

## UNITED ASSISTANCE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Info Cut-off: 190400LOCT14

19 October 2014

**(U) Liberia**

**(U) Barclayville ETU Site Assessment:** Barclayville is only accessible by air during the rainy season due to poor road infrastructure in the area. Roads in and around the town are improved dirt roads. The area also relies on several 6 to 12 foot concrete bridges. Roads during the rainy season are mostly washed out and unfavorable to heavy vehicle traffic. The HLZ used to access the ETU is outside town.

**(U) Body Removal Challenges Liberia:** Ministry of Health continues to report body removal team issues due to logistic constraints and community resistance. Liberian families are reluctant to release EVD victims to burial teams. USAID is attempting to support additional burial teams in Liberia with the ability to respect family customs against cremation and allow burials. Liberia has 50 burial teams in country with plans to add additional teams in the next couple weeks. Burial teams play a crucial role in EVD containment efforts.

**(U) EVD Affects Liberian Markets:** Liberia's main agricultural production comes from the Central and Northwest counties, also the areas most affected by EVD. From August and September, produce prices have increase by 20%. The main agricultural products affected are rice, cucumbers, and plantains. Output of the most important Liberian agricultural export, rubber, is expected to drop by 20% this year. The Liberian dollar stabilized during this two-month study after dropping the prior two months.

**(U) JOA**

**(U) National Ebola Response Center Under Defense Ministry Control in Sierra Leone:** On 18 October, President Ernest Bai Koroma announced the creation of a new National Ebola Response Center (NERC). The center will be headed by his Defence Minister Palo Conteh, who was appointed by President Koroma in October 2007, and will have full control over Sierra Leone's strategies and use of aid to combat EVD. The NERC replaces the National Operations Centre formerly headed by Health Minister Abu Bakarr Fofanah as the main body in charge of fighting EVD in Sierra Leone. President Koroma did not openly condemn his health ministry for, however was quoted as saying, "people were dying and quick decisions had to be taken"

**(U) Air Cote d'Ivoire to Resume Flights to Neighboring Countries:** On 17 October, *Bloomberg News* reported Air Cote d'Ivoire will resume flights to Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia later this month. Since the EVD outbreak most regional airlines have discontinued

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flights into the JOA. Demand to fly to the affected areas has remained steady due to medical workers' necessity to reach EVD-affected countries.

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