Ebola Outbreak
Taking Action From Response To Recovery

The Ebola outbreak in West Africa is not over. WHO continues to work with governments and the international health community to get to zero cases and help countries stay there.

We currently have more than 1100 experts in more than 70 field sites in the three affected countries working with communities, governments and partners to end the outbreak.

WHO’s public health expertise, linkages with government and technical networks are unparalleled. During the Ebola response, WHO has:

- Deployed more than 3100 technical experts and support staff to affected countries
- Worked with the governments of more than 110 countries to ensure they are ready to respond to potential Ebola infection
- WHO is ensuring implementation of resilient health systems that can respond to outbreaks and maintain basic health services
- Mobilized 58 foreign medical teams to manage more than 60 treatment centres
- Trained nearly 5000 community and health workers in infection prevention and control
- Fast-tracked the search for a safe and effective vaccine from 10+ years to 18 months
- Distributed nearly 1.5 million sets of personal protective equipment
- Supported the deployment of 24 mobile laboratories

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Getting to zero and staying at zero is the only acceptable outcome. This must be achieved while simultaneously working towards recovery. The outbreak is not over, yet an important part of the response is rebuilding trust in health systems. This means restarting essential health services – vaccinating children, treating malaria, and ensuring that all mothers are able to safely deliver healthy babies.

These activities are possible thanks to the generosity of more than 60 donors to WHO, giving US $375 million and making in-kind contributions, such as equipment, materials and personnel.

→ Preparedness
WHO works with partners to ensure countries have the capacity to detect, investigate and respond to any suspected Ebola case.

WHO contributed to the early detection and successful response to Ebola outbreaks in Mali, Nigeria and Senegal. Additionally, WHO is supporting effective preparedness measures by providing expert teams, technical assistance, guidance, and tools to more than 110 countries.

→ Response
WHO continues to provide essential strategic, technical, operational, and coordination support to governments and partners.

WHO has directly implemented priority interventions in case management, surveillance, contact tracing, community mobilization, training, essential medicines, supplies and logistics. Together with partners, we have deployed nearly 2,000 medical and public health experts to West Africa.

→ Recovery
WHO is supporting countries on early recovery efforts, leading to resilient health systems.

Strong surveillance, outbreak preparedness and response capacity, reliable triage, infection prevention, and the delivery of essential health services are critical to this process. WHO is currently mentoring and training health workers to fill critical health care workforce gaps in the affected countries.

→ Research and Development
WHO coordinates the research and development of numerous vaccines, drugs, therapies, and diagnostics for the treatment and detection of the Ebola virus.

Through an accelerated development process, WHO and partners are in the final stages of identifying a safe and effective vaccine that would normally take over 10 years into just 18 months.