

When Systems Break

Trace how instability can limit essential services.

SS7CG2.a "Describe the impact of government instability on access to education and the distribution of medicine and food to combat diseases and famine across Africa."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each cause linked to government instability. Circle each effect on education, medicine, or food, then number the three kinds of services affected.

Instability and Daily Needs

- ① Government instability happens when leaders, laws, or public services change suddenly or cannot work safely. It can occur during armed conflict, a coup, or a dispute over power. Its effects differ across Africa's many countries and communities. In an unstable area, schools may close when buildings are damaged or when families fear travel. Teachers may flee, go unpaid, or be unable to reach class. Students can lose lessons, safe routines, and chances to take exams.
- ② Instability can also interrupt health care. A clinic may run out of medicines if roads are unsafe, checkpoints delay trucks, or workers leave. Vaccination teams may not reach villages, allowing diseases such as measles or cholera to spread more easily. During the 2014 to 2016 Ebola outbreak in parts of West Africa, weak health systems and fear made it harder to provide regular care. When government services cannot coordinate supplies and staff, preventable illnesses can become more dangerous.
- ③ Food distribution suffers for similar reasons. Farmers may be displaced, markets may shut, and aid convoys may be blocked or attacked. This can leave food in one place while families elsewhere cannot buy or receive it. Drought combined with instability can worsen famine because farming and deliveries are disrupted at the same time. Governments and aid groups can reduce harm by protecting routes, paying health and school workers, and organizing fair distribution. Stable systems help communities plan, respond, and recover.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How can instability keep students from attending school? Give two reasons from the passage.

2 What can happen when unsafe roads, checkpoints, or departing workers interrupt a clinic's work?

3 Explain how instability can make it hard for families to get food.

4 According to the passage, why can drought combined with instability worsen famine?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write 3 or 4 sentences about a fictional community facing government instability. Show one effect on education and one effect on medicine or food, then name one action that could reduce harm.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each cause linked to government instability. Circle each effect on education, medicine, or food, then number the three kinds of services affected. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can instability keep students from attending school? Give two reasons from the passage.	Schools may close because buildings are damaged or families fear travel. Teachers may flee, go unpaid, or be unable to reach class.
2	What can happen when unsafe roads, checkpoints, or departing workers interrupt a clinic's work?	A clinic may run out of medicines, and vaccination teams may not reach villages. Diseases such as measles or cholera can spread more easily.
3	Explain how instability can make it hard for families to get food.	Farmers may be displaced, markets may shut, and aid convoys may be blocked or attacked. Families may not be able to buy or receive food.
4	According to the passage, why can drought combined with instability worsen famine?	Farming and deliveries are disrupted at the same time.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In a fictional district, fighting makes the road to town unsafe. Teachers and health workers cannot travel, so school closes and the clinic runs low on medicine. A food truck is delayed at a checkpoint, leaving families without deliveries. Protecting the road and coordinating workers could help.

Accept equivalent passage-based cause-and-effect explanations. For the open response, accept a plausible fictional example that includes instability, an education effect, a medicine or food effect, and a reasonable action to reduce harm.