

**REMARKS BY DR. JIM YONG KIM  
PRESIDENT, WORLD BANK GROUP  
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Mr. Secretary-General, Your Excellencies, Administrator Clark, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It's a pleasure to have the opportunity to join you today, and my regrets that I cannot be with you in person. Our Senior Director for Health, Nutrition and Population, Dr. Tim Evans, is representing me there in New York.

I want to commend the Secretary-General for hosting this important conference.

And I would like to thank President Conde, President Johnson Sirleaf, and President Koroma for their leadership during this crisis. Let me also acknowledge the incredible resilience of the people of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

Today, these three countries face a dual challenge. First, the Ebola epidemic stubbornly continues. We cannot let up on efforts to get to – *and sustain* – zero cases everywhere.

But at the same time, for many people, normal life is resuming, and recovery is already underway.

**Recovery, though, is not enough. With the support of the international community, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone must build back better, stronger, and more strategically than before.**

And one critical area will be helping the countries build back their health care workforce. We released a study yesterday that shows the loss of health workers due to the Ebola epidemic in West Africa could result in an estimated additional 4,000 deaths of women each year across Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone – all because of complications in pregnancy and childbirth. This loss of health workers could push maternal mortality up to rates last seen in these countries a generation ago.

We know that these countries must dramatically increase access to essential, quality health care in even the most remote areas, and bolster the capacity of communities and community health workers to serve as the front line for disease prevention and response. We must strengthen the entire health system to achieve universal coverage and end preventable deaths.

We will help lay the groundwork toward these goals on Monday at the Third International Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa, where the Secretary-General, President Johnson Sirleaf and I will be joined by many of you to launch the **Global Financing Facility for Every Woman Every Child – or GFF**. The GFF will give countries a new model for financing development beyond 2015, aligning and leveraging resources from international donors, the private sector, and domestic resources in innovative ways to accelerate investments in the health of women and children.

We also know that the economic impact of Ebola has been staggering for the three countries, with sharp declines in GDP growth in 2015 and risk projected to persist into 2016. A successful economic recovery will require not only adequate financing, but also economic diversification, improved governance, and stronger public administration.

The World Bank Group is already supporting investments in these critical areas. We announced in April that the World Bank Group has committed at least US\$650 million dollars over the next 12 to 24 months to support recovery and development needs in the three countries.

This amount is in addition to the US\$1 billion dollars that we had previously committed for Ebola emergency response and early recovery efforts

In line with the countries' own recovery plans, we have put our funding into five priority areas: health system strengthening, agriculture, education, cash transfers and other social protection programs, and lifesaving infrastructure such as electricity, water and sanitation, and roads.

Our funds also will be used to help develop a regional disease surveillance system across West Africa to prevent or quickly contain a future epidemic or pandemic.

Ebola showed that the world is woefully unprepared for the next pandemic. Now many experts and policymakers are calling for a faster, more agile and effective response for when the next epidemic strikes.

The World Bank Group is working with WHO and an array of public and private sector partners to develop a global Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility, which will ensure that resources can flow more swiftly in the event of another deadly outbreak. Last month, G7 leaders meeting in Elmau, Germany, asked us to accelerate the design of this facility.

We expect to have the design ready later this year, to inform the G20 and the UN High-Level Panel.

Let me finally conclude by saying this: When the epidemic reached its eighth, ninth and tenth month, I know the leaders in the room will never forget the fear that we had and the sense that this could continue to accelerate and move to other countries. Now, unfortunately, we have lost that sense of urgency in the broader global community. I am here to tell you that, as an infectious disease doctor and as the President of the World Bank Group, we will not forget, we will not lose our focus. We will continue to put everything we have into supporting presidents Conde, Sirleaf, and Koroma, and we have to now, with this opportunity, build a pandemic response capacity that can actually stop the next pandemic. It will require a much stronger and well-resourced WHO around the pandemic issue. It will require building health systems in every country in the world that is capable of responding. It will require pre-arranged agreements with private sector entities, including groups like MSF, who have been such heroes in this response, as well as transport companies, drug companies, and others. And finally, we will have to have ready access to not only hundreds of millions, but billions of dollars in financing, as needed. We estimate that 1980 type flu pandemic outbreak could cost the global economy anywhere from nine to ten percent of global GDP.

That is anywhere from 4.5 to 9 trillion dollars in cost. We will not take our focus off this issue. We will not take our focus off of supporting these three countries.

Thank you, once again, Secretary General, for hosting this very important meeting.

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