There is a great deal of poverty within Western Africa which leads to people doing whatever it takes to survive and provide for their families. This could be in a variety of ways such as mining- this puts them into closer contact with Ebola's natural host, Fruit Bats which dwell in the mines; Logging, both legally and illegally- this causes the animals that live within the forests to move to new habitats, moving them closer to humans which can lead to cross-species contamination; Hunting for food- this increases the probability of a person eating infected bushmeat which leads to an outbreak and was how patient zero, in the Western Africa outbreak, is believed to have become infected.

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