

STATEMENT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL



The Ebola outbreak in West Africa has resulted in over 25,000 people being infected with the virus and more than 11,000 deaths since the first case was identified in March 2014. Each one of these deaths is a tragedy. Beyond the tens of thousands who have been infected, hundreds of thousands more have been affected by this devastating outbreak.

Ebola has poignantly illustrated how this disease and its multidimensional impacts transcend geographic boundaries. The impact of Ebola is extensive and extends far beyond the affected countries. At the centre of the Ebola response are the communities who have struggled with, and in many cases defeated, Ebola. From youth and women's groups to traditional and religious leaders, countless individuals—mainly volunteers—have worked on the frontlines.

Community members have transported patients, cared for the sick, and helped identify those exposed. I applaud their courageous, selfless and exceptional contributions.

The governments of the countries in Africa affected by Ebola deserve enormous credit for their intense efforts, supported by brave healthcare workers from the African region and the international community. This cooperation is vital in achieving progress against Ebola, and will remain fundamental for the future as countries seek to rebuild and recover. The International Ebola Recovery Conference that I will convene on 10 July 2015 will be an opportunity for the international community to demonstrate its continued shared commitment to the affected countries to get to zero and to stay there.

Together, we have made remarkable progress. As this report shows, currently thirty times fewer people are being diagnosed with Ebola each week than in September last year. *Making a Difference - Progress 2015¹*, prepared by my Special Envoy on Ebola, represents the result of work by responders, governments, the United Nations system, civil society, philanthropic organizations and the private sector. Together, we have created a powerful platform for collective action, ensuring a coordinated response.

This report provides an informative account of the impressive results achieved to date, together with a depiction of challenges along the way, to all those concerned about the Ebola outbreak and its wider implications for our world.

Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations

¹ The official reporting of the Secretary-General on the response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa is published as a letter from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly on a monthly basis and is publicly available. As of the date of publication of this report, the letter of the Secretary-General covering developments in the response to the Ebola outbreak at the 210-day mark since the establishment of UNMEER has been published (A/69/908).