

Ebola Virus Disease

What's the primary pathology?

Current state

- Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Nigeria
- September 18
 - 5,347 affected
 - 2,630 dead

Background

- First identified and reported in 1976 (Sudan and DRC)
- Formerly known as Ebola Haemorrhagic Fever
- Five types or species:
 - Zaire
 - Bundibugyo
 - Sudan
 - Reston
 - Taï Forest
- The first three have been associated with large outbreaks in Africa.
- The current outbreak is due to the Zaire species

Background

- First identified and reported in 1976
- Formerly known as Ebola Haemorrhagic Fever
- Since 1976, 24 reports of outbreaks

Year	Country	Cases	Deaths	Case fatality
2007	Uganda	149	37	25%
2007	Democratic Republic of Congo	264	187	71%
2003	Congo	143	128	90%
2000	Uganda	425	224	53%
1995	Democratic Republic of Congo	315	254	81%
1976	Sudan	284	151	53%
1976	Democratic Republic of Congo	318	280	88%

Source and Transmission

- Fruitbats primary natural reservoir
- Introduced into the human population through close contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected animals
- Human-to-human transmission via direct contact with infected blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids
- People remain infectious as long as their blood and body fluids, including semen and breast milk, contain the virus.
 - can be for up to 7 weeks after recovery

Characteristics

- Incubation period: 2 – 21 days
- Highly symptomatic
- Not infectious until symptomatic
- No human carrier state
- No approved drugs or vaccines

Not an ideal candidate for an **outbreak** turning into an **epidemic**

Why then are we confronted with an Ebola epidemic in West Africa?

Does the answer lie not in the pathology of the disease but in the pathology of our society and the global political and economic architecture?

Social Pathologies

Poverty

- Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone are 175, 179 and 183, respectively, out of 187 countries on the UN's Human Development Index

Social Pathologies

Wealth

- A region of massive colonisation and exploitation
 - Biofuels and cash crops
 - Timber
 - Diamonds, iron, oil and other minerals
- Conflict
- Inequality

Liberia has highest FDI: GDP ratio in the world

Farm Lands of Guinea Ltd

Nuove Iniziative Industriali

Firestone Rubber Company

BHP Billiton

ArcelorMittal

Sime Darby

Golden Veroleum

Social Pathologies

- Weak (but not absent) health systems
- Since the current Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone, 450+ deaths
 - 3000 malaria, diarrhoea and other infections
 - 670 TB
 - 650 meningitis

Structural adjustment

Brain drain more doctors born in Liberia and Sierra Leone work in OECD countries than in their home countries

Wasted opportunity of 'golden era'

Knock-on effects

In Monrovia, all five main hospitals were closed at one point ...

Economic effects

Fear and mistrust

Social Pathologies

A compromised WHO

Philanthrocapitalism

1. Application of business thinking, techniques and tools to philanthropy
 - entrepreneurial
 - ‘muscular’
 - donor or funder = investor: returns on investment expected
 - measurable outputs and deliverables
 - explicit use of ‘elite power’ and elite networks; and associated with ‘celanthropy’ and the ‘celebrification’ of politics, aid and development



Philanthrocapitalism

2. Application of competition and the market to the non-profit sector as a whole
 - Corporatisation and commercialisation of NGOs and charities

3. The commercialisation and marketisation of poverty reduction / environmental protection / humanitarianism
 - Capitalism and self-interest will solve poverty and climate change
 - Cause-related marketing
 - Solutions that can be commoditised

Philanthrocapitalism

4. Structural changes to the world of philanthropy

Hybridisation / Blurring of boundaries / capture ?

Joint ventures

- UN - Global Compact
- GHPs
- CSR
- BINGOs