



Qualified personnel work under strict health conditions to manage the Ebola outbreak.

## Ebola Outbreak strikes Congo and Uganda in 2022

The infectious Ebola virus has had an outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Uganda, which began in early 2022. For around six weeks the viral disease has already claimed the lives of hundreds of people.

The Ebola virus is a highly infectious and deadly disease that is transmitted between humans through contact with bodily fluids of infected people. It is also known as Ebola hemorrhagic fever and can cause multiorgan failure and death. The most common symptoms include fever, headache, muscle pain, as well as bleeding from the eyes, ears, and nose. Outbreaks of this magnitude are taken seriously, as there is a possible mortality rate of up to 90%.

This outbreak in Congo and Uganda is the latest in a series of Ebola outbreaks that have afflicted the region for decades. In the year 1976, there was the first recorded outbreak of the Ebola virus in Sudan and Congo. Since then, there have been multiple outbreaks in the region, including the most memorable outbreak in West Africa in 2014-2016, which led to the death of over 11,000 people. The latest outbreak has not only spread to several parts in Congo but additionally crossed the border to Uganda. International organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) have stated, that the outbreak is a public health emergency of international concern. Therefore, qualified staff and teams of experts were sent to the affected regions, in order to help. On site, they have been working closely with local authorities and medical staff to contain the outbreak and prevent it from spreading further.

One of the biggest challenges in containing the outbreak is the poorly developed infrastructure and lack of resources in the important areas. Many of the communities in Congo and Uganda are remote and hard to access, which is making it difficult to provide medical care and supplies. Additionally, there is a lack of trained medical personnel in the region, which further complicates the efforts of work against the outbreak. Despite these challenges, health workers are working non-stop to contain the outbreak and prevent it from broadening. The actions, that are taken, such as contact tracing and isolation of infected individuals are being made, to control the further spreading of the virus. But still there is a mistrust in the medical help, which has led to resistance against vaccination campaigns. Fortunately, many countries have provided support in a financial and logistical way to the affected areas, showing the urgency of the occurring outbreak. There has been a severe economic impact of the outbreak, resulting in many businesses and industries being impacted by the disruption. The outbreak also had a significant impact on the local population, with many people losing friends and family members.

This outbreak of the Ebola virus is a striking reminder of the importance of investing in public health infrastructure and resources in vulnerable regions. It is crucial to have the support of international cooperation in responding to any kind of outbreaks of infectious diseases.