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The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

My name is Katarína Polomská and I am the leader of The World Health Organization. We are writing to you because of a matter of the utmost importance that has caught the attention of every person in the world. We believe you will consider our proposal.

The matter we are so concerned about is the Ebola virus. It is a threat to lives of people all over the world. The outbreak of this virus in African countries such as Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Nigeria are of the greatest urgency. Not only it is our human responsibility to treat and cure the infected ones but, also to stop this virus from spreading from person to person around the world.

My organization, The World Health Organization (WHO) is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. We are

responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends. (World Health Organization. “About WHO”. Par 1. *World Health Organization*. Web. 2014)

The WHO also supports and promotes health research. Through the WHO, governments can jointly tackle global health problems and improve people’s well-being. Our membership consists of 193 countries and two associate members.

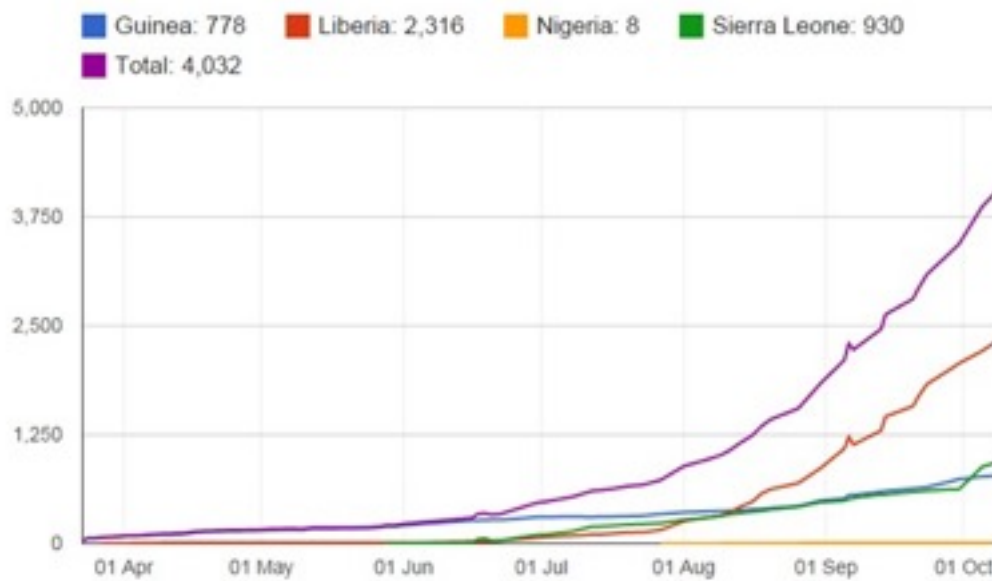
Ever since the creation of the United Nations, the diplomats saw that a global health organization should be set up. The WHO’s Constitution finally came into force on 7 April 1948 – a date we now celebrate every year as World Health Day. (World Health Organization. *Working for Health: An Introduction to World Health Organization*. 2007)

We want to maintain health in the world and help fight every disease and virus outbreak before it continues to kill innocent people such as the existing Ebola virus outbreak.

The Ebola virus is a bleeder and a real attention grabber. Any virus that can transform body organs into bloody pools of wasted flesh in a matter of days deservedly achieves a sort of fearful notoriety. Classified as a Level Four biohazard, Ebola kills nine out of ten victims, a record matched by few microbes (Richard Preston called the virus “a slate wiper”). (Nikiforuk, Andrew. “The Fourth Horseman: a short history of plagues, scourges and emerging viruses.” *Ebola’s apprentices: Emerging viruses*. Toronto: Penguin Books, 1996. 231. Print.)

The outbreak has gone out of control. According to the Business Insider, if nothing changes in the way patients are treated, 1.4 million Ebola cases are expected by Jan. 20, 2015. (Brodwin, Erin. “12 Alarming Facts about the Ebola Crisis.” *Business Insider*. September 25, 2014.)

Graph: Cumulative deaths up to 8 October.



(“Ebola: Mapping the outbreak.” *BBC News*. October 10, 2014.)

According to the graph above, from the beginning of the outbreak in April up to October the 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 we recorded 4032 deaths in total. However, we estimate the true number of deaths being 4x higher as not all of the patients are treated in hospitals.

The Centers for Disease Control reported that infections are doubling every 20 days in Liberia and Sierra Leone, and worst-case projections will reach well into the millions. In West Africa right now, according to CDC statistics, for every person infected with Ebola, two close contacts acquires it. That’s a recipe for disaster there, especially when combined with fruit bats spreading the virus to other regions and

other countries on the African continent. (Siegel, Marc. "Ebola and AIDS: A tale of Two Viruses." *New York Post*. October 2, 2014)

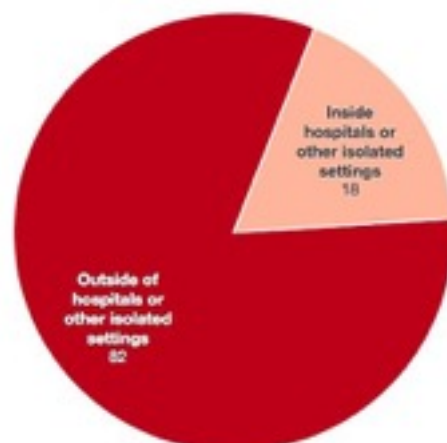
The WHO Assistant Director-General Bruce Aylward said the death rate, which had been estimated at about half of those who become infected, has risen to about 70%. Aylward said there have been about 1,000 new cases reported per week over the last month. (Bacon, John. "WHO: New Ebola cases could reach 10,000 per week." *USA Today*. October 14, 2014. )

For people who are unfortunate enough to become infected with Ebola or Marburg, there is not very much that medicine can do to cure them. The only thing that can be done for them is to give them intensive supportive care, as they usually become dehydrated and need intravenous fluids. (Department of Human Biology, Stanford University. "Ebola Management and Therapy." *Tara's Ebola Site*. Stanford University, 1999. Web. 1999. )

Graph 2: 82%: The percentage of Ebola patients in Liberia who are being cared for outside hospitals or other isolated settings necessary to reduce the risk of transmission. To stop the epidemic from spreading further, this number needs to be 30% or lower.

(Brodwin, Erin. "12 Alarming Facts about the Ebola Crisis." *Business Insider*. September 25, 2014)

Where Liberian Ebola patients are being cared for (%)



The WHO is doing its best in treating the victims every way possible. We provide as many patients as possible with care. However, as indicated in the graph, it is not enough, there are still 82% of sick individuals who are not being nursed in hospitals. Moreover, at this time, we can't even cure those individuals because the researches haven't yielded any approved vaccination.

We can't allow the virus to spread and continue killing humans. In the 21st century we should no longer be ignorant to problems in foreign countries. In this particular crisis, the nations must come together and support each other because the Ebola virus outbreak happening at this moment in Liberia, may tomorrow become a catastrophe in the United States and across the world.

This is why we are addressing you, Mr. President. The world is facing an unprecedented outbreak of the Ebola virus and the longer we wait to find a vaccine and drug treatments, the more people will be infected, the more people will suffer, the more the virus will spread and the more people will die. The researchers and scientists in numerous medical facilities of the WHO organization are working diligently and continuously to develop an Ebola vaccine and drug treatments to treat the disease caused by the infection of this virus. However, medical research funding has suffered tremendously in the past few years and we need your help and financial support by providing financial aid to medical facilities to quickly find a vaccine and drug treatments for this virus. With your generous donation of at least \$400 million to the institutes of research of the WHO, the scientists are more likely to obtain the remedy more quickly. We understand that there are many other issues whose solution is dependent on your funding nevertheless, the Ebola virus should be treated as the number one global health priority. We need to take action now in order to prevent this

virus from spreading at an alarming rate around the world. Your donation is crucial in this matter and lives of people all around the world depend on your sense of responsibility and compassion.

Mr. President, the world is facing an unprecedented outbreak of the Ebola virus which deserves the full attention of every world leader. Every day as many as 121 people die because of this dreadful virus. (Fofana, Umaru; Bavier, Joe; and Oatis, Jonathan.

“Sierra Leone records 121 Ebola deaths in a single day.” *Reuters*. Oct 5, 2014.) Every minute the health case workers risk their lives while treating the victims. Therefore, we are confident that you will act in good faith and provide financial funding to help us find a vaccine, drug treatments and most of all help end the suffering and deaths by preventing the spread of the Ebola virus from person to person all around the world.

We must act immediately, because it is our future that is at stake.

Thank You for making the right choice.

Yours faithfully,

Katarína Polomská

CEO WHO

(World Health Organization)

## Bibliography

- Brodwin, Erin. "12 Alarming Facts about the Ebola Crisis." *Business Insider*.

September 25, 2014.

<<http://www.businessinsider.com/scary-ebola-facts-and-numbers-2014-9>>

In this article published in *Business Insider* Brodwin focuses on presenting the alarming numbers of the Ebola virus outbreak. His purpose is to make people of the 1<sup>st</sup> countries aware of the frightening rate at which people are dying from this virus or how are they being treated. He also provides graphs about the survival percentage of health workers in Africa. He supports his point by showing projections of the cases yet to come. He comments on what impact will the Ebola virus leave on the already low economies of affected countries. He claims it will drop drastically and all the progress the country has been making will be lost. We used a citation from this article to point out the daunting face of the Ebola crisis in numbers. It also helped us to stress the necessity of donation to the WHO laboratories.

- Siegel, Marc. "Ebola and AIDS: A tale of Two Viruses." *New York Post*. October 2, 2014.

Dr. Marc K. Siegel is an associate professor of medicine at NYU Langone Medical Center and a *Fox News* medical correspondent. His article published in *New York Post* writes about the common characteristics of two major viruses who have taken many lives- the HIV virus and Ebola virus. The author comments on how the Ebola virus spreads and specifies the reasons why it kills with ease- he blames poor sanitation conditions and public-health practices. Dr. Siegel also describes the history of the HIV virus and how its spreads. His article focuses on reassuring the masses of the US citizens that the Ebola virus doesn't spread without the victim being aware of

catching it as the symptoms are easily recognisable, whereas a person can be infected by the HIV virus without knowing it or even realising it for a longer period of time. I used a citation from this article because it writes on the death rate of the patients infected with the Ebola virus and it supports the main goal of the WHO- stop the virus.

- Bacon, John. “WHO: New Ebola cases could reach 10,000 per week.” *USA Today*. October 14, 2014.

This article from *USA Today* summarises the statements of the WHO Assistant Director-General Bruce Aylward and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director Thomas Frieden on the Ebola crisis. Aylward comments on the still-rising death rate and describes the procedures that the WHO plans to stop the virus from spreading. Frieden states the information on the US suspected cases of the Ebola virus. He reports on the condition and readiness of the US hospitals to treat Ebola patients and what measures must be taken to ensure that the healthcare would be ready to fight this virus. This citation confirms the justification of our proposal by showing the terrible numbers the Ebola crisis is presenting itself with.

- Department of Human Biology, Stanford University. “Ebola Management and Therapy.” *Tara’s Ebola Site*. Stanford University, 1999. Web. 1999.  
<<https://web.stanford.edu/group/virus/filo/management.html>>
- Fofana, Umaru; Bavier, Joe; and Oatis, Jonathan. “Sierra Leone records 121 Ebola deaths in a single day.” *Reuters*. Oct 5, 2014. <<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/05/health-ebola-leone-idUSL6N0S014W20141005>>
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