

# Ebola treatment centres battling to contain outbreak

West Africa's overstretched Ebola treatment centres are at the heart of efforts to contain the worst-ever outbreak of the virus, staffed by dedicated healthcare workers and medical volunteers, and providing care and support to patients infected with or suspected of having the deadly disease

**1 Triage:** People arriving at treatment centre are examined by medical staff and divided into high or low risk groups

**2 Low-probability ward** Patients who may not have Ebola wait here – for hours or days – until tests reveal if they are infected

**3 High-probability ward** Patients wait here for test results if their symptoms suggest they have already contracted Ebola

**4 Ebola ward:** Patients with Ebola are cared for here until they die or recover. Although Ebola has no cure, supportive care can increase chances of survival

**5 Mortuary:** Bodies remain highly infectious and are stored until they can be buried nearby

**Double fence:** Makes touching impossible so visitors cannot be infected

**Entrance:** For people suspected of having Ebola

Patients who feel strong enough can walk outside

Shower/toilet for patient use

Everyone follows strict paths along marked routes to contain virus

## Staff entrance

Staff put on protective clothing before entering clinic. They work in pairs to check on and assist each other

## Staff exit

Protective clothing taken off slowly and carefully to prevent infection

## Patient exit

Patients clear of Ebola and those who have recovered may leave clinic. They first disinfect themselves and receive new clothes

Decontamination shower

**Direct entry:** Patients who are definitely known to be infected go directly to Ebola ward on arrival, without going through triage

## Protective clothing

Equipment includes two pairs of gloves – in case one layer is perforated – two masks, goggles, thick boots and heavy apron on top of full-body overalls. Some items can be reused after being disinfected, but masks and overalls are incinerated

