

8590th meeting of the Security Council on Peace and Security in Africa regarding Ebola, 2 August 2019:

  meeting/6067394786001/
- Meeting Record: https://undocs.org/en/S/PV.8590

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

- Meeting Record: http://undocs.org/S/PV.7268

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

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- Meeting Record: [http://undocs.org/S/PV.7279](http://undocs.org/S/PV.7279)


- Meeting Record: [http://undocs.org/S/PV.7318](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


Further Information

- UN News Centre - Ebola Virus Disease:
- We’ve learnt many lessons from this outbreak and from the response – Dr. David Nabarro, Special Envoy on Ebola (UN News Centre, 10 December 2015):
- INTERVIEW: as Liberia moves past Ebola ‘nightmare,’ security and political challenges still ahead, UN envoy cautions (UN News Centre, 6 May 2015):
- 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](http://libguides.uneca.org/eca_ebola)
- UN Blog: UN Updates on Ebola Outbreak – Online Resources (16 August 2014):
- 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):