

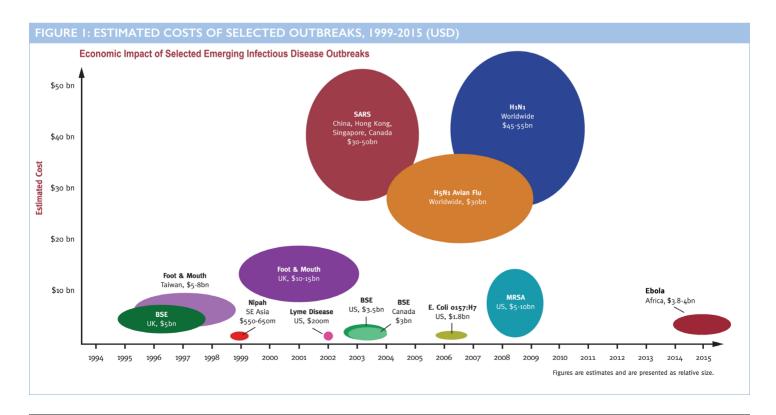
## Preparedness&Response

ONE HEALTH IN ACTION

# THE BUSINESS CASE FOR PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE TO PANDEMICS, EPIDEMICS & OUTBREAKS

ith the rise of globalization and with increasingly interconnected value chains, the economic costs of epidemics and infectious disease outbreaks are far reaching. The impacts range from macroeconomic destabilization in affected and non-affected countries to worksite operational disruptions. In emerging markets, weak institutions, poor infrastructure and governance, and under-resourced public health systems contribute to the threat of emerging infectious disease (EID) outbreaks. Companies operating in these environments must consider

on-site risks and vulnerabilities along supply chains, as EIDs and other disease outbreaks can jeopardize operations and, ultimately, the bottom line. The private sector has an important role to play not only in internal risk mitigation, but as a leading partner in strategic preparedness and effective response to epidemics and infectious disease outbreaks. Adopting risk mitigation measures contributes to the resiliency of a company but also serves to strengthen the systems supporting the local operating environment.



#### **BUSINESS COSTS OF A LARGE-SCALE OUTBREAK**

Companies should consider the direct and indirect impacts of a large-scale outbreak and where they are most vulnerable. Disruptions across operations can have material impacts on a company's bottom line.

## KEY AREAS OF IMPACT ON BUSINESS OPERATIONS

### ► WORKFORCE AND SOCIAL Increased labor costs due to:

- Illness, loss of life, absenteeism
- ◆ Paid sick and stay-at-home leave
- Hardship payments
- Decreased productivity
- Disruption of morale and stressed labor relations
- Remote management
- Increased health screenings
- Possible negative press
- Deterioration of local labor or community relations

# ► ENVIRONMENT HEALTH & SAFETY (EHS) / OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY (OHS) Increased out-of-pocket medical expenses such as:

- Additional labor costs
- Medical infrastructure (ex. isolation centers, Ebola treatment units)
- Medical supplies and personal protective equipment
- Evacuations

#### **LOGISTICS**

- Increase in time to and cost of import and export
- Suspension of goods and services from international suppliers; increase in reliance on domestic sources
- Increase in the domestic shipping costs
- Travel uncertainty

#### **▶ PROCUREMENT**

- Increase input costs
- Increased risk to business operations due to the use of inferior goods and services
- Increase in non-business-related procurement (e.g. personal protective equipment, hand sanitizer)

#### LEGAL & INSURANCE

Increased legal and insurance costs

#### **FINANCE**

- Increased cost of borrowing
- Limited availability of loans, reduced banking hours, closure of bank branches, and limited access to foreign exchange
- Delayed or suspended funding from investors

#### **BOTTOM LINE IMPACT AREAS**

#### **▶** PRODUCTION

- Oil, gas, and mining companies may be forced to slow-down or shut-down operations
- Large-scale outbreaks may reduce cash reserves and undermine a company's ability to withstand external shocks (e.g. downturn in commodity prices)

#### **▶ INVESTMENT**

- Increased operational costs and risks may require postponing investments
- This will impact a company indirectly, vis-a-vis foregone revenue

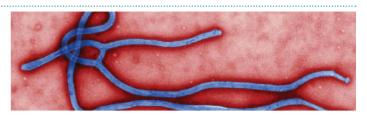
#### CORPORATE REPUTATION / SOCIAL LICENSE TO OPERATE

 Companies operating in affected areas will be placed under scrutiny based on their response

#### THE BOTTOM LINE:

Large-scale outbreaks can significantly impact the operational and financial health of a company





**SNAPSHOT:** West Africa's outbreak of the Ebola Virus that began in 2014 quickly escalated to an international humanitarian and socioeconomic crisis. Weak institutions, poor infrastructure, and lack of capacity and resources within the local and national public health systems contributed to the crisis. The outbreak caused significant disruptions in national and international trade and decreased economic activity at the industry and the firm level.

**INDUSTRIES AFFECTED:** Mining, oil & gas (onshore & offshore), agribusiness, construction, transport & logistics.

#### **EXAMPLES OF EBOLA'S IMPACT** ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

#### **GUINEA**

- ◆ Rio Tinto suspended construction on \$20 billion Simandou iron ore mine project
- ◆ Guinea Alumina Corporation postponed \$5 billion bauxite project
- ◆ RUSAL, the Russian-owned bauxite company, repatriated 50% of its foreign staff

#### **LIBERIA**

UNINIE VI

& GAS

- ◆ Australian iron-ore company Tawana Resources suspended all non-essential activities and sent home many African and foreign
- ◆ ArcelorMittal delayed \$1.7 billion mine expansion as its major subcontractors declared force majeure and withdrew
- ◆ Aureus Mining delayed the New Liberty commercial gold mining project.

#### **SIERRA LEONE**

◆ London Mining filed for bankruptcy due to the drop in iron ore prices and after failing to secure financing during the Ebola crisis

#### **LIBERIA**

- ◆ ExxonMobil delayed the startup of its first offshore Liberia exploration well. The project was planned to start in late-2014 at offshore Liberia Block 13, but was pushed back because of "safety, health and logistical issues related to Ebola." In October 2014, ExxonMobil began prohibiting non-essential staff from traveling to countries hit by the Ebola outbreak
- ◆ Tullow Oil accelerated its existing plan to relinquish its licenses and pull out of Liberia and Sierra Leone

#### **GUINEA**

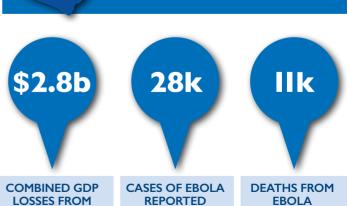


#### LIBERIA



#### SIERRA LEONE





**REPORTED** 

#### **ROLE OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE**

The private sector has unique resources, competencies, and capabilities to prevent, prepare, and respond to EIDs and other disease threats. In emerging markets, this responsibility goes beyond financial donations; collaboration and coordination of technical skills, physical assets, and outreach are critical in limiting the negative impacts of an infectious disease outbreak.

**KEY TAKEAWAYS** 

## PREVENTION: GOOD BUSINESS PRINCIPLES

Business risk and EHS/OHS processes, already instituted by companies, can provide a good framework to build a plan for outbreak, epidemic, and pandemic risks on the worksite and elsewhere.

# PREPAREDNESS: STRONG PARTNERSHIPS & INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP

With limited public sector resources, industry leaders can play an important role through participation in simulations and trainings, sharing lessons learned, and working with the public sector and NGOs to develop response models that leverage private sector knowledge in areas of expertise (e.g. health and safety, distribution services, construction, and logistics).

## RESPONSE: EXISTING NETWORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE

The private sector has existing accommodation, communication and transportation networks, which can be repurposed quickly to play a critical role in bolstering emergency response systems and continuity of the business operating environment.

#### The costs of emerging infectious diseases are substantial and the next large-scale outbreak is inevitable

- Large-scale outbreaks can disrupt the operational and financial health of a company
- Risk mitigation and business continuity plans should not be limited to operational diligence "inside-the-fence", as large-scale outbreaks have wide-reaching impacts.
- The private sector has unique competencies and capabilities to prevent, prepare, and respond to EIDs, especially in developing countries with limited public sector resources.
- Companies should assess direct and indirect costs of emerging infectious disease and consider the benefits of adopting prevention, preparedness, and response measures.

#### REFERENCES

- I. KPMG. (2015, January 20). In Sickness and Health a Focus on the Business and Economic Impacts of Ebola. *KPMG-Doing Business in Africa*. https://assets.kpmg.com/content/dam/kpmg/pdf/2016/02/Business%20and%20economic%20 impact%20of%20Ebola.pdf
- 2. Gbandia, Silas and Isis Almeida. (2016, January 8). Ebola-Free Sierra Leone Bets on Cocoa to Spark Recovery. *Bloomberg*. http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-01-07/ebola-free-sierra-leone-bets-on-cocoa-as-agriterra-exports-start
- **3.** World Bank Group. (2016, May 10). 2014-2015 West Africa Ebola crisis: impact update. Accessed from http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/297531463677588074/Ebola-Economic-Impactand-Lessons-Paper-short-version.pdf
- **4.** Das, Satayajit. (2016, April 2). How the Cost of Ebola Damaged the Entire African Economy. *The Independent*. http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/how-the-cost-of-eboladamaged- the-entire-african-economy-a6965081.html
- **5.** Marsh, n.d. The economic and social impact of emerging infectious disease: mitigation through

detection, research, and response, s.l.: s.n.

- **6.** World Bank Group. (2016, May 10). 2014-2015 West Africa Ebola crisis: impact update. Accessed from http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/297531463677588074/Ebola-Economic-Impactand-Lessons-Paper-short-version.pdf
- **7.** Aureus Mining 2013. (2015, September 7). New Liberty First gold sales and operations update. Accessed from http://aureus-mining.com/investors/news/latest-news/new-liberty-first-gold-sales-and-operations-update
- **8.**Rebelo, Karen. 2014. (2014, August 8). Update-I Miners battle to keep Ebola at bay in West Africa. Reuters. http://www.reuters.com/article/healthebola-mining-idUSL4N0QE6AB20140808
- **9.** World Bank Group. (2014, September 17). The economic impact of the 2014 Ebola epidemic: short- and medium-term estimates for Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. Accessed from http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/627851468102871113/pdf/907480REVISED.pdf
- 10. World Bank Group. (2015, April 15). Update on the economic impact of the 2014-2015 Ebola epidemic on Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea. Accessed from http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/480751468266708176/

#### pdf/958040WP0OUO9 00e0April I 50Box385458B.pdf

- II. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2014). Socio-economic impacts of the Ebola virus disease on Africa. Accessed from http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/PublicationFiles/eca\_ebola\_report\_final\_eng.pdf
- **12.** Hultman, Tami. (2014, October 7). West Africa: companies fill gaps in Ebola response. *All Africa*. http://allafrica.com/stories/201410072010.html
- **13.** Reguly, Eric. 2015. (2015, June 1). Aureus Mining starts gold production in Liberia in shadow of Ebola crisis. *The Globe and Mail*. http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-onbusiness/ industrynews/energy-and-resources/aureus-mining-starts-gold-production-inliberia- in-shadow-of-ebola-crisis/article24730333/
- **14. IPIECA 2016.** (2016, September). Infectious disease outbreak management: A programme manual for the oil and gas industry. Accessed from www.ipieca.org
- **15.** World Bank Group. (2016, May 10). 2014-2015 West Africa Ebola crisis: impact update. Accessed from http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/297531463677588074/Ebola-Economic-Impactand-Lessons-Paper-short-version.pdf