

October 9,
2015

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Almost over? World goes first week without new Ebola cases



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There wasn't a single new case of Ebola detected in the three countries hardest hit by Ebola last week – the first time that's happened since March 2014, the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) said Wednesday.

That's good news, but it doesn't mean the Ebola outbreak has officially ended just yet.

"However, over 500 contacts remain under follow-up in Guinea, and several high-risk contacts associated with active and recently active chains of transmission in Guinea and Sierra Leone have

been lost to follow-up. There remains a near-term risk of further cases," the WHO said.

There have been fewer than 10 new cases a week in the past 11 weeks, and Sierra Leone has had no new Ebola cases in the past three weeks. Compare that to the height of the outbreak, when hundreds of new cases were reported in each of the three nations every week.

Liberia was declared Ebola-free for the second time in early September, which meant the country had gone 42 days without a case in the country, [Reuters reported](#). Liberia was previously announced Ebola-free in May, but new cases were reported several weeks later. Doctors suspect those new cases came from sexual contact with an Ebola survivor.

After Ebola

Once the Ebola epidemic is officially over, Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone will still have to a lot of work to do to recover.

The presidents of the three nations [told the United Nations General Assembly](#) last week the outbreak took a heavy toll on their countries. They thanked the international community for its support, and asked for continued work to plan for future outbreaks.

"Weak public health systems in individual countries threaten global health and well-being," Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said, according to the UN. "It is not beyond this body to find answers and respond, and we know that we must."

'Its wounds run unimaginably deep'

Ebola survivor and freelance journalist Ashoka Mukpo recently asked the world not to forget Ebola victims, who need still need medical, psychosocial and economic support.

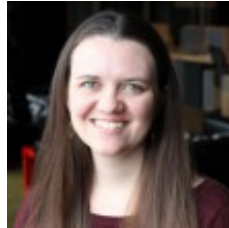
"The world has mostly moved on from Ebola," Mukpo [wrote on Al Jazeera America's website](#). "But for survivors in West Africa, the outbreak's effects are still fresh, and some of its wounds run unimaginably deep."

In Dallas, Louise Troh, the fiancée of Ebola victim Thomas Eric Duncan, recently [talked to Texas television station KXAS](#) about the year since Duncan died at a Dallas hospital and what her family has been through.

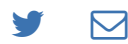
"Right now, I'm living with my hurt. I'm living with my pain. I'm living with my nightmares," Troh told the station. "You won't even imagine. If you fall asleep and just open your eyes, it's like right there. It doesn't go away."

More than 28,000 people have been sickened by Ebola and more than 11,000 have died since the start of the outbreak, [according to the WHO](#).

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