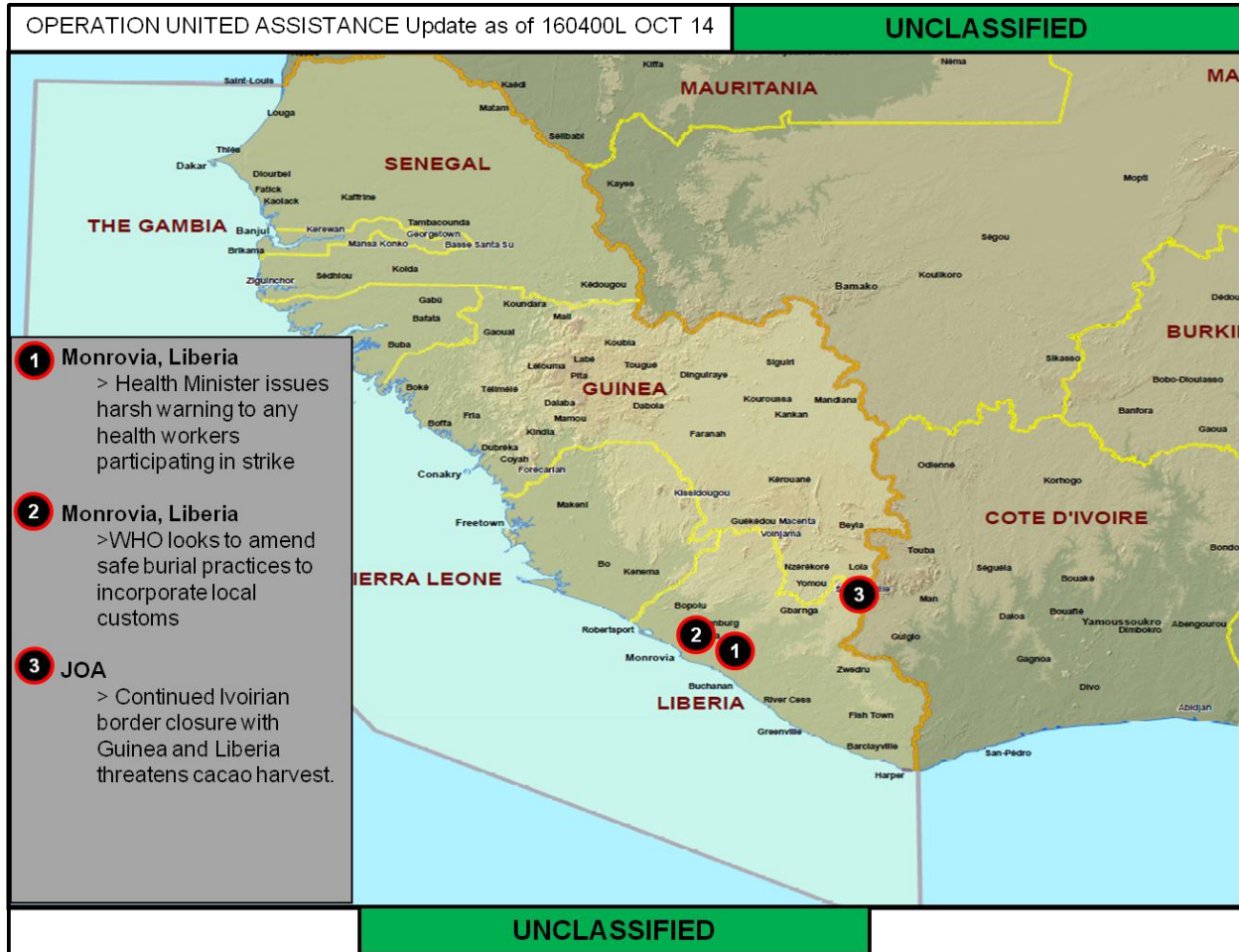


UNITED ASSISTANCE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Info Cut-off: 160400LOCT14

16 October 2014



(U) Liberia

(U) **Correction to 15 October 2014 OUA INTSUM:** *Kakata ETU Construction Bong County:* The Kakata ETU was mislabeled as being located in Bong County. Kakata is the capital of Margibi County, located to the south west of Bong County.

(U) **Liberian Senate Concurs with Election Postponement:** The Liberian Senate and House of Representative have both agreed to the postponement of the midterm senatorial elections previously scheduled on 14 October, but using two separate resolutions. The Senate resolution endorses President Sirleaf's proclamation without indicating a new election date. The House resolution did not endorse the President's proclamation, and instead issued its own postponement of the elections and mandated the National Election Commission to set a new date for elections no later than 20 December.

(U) **Health Worker Strike Update:** On 14 October, Liberian Health Minister Walter Gwenigale threatened on state radio to fire Liberian health workers participating in the strike: "Those who stay home in respect of the order given by the health workers union will be replaced and will never come back to work." The National Health Workers Association had called for nationwide strike to begin on 13 October to demand additional benefits and hazard pay, but reporting on the strike was contradictory and it remains unclear how many health care workers (HCWs) actually stayed at home.

(U) **WHO Looks to Change Burial Rituals:** On 14 October, the WHO announced initiatives to change Liberian burial rituals, such as physically handling the deceased. The WHO believes these practices are directly connected to the continued spread of EVD in Liberia. Anthropologists are helping the WHO develop safer practices, taking into consideration local traditions of the affected communities. The WHO hopes to adapt traditions of body washing to a more symbolic disinfectant spraying and rinsing with chlorinated water. The number of burial teams in Liberia has increased, improving efforts to safely remove bodies. Reporting indicated the population in Monrovia was angered by the new sanitary burial practices, which they find impersonal and sacrilegious.

(U) **Fiji to Stop Sending Peacekeepers to Liberia over Ebola Fears:** On 15 October, reports state that Fiji will stop sending peacekeepers to Liberia due to the Ebola crisis in Africa. Ben Groenewald, commissioner of the Fiji Police Force, said that the first group of 27 police officers is expected to return to Fiji at the end of November, while the remainder are set to return in May 2015.

(U) **Local Organizations Continue to Join the Effort to Counter Ebola:** On 13 October, *AllAfrica* reports that New Water in the Desert Assembly and the Apostolic Pentecostal Church of Liberia have joined the fight against EVD. During the past three months, they have provided food and non-food items to communities to help pregnant women, lactating mothers, the elderly, and vulnerable people. They also donated medications and personal protective equipment (PPE) to hospitals throughout Liberia.



(U) **JOA**

(U) **Ebola Threatens Cacao Harvest:** Cote d'Ivoire's continued border closure with Liberia and Guinea over Ebola is putting major restrictions on the workforce needed to pick cacao beans just as harvest season is beginning, according to press. Cote d'Ivoire produces one-third of the world's cacao. Concerns about the harvest have spiked worldwide cocoa futures from the normal \$2,000-\$2,700 per ton range to \$3,155. Major chocolate producers in the World Cocoa Foundation announced an industry-wide effort on 15 October to support the Red Cross and Caritas with donations.

(U) **Treatment Center Project Closed:** On 13 October, reporting stated that the construction of an ETU at Gbomsamba village in the Port Loko district has been terminated by the Government of Sierra Leone. Chairman of the Marampa Chiefdom Ebola Task Force, Paul Santigie Sesay, said the decision to discontinue with the construction is due to Gbomsamba's long distance from Makeni and Lunsar and the site is too isolated.

(U) **Worldwide**

(U) **China Fast-Tracking Ebola Drug Approval:** On 14 October, press reporting stated a Chinese company is seeking fast-track approval for a drug called JK-05, allegedly a "cure" for Ebola, but which is only currently approved for emergency military use. Sihuan Pharmaceutical Holdings Group Ltd has linked with the Chinese research Academy of Military Medical Sciences (AMMS), which developed the drug, to help push it through the approval process in China.

(U) **Weather**

(U) Conakry and Freetown will have mostly fair weather with isolated thunderstorms occurring during the evening of the 17th and 18th extending through the 20th for Freetown.

(U) Liberia will experience on and off isolated thunderstorms through the 18th.

(U) The only impact to Dakar during the forecast period will be repressive temperatures over 85 degrees. Temperature impacts will also occur throughout the rest of the JOA for the foreseeable future.