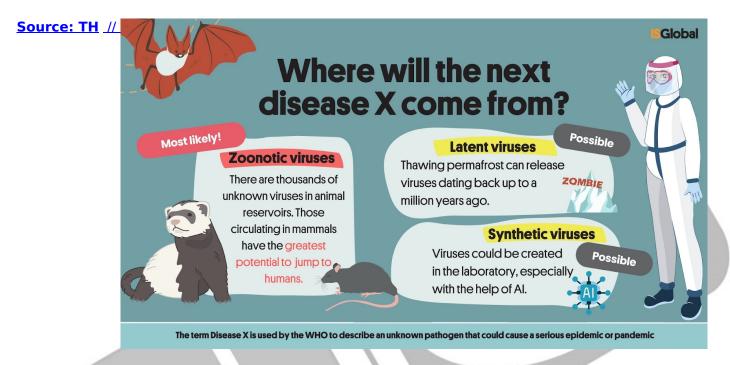


## Disease X



A December 2024 outbreak in the <u>Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)</u>, causing over 400 deaths, raises concerns about **Disease X**.

## **About Disease X:**

- Definition: A hypothetical term by WHO in 2018 for an unknown pathogen capable
  of triggering a global pandemic, highlighting the need for preparedness against emerging
  diseases.
- Origins: Emerged after the 2014-2016 West African Ebola epidemic.
- Sources: Can originate from viruses, bacteria, parasites, fungi, or prions. Over 300 emerging diseases since 1940, 70% zoonotic.
- Risk Factors: High biodiversity regions, weak healthcare (e.g., Congo Basin), global connectivity, zoonotic spillovers, deforestation, agriculture, antimicrobial resistance, bioterrorism, lab accidents, and <u>climate change</u> complicate predictions.

## Mitigation:

- Strengthened surveillance, healthcare systems, and platforms like <u>CEPI</u> are vital for rapid detection and response.
- Global cooperation, equitable access to resources, and frameworks like WHO's pathogen list,
   Pandemic Treaty, and Nagoya Protocol are essential for preparedness.

## DRC:

■ The DRC is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest country in Africa and the 11th largest in the world.



Read More: Future Pandemic Preparedness And Emergency Response

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