“MSF has been working in ‘Ebola settings’ for almost 20 years, so we have an enormous amount of knowledge on safe behaviour, infection control and patient management.” - Kimberly Larkins, MSF
Who are Medecins Sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders (MSF)?

- We are an independent international medical humanitarian aid organisation
- Founded in 1971, we provide emergency medical care to those people who need it the most in over 70 countries around the world
- In 1999 MSF won the Nobel Peace Prize
Medical Emergencies

- War and Civil Conflict
- Refugee and IDP Crises
- Nutritional Crises
- Epidemics such as Ebola
- Natural Disasters
History

Ebola was first identified in 1976 in remote villages near tropical rainforests in Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo, Central Africa.

Can you find them on the map?

What is Ebola?

• One of the world’s most deadly diseases, but you do not necessarily die if you catch it.
• **Ebola has not been spread in the UK, so you needn’t worry!**
• Ebola is transmitted through close contact with bodily fluids such as blood, sweat and saliva. Ebola is far more difficult to catch than measles that is transmitted through the air.
• Patients with Ebola need to be treated in isolation by staff wearing protective clothing.
Symptoms

"The feeling was overpowering. Ebola is like a sickness from a different planet. It comes with so much pain." - SALOME KARWAH, EBOLA SURVIVOR

- People are not infectious (cannot pass on the virus) until they show symptoms. The incubation period (time it takes to show symptoms) is between 2 and 21 days.
- Symptoms for humans are similar to those of other more common diseases such as malaria, typhoid fever and meningitis.
- They include fever, feeling weak, muscle pain, headaches and a sore throat.
- Then vomiting, diarrhea, rash, impaired kidney and liver function and, in some cases, internal and external bleeding.
- The virus can only be diagnosed through laboratory tests.
Checking for Fever: West Africa in October 2014

Photo: Natasha Lewer / MSF
The Ebola outbreak in 2014 is the largest Ebola epidemic ever recorded and is a humanitarian emergency.

Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone have suffered long periods of conflict and instability, so there are not enough health workers and centres for those who need them. 

Source: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-29991092
The largest Ebola epidemic ever recorded

MSF in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone
MSF is currently the biggest provider of medical care for Ebola patients in the world.
As of October 2014. MSF has admitted 4,200 patients, of whom 2,400 were confirmed with Ebola. More than 1,140 people have been discharged from MSF centres having survived Ebola.
There is no specific treatment that cures, or vaccine that prevents, Ebola yet, but getting supportive care early can help. MSF staff isolate patients and help them survive by giving them medicines that make them stronger and more comfortable. MSF staff also keep patients clean and give them food and drink. Counsellors also try to help them cope.
The mobile laboratory team test blood samples for Ebola inside a pressurised ‘glove box’. The lab was brought over in suitcases. The tests take about four hours.
The Ebola spacesuit – the special clothing for health workers. Watch a video on getting dressed: https://vimeo.com/108334387
Goggles are an essential part of the protective gear that must be worn when treating Ebola patients.

“The only way you can often communicate with patients is through your eyes – showing basic kindness.” – Dr. Geraldine O’Hara, MSF
“The most difficult thing about working with Ebola is wearing the suit” – Rob D’Hondt, MSF

“We like to call it the Ebola spa, because you’re basically having a sauna two to three times a day” – Dr Carissa Gould, MSF
Take a look at the largest Ebola centre:

- Video: [http://www.msf.org.uk/ebola](http://www.msf.org.uk/ebola)
- Interactive guide: [http://www.msf.org.uk/ebola#Ebolacentre](http://www.msf.org.uk/ebola#Ebolacentre)
Salome cradles a child with suspected Ebola in MSF's Elwa 3 treatment centre, Monrovia, Liberia.

Photo: Ana Lemos/MSF
Children inside the Ebola treatment centre

Another arrives

Photo: Getty Images / John Moore
Staff comfort a girl inside the Ebola treatment centre
Staff pass food over the fence for Ebola patients in the high-risk area. There is no contact between staff in the low and high-risk areas. High quality nutrition is important to help patients fight Ebola.
Nothing - not a pen, not paper - can come out of the high-risk zone, so patients' notes are dictated over the fence.
Meet Mamadee

When patients recover from Ebola, they are immune to the strain of the virus they contracted. This means they will not get sick with it again.

Take a look at the dancing boy:

• **Video:**
  
Exiting the Ebola treatment centre
Watch a video: http://vimeo.com/110487231

Photo: Sam Taylor/MSF
Undressing from high-risk zone in numbers: 1 man to hose you down, 6 times to wash your hands, 14 separate stages, 16 minutes
“We were making a difference; as an organisation, we were bringing hope. It made me so proud of MSF.” – Dr. Monica Arend-Trujillo, MSF
Health workers have to wash their hands in chlorinated water while removing protective clothing after an hour-long shift in the high-risk area of the MSF treatment centre. Washing your hands is really important to keep Ebola from spreading.
This treatment centre in Sierra Leone uses 8,000 litres of chlorine a day!
Outer gloves, aprons, goggles and boots are disinfected with chlorine, but every other part of the ‘space suit’ gets burnt.
Everyone needs their wellies!
Being discharged

Six-year-old “Patrick had healed from Ebola.... He had become so skinny that we had to tie his trousers up with a piece of string.

Being discharged from the centre is a confusing affair. After weeks when people are afraid to go near you, suddenly they want to hug you and kiss you. It can bewilder anyone, even a worldly young man like Patrick.” - Ane Bjøru Fjeldsæter, MSF psychologist

Now he wants to learn how to ride a bicycle. His school like all schools in Liberia and Sierra Leone is closed.
Outside the tent on his own

There are many babies and children whose parents are sick in the treatment centre but who have not contracted the disease themselves. MSF has set up ‘hotel tents’ outside the treatment centres where the children can stay.

This is Samuel who is the only one in his family not to have caught the virus. Cokie who works for MSF is drawing with him.
An Ebola survivor leaves her handprint on a wall
MSF’s 1000th survivor

- Kollie James, 16, survived Ebola
- His mother, stepfather, younger brother, sister, uncle and aunt all died in the past month.
- ‘I was good in school, and my teachers loved me. I love biology because it is the science of life. I want to be like the famous geneticist who discovered how traits are passed from parents to their children. I want to study abroad and eventually become a doctor.’

Kollie James Photo: Katy Athersuch/MSF
Residents of an Ebola affected township take home family and home disinfection kits distributed by MSF in Liberia.
People from the community have tied balloons on the fence of the centre in Monrovia - messages of hope for the patients and staff.

Photo: Caroline Van Nespen/MSF
There are no licensed vaccines yet, but two are being evaluated. Nick works at MSF, but is taking part in an Ebola vaccine trial as an individual.

**Tweet:** Setting off to have my #ebola vaccination as part of the Jenner Institute's @VaccineTrials.

**Tweet:** I have #ebola (sort of)! Just been injected with the vaccine being trailed at the Jenner Institute. Feeling fine.
What you can do

• You can support our work by telling others about Medecins Sans Frontieres / Doctors Without Borders (MSF)
• You can raise money for MSF. A protective suits costs £16.41, goggles £5.15, mask 67p, apron £4.05, gloves £2.66, boots £9.22
• You can work or volunteer for us when you are older
More on MSF:

Website: [www.msf.org.uk](http://www.msf.org.uk)

Facebook: [facebook.com/msf.english](http://facebook.com/msf.english)

Schools resources: [http://www.msf.org.uk/schools-resources](http://www.msf.org.uk/schools-resources)

Upcoming events: [msf.org.uk/events](http://msf.org.uk/events)