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

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.

- **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


  Prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 69/274 B.
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
Report 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).

Report on 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).


Report on 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
Report on 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).

The report covers developments from 1 February to 1 March 2015, the 150-day mark since the establishment 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


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

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

Selected press releases & news stories:

- 4 -


- **World Health Organization (WHO)**
  - Ebola virus disease: https://www.who.int/health-topics/ebola/
  - 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

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

- **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**
  - 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

- **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**
- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)

- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- 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

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

- United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

- World Bank

- World Food Programme (WFP)
  - Health Emergencies: 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): https://www.wfp.org/operations/200761-support-populations-areas-affected-ebola-outbreak-quinea-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”:
- Meeting Record: http://undocs.org/A/69/PV.3
- Resolution 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

General Assembly Briefing on the Ebola virus outbreak, 20 January 2015:
http://www.un.org/pga/200115_birfing-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:

Security Council

8590th meeting of the Security Council on Peace and Security in Africa regarding Ebola, 2 August 2019:
- 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:
• Meeting Record: http://undocs.org/S/PV.7279

• Webcast: http://webtv.un.org/search?term=7318th+meeting
• Meeting Record: http://undocs.org/S/PV.7318
• Statement by the President of the Security Council (21 November 2014): http://undocs.org/S/PRST/2014/24

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:
• Webcast: http://webtv.un.org/search?term=7502nd+meeting

Economic and Social Council
• Webcast: http://webtv.un.org/search?term=Ebola%3A+A+threat+to+sustainable+development

Further Information
• ECA Library - Resources on Ebola: http://libguides.uneca.org/eca_ebola