

EPIDEMIC IMPACT: THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OF EBOLA

Once an outbreak becomes an epidemic, the costs—both human and financial—on health systems are extensive and debilitating.

EBOLA VIRUS: WEST AFRICA, 2014

The 2014 outbreak of the Ebola virus in West Africa was one of the most devastating epidemics in modern history. Claiming more than 11,000 lives over the course, the epidemic was over 11x larger than all other outbreaks of the virus combined.

The effects of this epidemic can be seen across the financial sector, both in affected counties and around the globe.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/outbreaks/2014-west-africa/case-counts.html>



**GROWTH
AND GDP**



**FOREIGN
INVESTMENT**



**AGRICULTURE
SECURITY**



**OVERALL
FUNCTION**

With such a high case-fatality rate, Sierra Leone's private sector lost half of its work force. Based on calculations from the World Bank, in 2015 there was a loss of more than \$2.2 billion in GDP in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

By the end of the 2015 fiscal year, more than \$3.6 billion was spent in humanitarian response to the epidemic by the US government, European counterparts, the United Nations WFP, and the World Bank.

During critical food instability caused by the epidemic, the Office of Food for Peace at USAID provided \$121,871,441 in food assistance and the World Food Programme provided 1.3 million people with meals.

The Ebola epidemic also impacted many other financial factors in affected countries, including limiting travel, overloading hospital budgets, and decreasing robustness of delivery of health services in affected areas.

Sources: <https://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/pdf/cost-ebola-infographic.pdf>;
https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1866/west_africa_fs07_01-21-2016.pdf



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