

Ebola



All facts correct as of October 15 2014

Ebola

1. The facts
2. The epidemic
3. Risk implications
4. Prevention and control
5. What not to do
6. What companies can do
7. Information resources

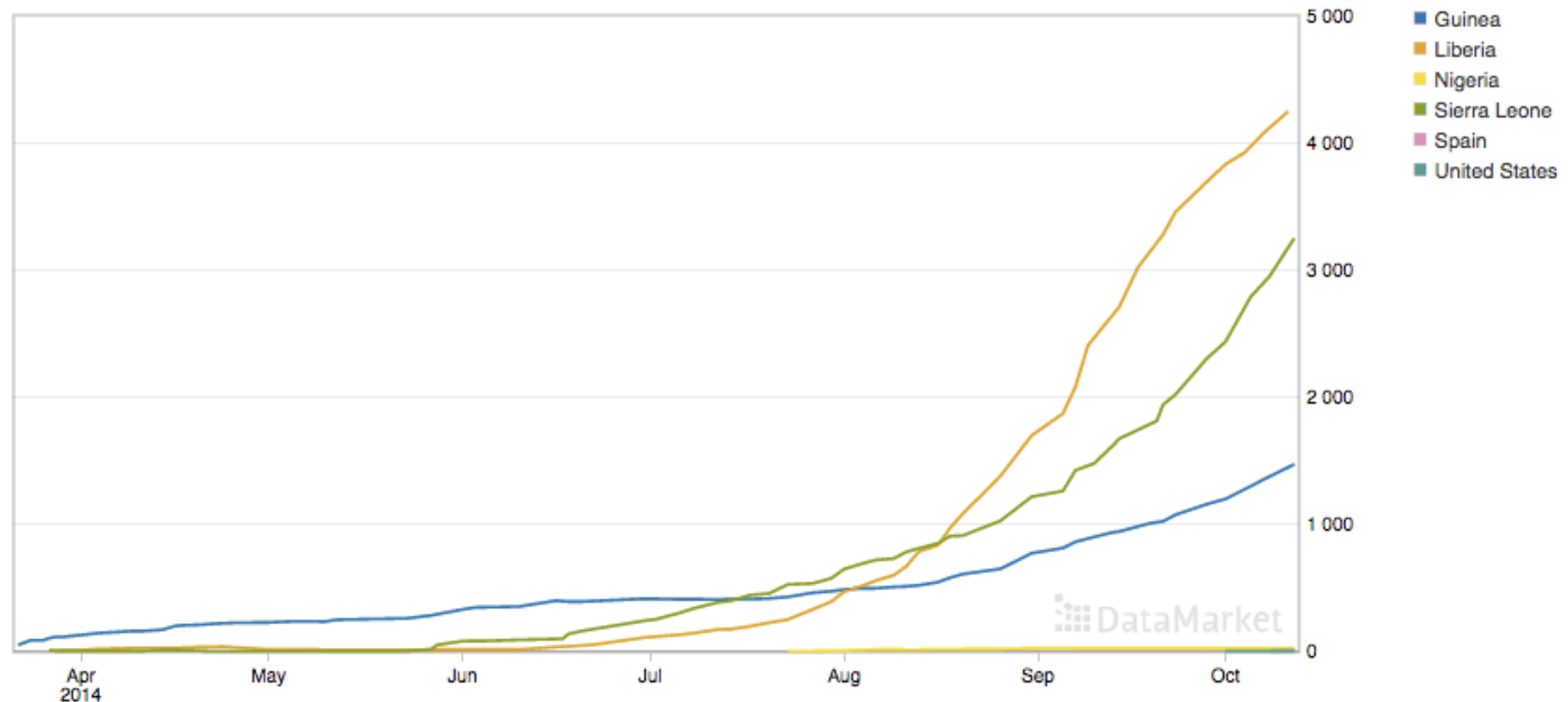
1. Ebola – the facts

- Severe, often fatal: average case fatality rate is around 50%
- Spreads through human-to-human transmission
- The patient is only contagious when displaying symptoms
- Early care, rehydration and treating symptoms improves survival
- There is no licensed treatment; a range of drugs are in development
- There are no licensed vaccines; two potential candidates are under evaluation
- **Community engagement is key to controlling outbreaks successfully.**

2. The epidemic

Case counts and deaths from the World Health Organization and WHO situation reports

Indicator: Cases Units: People



Source: Caitlin Rivers (citing: World Health Organization)

[Show detailed information](#)

2. The epidemic

Case count map

Category: Cases Date: 11 Oct 2014 Units: Various



Source: The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in West & Central Africa

[Show detailed information](#)

2. The epidemic

The difference a month makes

“The total number of Ebola cases could rise to **20,000**... It is a scale that I think has not ever been anticipated in terms of an Ebola outbreak”

- WHO Assistant DG, 28 August 2014

“Infections from the Ebola epidemic in Liberia and Sierra Leone could reach **1.4 million cases** by mid-January unless the global community mounts a rapid response...”

- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 23 September 2014

3. Risk implications

“Ebola threatens to become a political crisis that could unravel years of effort to stabilise West Africa. The hardest-hit countries now face widespread chaos and, potentially, collapse. Adding social breakdown to the epidemic would create disaster perhaps impossible to manage.

...The Ebola epidemic has exposed citizens’ lack of trust in their governments and the grave potential for deep unrest in these already fragile societies, [where] past civil conflicts fuelled by local and regional antagonisms could resurface.

Citizens are understandably terrified and increasingly desperate.

...Frustration with the governments’ poor management of the crisis could trigger other grievances that political opponents could easily exploit.

Source: International Crisis Group *Statement on Ebola and Conflict in West Africa*,
23 Sep 2014

3. Risk implications

Contributing factors

- Weak, post-conflict states
- Outbreak began in border regions with dense, mobile populations
- Weak or effectively nonexistent health systems
 - Before the epidemic Liberia had 45 doctors for 4.5 million people
 - Half of all health centres have now been closed due to lack of medical staff
 - Lack of beds, wards facilities and consumables
 - Corruption and misappropriation of funds
 - Current lack of a vaccine
- Poor initial international response – now improving
 - “WHO’s African regional office isn’t staffed with the most capable people but with political appointees” – Prof. Peter Piot, Ebola discoverer, 4 Oct 2014

4. Prevention & control

Community engagement is key to successfully controlling outbreaks.

Reduce human transmission by telling people about risk, and what they can do to avoid it



4. Prevention & control

Who's most at risk?

During an outbreak, those at higher risk of infection are:

- Health workers
- Family members or others in close contact with infected people
- Mourners who have direct contact with bodies as part of burial ceremonies.

4. Prevention & control

What to do?

- Avoid contact with people with symptoms, especially their bodily fluids
- Wear gloves and protective equipment when taking care of ill patients
- Wash hands regularly after visiting or caring for patients
- Bury the dead safely
- Dispose of contaminated items safely.

4. Prevention & control

Containing an outbreak

- Identify people who may have been in contact with someone infected (“contact tracing”); monitor their health for 21 days
- Separate healthy from sick to prevent further spread
- Keep good hygiene; maintain a clean environment
- Follow safe hunting, butchering & eating practices to avoid wildlife-to-human transmission.

TRAVEL TO AND FROM EBOLA-AFFECTED COUNTRIES IS LOW-RISK HERE IS WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



WHILE TRAVELLING

If you develop a fever and Ebola symptoms yourself promptly inform airline personnel.



fever, weakness, muscle pain, headache, and sore throat; followed by vomiting, diarrhoea, bleeding.

Alert airline personnel about a fellow traveller who has Ebola symptoms:



AT AIRPORTS AND AT YOUR DESTINATION

DO NOT touch the body of a person who has died from Ebola.



Use alcohol rub throughout the day. When hands are visibly dirty use soap and water.



Seek prompt medical attention if you have Ebola symptoms.



Avoid direct physical contact with anyone who is displaying the symptoms of Ebola.



World Health Organization

5. What not to do

- Don't panic
- Don't evacuate all expat staff and leave local staff in place
- Don't give cash sums for emergency aid
- Don't develop strategy alone
- Don't jeopardise your social licence. Or your actual one.

6. What companies can do



- Follow outbreak news from trusted sources: keep abreast of the epidemic and associated risks
- Talk to your people: educate staff and local communities
- Build an internal process map to identify potential health risks intrinsic to the business, with clear, workable protocols
- Assign clearly-demarcated areas of health responsibility within the company looking at all aspects of risk; start modeling scenarios
- Help create an environment where reporting personal health issues & movement is seen as a proactive, collaborative process
- Keep in constant communication with health authorities & other trusted agents (e.g. NGOs such as MSF) – ask them what they need from you and provide it
- Provide/upgrade infrastructure, particularly water & sanitation
- Keep your promises
- Boost local health systems through donations – equipment, capacity and skills; transport, land and time.

7. Information resources



Social mobilisation: key messages (WHO/UNICEF)

<http://www.csr21.org/news/citizenship/whounicef-ebola-guidance>

WHO Ebola messages for general public

<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/messages/en/>

WHO Ebola website

<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en/>

Hard data for the outbreak

<https://github.com/cmrrivers/ebola>