

FARAH STOCKMAN

# Ebola outbreak begs the question: Are cities hazardous to health?



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People shop on Sept. 6 in Monrovia's West Point slum.

By **Farah Stockman** | GLOBE STAFF SEPTEMBER 23, 2014

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IN AUGUST of 1976, a teacher in a remote region of what was then called Zaire went touring in the forest with his friends. On the way home, he bought a dead monkey, bush meat he thought his family would eat. He didn't eat it, but he touched it, and that turned out to be a fatal mistake; he developed a fever and abdominal pains. Two weeks later, he was dead. Then the patients and medical staff at the hospital where he'd gone for

treatment began to die. Eleven out of 17 doctors and nurses passed away so quickly that the hospital shut down. Health officials realized they had a

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