

THE ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF EBOLA

SIERRA LEONE

RESEARCHERS: Rachel Glennerster (J-PAL) and Tavneet Suri (MIT Sloan)

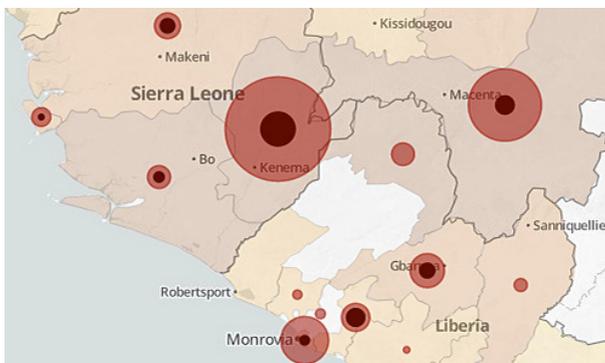
PARTNER ORGANISATION: Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank

LIBERIA

RESEARCHERS: Eric Werker (HBS) and Jonas Hjort (Columbia Business School)

PARTNER ORGANISATION: Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank

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IN BRIEF...

- » Three surveys are being undertaken in Sierra Leone and Liberia to understand the economic impact of the Ebola crisis
- » Focus on food prices, households and firms
- » Findings will be presented to government stakeholders and other donor organisations

The recent outbreak of Ebola in West Africa has generated much speculation about the likely economic impact of the epidemic and the measures taken to control it. However, little of this speculation is based on hard data. In response, the IGC is conducting three surveys in Liberia and Sierra Leone to measure the economic implications of the Ebola crisis.

IGC Sierra Leone and Innovations for Poverty Action are analysing the impact of the Ebola crisis on trade, transport, health system access and trust in the government. IGC's lead researchers, Rachel Glennerster (J-PAL) and Tavneet Suri (MIT Sloan) are conducting a number of household and market surveys and feeding the information back to the Sierra Leonean government.

In a complementary project, Eric Werker (Harvard Business School) and Jonas Hjort (Columbia Business School) are conducting firm level surveys in Liberia, analysing how individual firms are being hit by the epidemic and how they are responding. This includes the effect on workers and the orientation of the firms themselves to potential new business opportunities. The surveys are being carried out by Building Markets, a local NGO, and will feed into individual responses by USAID, the World Bank, the AfDB and other donors.

To build on this project work, the IGC held a press conference during Growth Week 2014 which featured Hon. Minister Axel Addy (Minister of Commerce and Industry, Liberia) and was covered by a large number of journalists, academics and policymakers. In addition, the IGC recorded a series of videos with the Minister and published a number of blog posts by other prominent stakeholders, all of which are available on our website (www.theigc.org).