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Ebola continues to wreck havoc

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Singapore: The deadly Ebola hits the panic button again, but this time in West Africa. Killing over 600, the virus is reigning over three African countries, leaving health experts clueless on a vaccine or a cure.

The World Health Organization reported 68 new fatalities, mostly in Sierra Leone and Liberia recorded between 8 and 12 July. This is the deadliest outbreak of Ebola, since the virus was discovered in 1970.

WHO spokesman, Daniel Epstein said that widespread transmission is occurring in communities. He added that Guinea has alone reported 406 cases with 304 deaths since January.

The WHO and 11 other health experts had held a meeting to brainstorm a solution to stop this menace. Ebola causes hemorrhagic fever that is fatal in 90 percent of the cases. Experts said that the key to halting the spread was quarantining the patients.

Preachers are calling for divine intervention, and panicked residents in remote areas have on multiple occasions attacked the very health workers sent to help them. The local residents believe that the drugs given by health practitioners were killing them.

Healthcare activists are trying to spread awareness in the countryside where literacy is low, through songs.

Guinea airport conducts strict temperature checks for passengers leaving the country. Dr Keiji Fukuda, WHO's assistant

director-general, said that he is hopeful that the situation can be brought under control, with continued efforts of the government and WHO.