# World Bank: world 'dangerously unprepared' for pandemics

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World Bank President Jim Yong Kim warned Tuesday that the world remains "dangerously unprepared" for deadly pandemics like the Ebola outbreak that has killed thousands in West Africa.

"The Ebola outbreak has been devastating in terms of lives lost and the loss of economic growth in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone," Kim said in a speech at Georgetown University in Washington.

"We need to make sure that we get to zero cases in this Ebola outbreak.

"At the same time, we need to prepare for future pandemics that could become far more deadly and infectious than what we have seen so far with Ebola," he said, according to excerpts from his speech.

Kim said that a mix of international organizations like his own, governments, businesses, non-governmental groups and donors need to put more efforts into planning for future possible pandemics, "by building stronger health systems, improved surveillance and chains of supply and transportation, and fast-acting medical response teams."

"We must learn the lessons from the Ebola outbreak because there is no doubt we will be faced with other pandemics in the years to come."

He also said the World Bank and other multilateral groups are working on a concept financial facility aimed partly at encouraging countries to prepare better for disease outbreaks and partly to indemnify them.

"This could work like insurance policies that people understand, like fire insurance," Kim said.

Ebola surfaced in West Africa less than one year ago and has since killed nearly 9,000 people despite intense international efforts to contain it.

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