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

DR Congo: Ebola Outbreak - Feb 2021: https://reliefweb.int/disaster/ep-2021-000014-cod
Guinea: Ebola Outbreak - Jan 2021: https://reliefweb.int/disaster/ep-2021-000016-gin

New Ebola outbreak declared in Guinea (14 February 2021):
https://www.afro.who.int/news/new-ebola-outbreak-declared-guinea

Ebola virus disease – Democratic Republic of the Congo (10 February 2021):
https://www.who.int/csr/don/en/

UNICEF, WHO, IFRC and MSF announce the establishment of a global Ebola vaccine stockpile (11 January 2021):

UN Entities

- Emergency Ebola Response Office, DR Congo:
  https://www.un.org/ebolarespondedrc/

Since the WHO’s declaration of the epidemic on 1 August 2018, the United Nations and International Non-Governmental Organizations have been stepping up their efforts in support of the public health response led by the Ministry of Public Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in order to bring the 10th Ebola epidemic to an end. To that end, the United Nation has put in place a tight, disciplined and coordinated system for a rapid response and adjustments to shift from chasing the virus disease to anticipating where it moves to next so as to break the chain of transmission. This new approach also enhances coherence among all partners under the leadership of UNEERC, which includes UN system programmes, funds and agencies, as well as International Non-Governmental Organisations. The Ebola Emergency Response Coordinator (EERC) is responsible for enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations 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.
  

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.

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.


  o 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).

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).

Reports the work of the UN in the response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and covers developments from 1 May through 1 June 2015 since the establishment of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER).

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.

  o 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](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).
Selected press releases & news stories:

Ebola on the run in DR Congo, ‘now we have to kill the virus’: UN health agency (10 October 2019): https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/10/1048951


- 5 -


• World Health Organization (WHO)
  o Ebola virus disease: https://www.who.int/health-topics/ebola/
  o High-level meeting on the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo affirms support for Government-led response and UN system-wide approach (15 July 2019): https://un4.me/373rw7n
  o Ebola: Then and Now - What a difference a year has made (Updated January 2016): http://www.who.int/feature/ebola/then-and-now/en/index.html
  o IHR Emergency Committee regarding Ebola: http://www.who.int/ihr/ihr_EC_ebola/en/

• Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

• International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
  o Ebola: https://www.iaea.org/topics/ebola

- **International Labour Organization (ILO)**

- **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**
  o 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)**

- **Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)**


- **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

- **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)**

- **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**
  o 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)**
  - 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): [https://www.wfp.org/operations/200761-support-populations-areas-affected-ebola-outbreak-guinea-liberia-and-sierra-leone](https://www.wfp.org/operations/200761-support-populations-areas-affected-ebola-outbreak-guinea-liberia-and-sierra-leone)

**Secretary-General**


**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/2maWFfL](https://un4.me/2maWFfL)
- 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 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
• Statement by the President of the Security Council (2 August 2019): https://undocs.org/S/PRST/2019/6

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](http://libguides.uneca.org/eca_ebola)