

WHO works with governments and partners to equip, train and prepare community health workers worldwide to provide critical care for millions of people affected by natural disasters, war and other crises, and the health risks that follow.

This photo essay highlights the critical role these workers play in saving lives by preparing for and responding to emergencies.



Limited access to health care, safe water and sanitation are grave concerns for local communities. Knowing one's infection status can prevent health problems and prevent transmission to family and close contacts. Photo credit: WHO



WHO has issued a guidance document on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for health workers in the context of Ebola virus disease (EVD) control programmes. The document highlights the importance of PPE in preventing transmission of the virus and protecting health workers. It provides detailed instructions on the selection, use, and disposal of PPE, as well as the importance of proper hand hygiene and safe disposal of contaminated materials. The document is available at <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/nipah-and-ebola/prevention-and-control-of-ebola-virus-disease>.



66 countries in the region have reported cases of EVD. WHO has indicated that better surveillance systems are needed to detect and respond to outbreaks of the disease.