

WHO appeal

Ebola virus disease outbreak

Democratic Republic of the Congo 2025



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Snapshot

WHO requires **US\$ 21 million** to support the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to scale up response operations to interrupt all transmission chains, control the outbreak, and mitigate the impact on human health.

This will be achieved by implementing comprehensive integrated surveillance, alert management, testing, contact tracing, and safe clinical care while protecting healthcare workers and empowering communities to participate in outbreak prevention and control.

Health systems will be supported to ensure continuity of other essential preventive and curative services, including sexual reproductive health amidst the outbreak response.

At a glance (as at 16 Sep 2025)

48 confirmed & probable cases recorded

29 deaths reported

943+ contacts traced

US\$ 21 million required by WHO

Strategic objectives

Goal: Support government actions to stop all transmission chains, provide high quality care to patients, and mitigate the impact on health through coordinated global, regional, and national efforts.

Strategic objectives:

- Strengthen early detection, case investigation, and contact tracing systems
- Scale up delivery of optimized supportive care and infection prevention and control (IPC)
- Inform, mobilize, and empower communities for locally led action
- Strengthen cross-border coordination and regional risk mitigation
- Foster strong operational partnerships and multisectoral collaboration within the country

About Ebola virus disease

Ebola virus disease is a rare but severe, often fatal illness in humans. Death rates have varied from 25% to 90% in past outbreaks. It is transmitted to people through close contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected animals such as fruit bats (thought to be natural hosts). Human-to-human transmission is through direct contact with blood or body fluids of a person who is sick with or has died from Ebola, objects that have been contaminated with body fluids from a person sick with Ebola or the body of a person who died from Ebola.

Overview

On 4 September 2025, the Ministry of Health of the Democratic Republic of the Congo declared an outbreak of Ebola virus disease (EVD). The outbreak has affected Bulape and Mwaka health zones in Kasai Province. As at 16 September, 48 confirmed and probable cases have been recorded, including 29 deaths. Some 943 contacts have been traced to prevent further transmission.

WHO and other health partners are providing technical support to the Government-led response. WHO has deployed 48 experts and delivered more than 14 tons of essential medical equipment and supplies. WHO has also supported the vaccination rollout, with over 500 contacts and healthcare workers vaccinated so far. WHO, in collaboration with WFP and MONUSCO, have established an airbridge to facilitate the movement of supplies and personnel to hotspots.

Donor support is urgently needed to strengthen the response and protect impacted communities. **WHO requires US\$ 21 million** to support Government and partners to implement a rapid, adaptive, and comprehensive response. We urge donors to fully fund this appeal to halt the outbreak and prevent further spread.

WHO's response strategy



Emergency coordination

- Support activation of national and provincial Public Health Emergency Operations Centers (PHEOCs) and Incident Management Teams to lead and coordinate the response.
- Convene regular coordination meetings with government, UN agencies, NGOs, and partners to align strategies and resources.
- Mobilize surge personnel, logistics, and operational support, ensuring protection from sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (PRSEAH).



Collaborative surveillance

- Strengthen active case finding and contact tracing, including community and hospital-based surveillance.
- Expand diagnostic capacity with mobile and decentralized laboratories for rapid testing.
- Enhance cross-border surveillance and coordination with Angola and other at-risk neighbors.



Community protection

- Implement evidence-based risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), working with faith leaders, youth, and women's groups.
- Ensure culturally sensitive and dignified burial practices with trained local teams.
- Address protection concerns, including stigma, gender-based violence, and safe breastfeeding support.

WHO's response strategy (cont'd)



Safe and scalable care

- Establish and equip Ebola Treatment Centers and isolation units in Bulape and Mweka.
- Ensure availability of essential medicines, IPC materials, and psychosocial services.
- Provide integrated nutrition and maternal-child health services alongside Ebola care.
- Support continuity of essential preventative and curative care in the affected health zones.



Access to medical countermeasures

- Facilitate rapid access to vaccines for health workers, contacts, and high-risk groups.
- Pre-position essential supplies including diagnostics, PPE, and therapeutics.
- Support clinical trials and monitoring of investigational products in line with ethical standards.

Financial requirements for WHO

September to December 2025 (US\$ millions)

Response strategy	Coordination and technical assistance	Operational support and supplies	Operational readiness in five surrounding countries	Total (US\$)
Collaborative surveillance	502 250	2 997 750	1 700 000	5 200 000
Community protection	8 100	2 066 900	250 000	2 325 000
Safe and scalable care	255 600	3 844 400	-	4 100 000
Access to medical countermeasures	229 610	4 120 390	-	4 350 000
Emergency coordination	247 800	1 832 200	2 750 000	4 830 000
Total	1 243 360	14 861 640	4 700 000	20 805 000

EVD response drawing on WHO's core capacities

The effectiveness of the EVD response relies on WHO's core capacities across country, regional, and headquarters levels. Leveraging its global presence, technical expertise, and real-time surveillance, WHO enables rapid detection of cases and evidence-based decision-making. Through its Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Programme, WHO provides immediate surge support, deploys multidisciplinary teams, and tailors strategies to evolving outbreak dynamics.

These core capacities—including operational coordination, laboratory support, infection prevention and control, logistics, and training—are essential to helping countries implement effective public health measures and strengthen frontline health worker capacities, forming the backbone of WHO's ability to mount and sustain a coordinated Ebola response.



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