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:

  
  [http://undocs.org/A/70/737](http://undocs.org/A/70/737) and  
  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](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).

- **A/69/992** (24 July 2015): Letter dated 24 July 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly:  
  [http://undocs.org/A/69/992](http://undocs.org/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](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:  
  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 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


http://undocs.org/A/69/408


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

- A/RES/69/1 (Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 September 2014):

http://undocs.org/A/RES/69/1

Measures to contain and combat the recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa:


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](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.


Selected press releases & news stories:

- UN chief appoints 12 experts to his task force to prevent and manage future health crises


UNRIC Library Backgrounder: Ebola

- World Health Organization (WHO)
  - Ebola virus disease
    http://www.who.int/ebola/en/
  - Ebola virus disease – Democratic Republic of the Congo – 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_ec_ebola/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:
  - WHO response to the Ebola Interim Assessment Panel report (Statement, 7 July 2015):

- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)
  - DR Congo: Ebola Outbreak - Aug 2018:
    https://reliefweb.int/disaster/ep-2018-000129-cod
  - DR Congo: Ebola Outbreak - May 2018:
  - DR Congo: Ebola Outbreak - May 2017:
    https://reliefweb.int/disaster/ep-2017-000048-cod
  - West Africa: Ebola Outbreak - Mar 2014:
    http://reliefweb.int/disaster/ep-2014-000041-gin
  - Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak: Overview of needs and requirements (September 2014):
- **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**
  - Ebola: [https://www.iaea.org/topics/ebola](https://www.iaea.org/topics/ebola)

- **International Labour Organization (ILO)**

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

- **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**


- **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**
- Ebola Crisis in West Africa:
  http://www.undp.org/ebola
  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_1ebola_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)
  - 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:
    https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/discover?query=ebola&z=&x=0&y=0
- **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 Briefing on the Ebola virus outbreak, 20 January 2015:
http://www.un.org/pga/200115_briefing-ebola/

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:

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:

- 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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