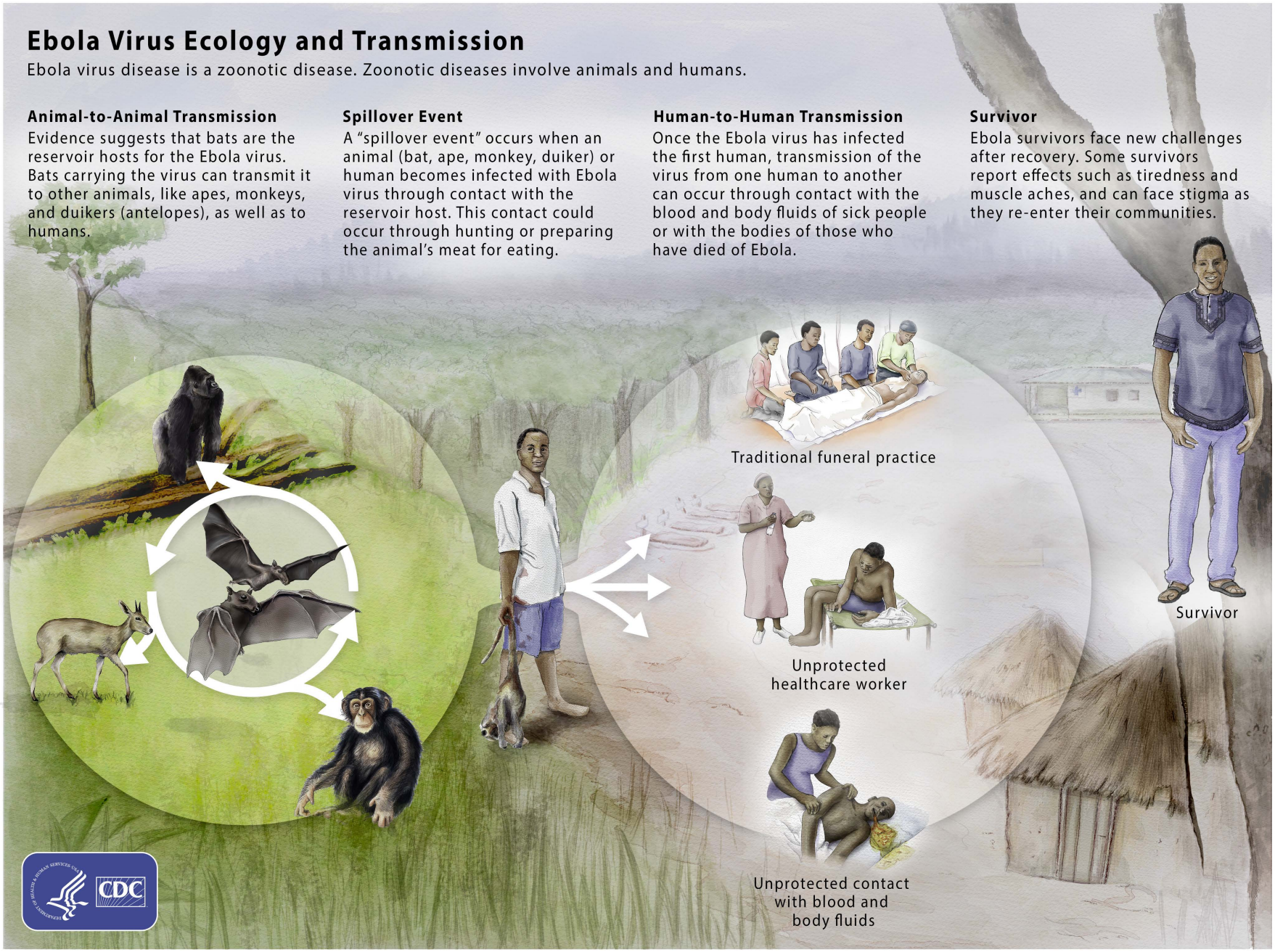
# Ebola Virus Ecology and Transmission

Ebola virus disease is a zoonotic disease. Zoonotic diseases involve animals and humans.

**Animal-to-Animal Transmission**
Evidence suggests that bats are the reservoir hosts for the Ebola virus. Bats carrying the virus can transmit it to other animals, like apes, monkeys, and duikers (antelopes), as well as to humans.

**Spillover Event**
A "spillover event" occurs when an animal (bat, ape, monkey, duiker) or human becomes infected with Ebola virus through contact with the reservoir host. This contact could occur through hunting or preparing the animal's meat for eating.

**Human-to-Human Transmission**
Once the Ebola virus has infected the first human, transmission of the virus from one human to another can occur through contact with the blood and body fluids of sick people or with the bodies of those who have died of Ebola.

**Survivor**
Ebola survivors face new challenges after recovery. Some survivors report effects such as tiredness and muscle aches, and can face stigma as they re-enter their communities.