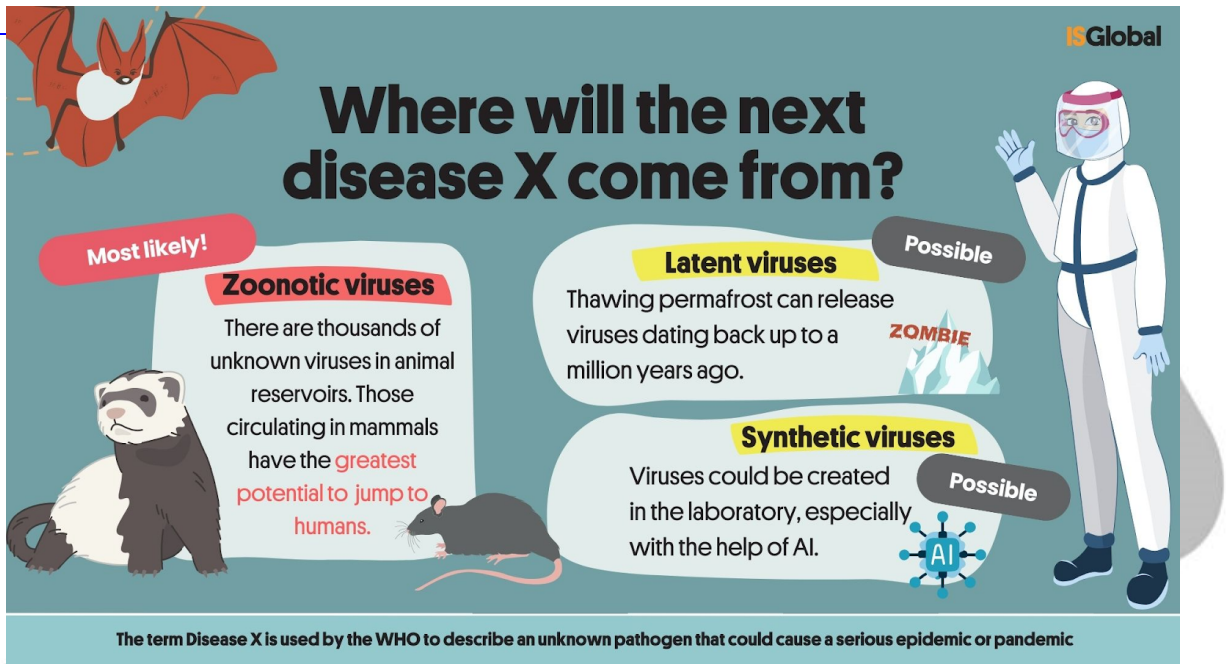




Disease X

Source: TH //



A December 2024 outbreak in the [Democratic Republic of Congo \(DRC\)](#), 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 **climate change** complicate predictions.

Mitigation:

- Strengthened surveillance, healthcare systems, and platforms like [CEPI](#) 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 **2nd largest country in Africa** and the **11th largest in the world**.



Read More: [Future Pandemic Preparedness And Emergency Response](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/disease-x>

