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Press Release

Book that reveals the intricacies behind the Ebola Epidemic.

A new book that aims to shed light on the two-year Ebola epidemic that hit West Africa will be launched on the **December 7th 2017** in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown. The book *Understanding West Africa's Ebola Epidemic: Towards a Political Economy* was edited by Ibrahim Abdullah and Ismail Rashid and was published in October 2017.

From 2013 to 2015, over 11,000 people across West Africa lost their lives to the deadliest outbreak of the Ebola virus in history. Crucially, this epidemic marked the first time the virus was able to spread beyond rural areas to major cities, overturning conventional assumptions about its epidemiology. The book offers a comprehensive critique of the socio-economic issues revealed by the world's deadliest outbreak of the Ebola virus.

The book is published by Zed Books and will be also available for sale as an e-book and paper back from various stores. With backgrounds ranging from development to disease control, the contributors to this book- some of them based in countries affected by the Ebola epidemic - consider the underlying factors that shaped this unprecedented outbreak.

While championing the heroic efforts of local communities and aid workers in halting the spread of the disease, the contributors also reveal deep structural problems in both the countries and humanitarian agencies involved, which hampered the efforts to contain the epidemic.

Alarmingly, they show that little has been learned from these events, with health provision remaining underfunded and poorly equipped to deal with future outbreaks. Such issues, they argue, reflect the wider challenges we face in tackling epidemic disease in an increasingly interconnected world.

Yusuf Bangura, one of the reviewers based at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development UNRISD as a Senior Research Associate, noted that the book is 'A bold, critical and wide-ranging anthology on the Ebola crisis. It will excite everyone interested in understanding why the Ebola viral disease overwhelmed the Mano River Union states.'

Paul Farmer from Harvard Medical School, commented 'This eye-opening volume restores the social history of an epidemic that can't be understood without first acknowledging the economic policies that have impoverished this region. This book should (and I hope will) be read by anyone interested in global health. And that should include all of us.'

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