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
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
  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).
- **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).
  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
  Reports the work of the UN in the response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and covers developments from 1 Jan. to 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/69/1** (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)

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:**


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


- 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)
  o Ebola: https://www.iaea.org/topics/ebola

• International Labour Organization (ILO)
  o 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 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)

• United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

• World Bank
• **World Food Programme (WFP)**
  - Health Emergencies: [https://www.wfp.org/search?search_api_fulltext=ebola](https://www.wfp.org/search?search_api_fulltext=ebola)
  - 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**

Informal Meeting of the General Assembly – Progress of the Ebola outbreak response and recovery efforts, 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://media.un.org/en/asset/k1j/k1ja3mb9iy](https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1j/k1ja3mb9iy)

General Assembly Information Meeting on Ebola, 18 February 2015:
- Webcast: [https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1b/k1bnihgamw](https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1b/k1bnihgamw)


Ebola virus outbreak - General Assembly, Informal meeting, 69th session (10 October 2014):
- Webcast: [https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1h/k1h6cps97j](https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1h/k1h6cps97j)

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)

**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](https://undocs.org/en/S/PV.8590)

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: [https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1t/k1tan7adhj](https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1t/k1tan7adhj)
- Meeting Record: [http://undocs.org/S/PV.7318](http://undocs.org/S/PV.7318)

7279th meeting of the Security Council on Peace and Security in Africa regarding Ebola, 14 October 2014:
- Webcast: [https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1u/k1ujmb6ywp](https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1u/k1ujmb6ywp)
- Meeting Record: [http://undocs.org/S/PV.7279](http://undocs.org/S/PV.7279)
- Meeting Record: [http://undocs.org/S/PV.7279](http://undocs.org/S/PV.7279)

Economic and Social Council

- Meeting Record: [http://undocs.org/S/PV.7268](http://undocs.org/S/PV.7268)

Further Information

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

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