

## UNITED ASSISTANCE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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(U) Executive Summary: *There has been no significant reporting in the last 24 hours and the security situation in Liberia will likely remain stable in the near term. Liberian Justices of the Supreme Court are donating portions of their salary towards combating Ebola. The intent is to build trust and faith in the government, as claims of corruption and misallocation of humanitarian aid have reduced confidence in the government. Bong County, Liberia reported a significant increase in new EVD cases last week. The current ETU in Suakoko District, in addition to the pending ETU in Kakata, Margibi County, should help in the isolation and treatment of EVD cases.*

(U) **Liberia**

(U) **Justices Surrender Pay to Support EVD Containment:** Chief Justice Francis Korkpor announced the Supreme Courts Justices of Liberia will donate 25% of their salaries for four months to support EVD containment efforts. Chief Justice Korkpor is encouraging all citizens of Liberia to follow his lead in an effort to unite Liberians, believing that citizens joining together will strengthen containment efforts. *J-2 FWD: With allegations of corruption and popular discontent over the government's response, actions like this could help change negative perceptions.*

(U) **Bong County Reports Highest New Case Count:** On 13 October, the Bong County Health Team reported 73 new cases of Ebola in one week. Nine of these cases were confirmed and 41 are suspected. *This news is likely to reduce morale and confidence in the Government of Liberia's overall efforts to fight Ebola.*

(U) **Kakata ETU Construction Margibi County:** The Bong mobile clinic has received samples from 20 new patients at the Bong County ETU (International Medical Corps, IMC). The IMC ETU is sending ambulances to Kakata, a newly identified EVD hotspot in neighboring Margibi County, to transport possible EVD patients to the ETU. The USAID DART visited Kakata to review the construction site of the new ETU, scheduled to be completed in late October with a 70-bed capacity. *J-2 FWD: This provides a good example of successful coordination in Bong County. The new Kakata ETU will help deliver needed medical support to a new EVD outbreak area.*

(U) **Health Care Workers Strike in Liberia:** Liberia's National Health Workers Association called for a strike on 13 October, but many health care workers (HCWs) refused to participate. Both OUA Mobile Labs reported their locations were not affected. Disputes over HCW salaries continue to challenge EVD response efforts. WHO reports the call for a strike stems from the disparities between salaries of civil servant and non-civil servant staff performing the same functions. Continued protests are expected. *J-2 FWD: The continued risk of an HCW general strike is significant for the ETU locations. If staffs strike, EVD patients could leave ETUs, undermining containment efforts.*

(U) **Island Clinic ETU Releases Ebola Survivors:** Twenty patients were released today from the Island Clinic ETU. WHO doctors and staff celebrated the release, which helped the overall capacity situation at Island Clinic ETU, where after the discharge of patients, 93 of its 150 beds remain occupied. The ETU has at times served up to 202 patients. *J-2 FWD: The release of survivors from Island Clinic is demonstrating to the population that survival is possible and clinics should not be feared.*

(U) **UNICEF Opens Liberia's First Children's Interim Care Center (ICC):** In response to child protection concerns for Ebola orphans in Liberia, UNICEF has opened an ICC in Monrovia. The center will hold children who have lost one or both parents to EVD for the 21-

day isolation period. Liberia has had a significant increase in orphans, unaccompanied, and separated children as a result of the epidemic. ***J-2 FWD: This is a positive first step in addressing the growing challenge of caring for Ebola orphans.***

(U) **Roberts International Airport Received Funds for Renovation:** Liberia has secured \$27.3 million from the European Investment Bank to repair Roberts International Airport. The runway has been a concern since logistical flights have increased at the airfield. Air France has already discontinued flights into Roberts International due to runway safety concerns. ***J-2 FWD: Military and NGO air planners have been concerned about the runway conditions since operations began, given its key role as logistical hub for OUA.***

(U) **JOA**

(U) **Japan Offers Aid to Liberia and Sierra Leone:** On 9 October, Japan donated 11 ambulances and medical equipment worth more than \$900,000 to Liberia and Sierra Leone. At the signing ceremony at the Japanese Embassy in Accra, Ghana, Japan stated Liberia will receive 7 ambulances and 48 beds, and Sierra Leone will receive 6 ambulances and 47 beds. ***This is a positive sign that more countries are contributing to the efforts to eradicate Ebola across affected countries, but it underscores the need to coordinate the growing number of contributions.***

(U) **Ebola Continues to Strike Women Disproportionately:** Press reports 60% of overall Ebola fatalities in West Africa have been women, with claims as high as 75% in Liberia. In Sierra Leone's patriarchal society, women are the main caregivers and also perform funeral rituals, a practice linked to some 60% of Ebola transmission in neighboring Guinea. As many hospitals are closed or dealing exclusively with Ebola, more common diseases such as malaria and typhoid are going untreated, and women receive less pre-natal care and are delivering outside medical facilities. Press claims this may further raise Sierra Leone's maternal mortality rate (890 per 100,000 births, one of the world's worst). ***This trend was reported in the early days of the outbreak and is set to continue, suggesting public information campaigns directed at women may be particularly effective as they are most at risk.***

(U) **Weather**

(U) ***Isolated rains and thunderstorms will continue moving through the JOA south of Dakar, with concentrated areas of thunderstorms occurring around Freetown and Conakry on the 15<sup>th</sup>.*** Both Conakry and Freetown will see fair weather for the next four days with isolated thunderstorms the evenings of the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>.

(U) Liberia will receive on-and-off isolated thunderstorms through the 18<sup>th</sup>. ***Rain will continue for the next four days keeping road conditions degraded and heavily impairing freedom of***

movement on unpaved roads until the 19<sup>th</sup> when fair weather returns. Low cloud ceilings will remain causing marginal impacts to airlift and making ISR unfavorable for use.

(U) Dakar will have fair weather with the only hindrance to operations being high temperatures over 85 degrees marginally impacting personnel.

