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Internacional de Servicios Públicos  
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Internationell Facklig Organisation för Offentliga Tjänster  
国際公務労連

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The Ebola crisis in West Africa demonstrates clearly the threat posed to societies as a whole when quality public health systems are absent. The dire consequences of the outbreak must be seen, in general, as symptoms resulting from decades of lack of investments in public sector health systems. PSI's strategy, focussed on a trade union response to the crisis, is available for download.

The human disaster which has unfolded in West Africa following the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) has revealed the structural and systemic weaknesses of the health systems of the countries affected. But not only this, the weaknesses in the health systems of Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone have a direct impact on surrounding countries and even countries much further away, with EVD infections and deaths now reported in the United States and

Spain.

By the end of the third week of October 2014, nearly 5,000 deaths due to EVD have occurred, although many more are suspected. The tragedy has been compounded by the fact that as of 19 October 2014, 416 health care workers had contracted EVD as a result of caring for patients with EVD. Of these health workers, 244 have died ? which means that 5% of all reported EVD deaths in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to date have been health workers.

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