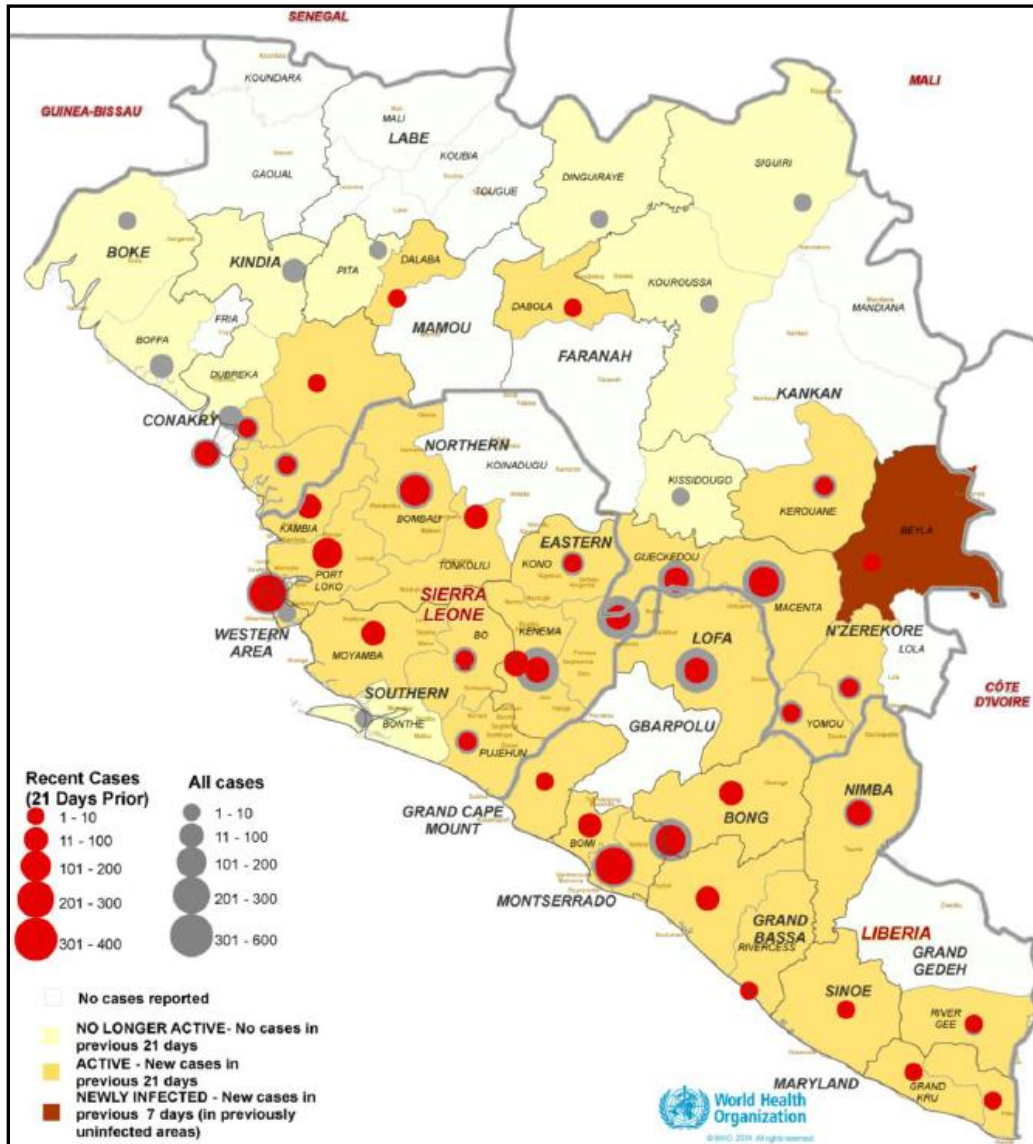


## UNITED ASSISTANCE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Info Cut-off: 020600LOCT14

2 October 2014



(U) Executive Summary: *There has been one significant report in the last 24 hours, a violent protest in Monrovia with no reported injuries. Civil unrest and crime will continue to rise in the capital. Gbarpolu County, Liberia reported its first confirmed Ebola case and stood up a task force to mitigate further contamination. Ganta, a main city in Nimba County, Liberia shut down to conduct a “house-to-house” campaign, similar to Sierra Leone’s 19-21 September campaign; if successful, the tactic may spread to other Liberian counties.*

**(U) Liberia:**

**(U) Gbarpolu County Confirms Its First Ebola Case:** On 29 September, a young boy tested positive for the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Gbarma District, Gbarpolu County, northwestern Liberia. Measures were taken to quarantine family members to prevent further spread of the disease in the area. In addition, a task force was established to include surveillance, health, burial, and awareness teams in preparation for more potential cases. The Gbarpolu County Ebola Task Force closed its side of the border along the southern portion of Bong County at the Marwa River to prevent further spread. *Despite Ebola spreading into an additional county, Gbarpolu County's proactive closure of its side of the border will likely mitigate further EVD spread.*

**(U) Shutdown of Ganta, Nimba County:** On 29 September, Nimba County, located in east-central Liberia, is planning to shut down its commercial city of Ganta in order to provide health workers time to intensively test residents and prevent further transmission of the disease. Cultural Ambassador Juli Endee appealed for the construction of an Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) in the county. *Gamba's shutdown will help to control the EVD transmission into other parts of Nimba, but has the potential to cause civil unrest due to restrictions on movement and economic impact.*

**(U) Violent Demonstration at Lone Star Building in Congo Town:** On 30 September, Liberian National Police reported a large, violent demonstration in front of the Lone Star Building in Congo Town, southern Monrovia which consisted of youth throwing rocks and sticks. Police responded to the scene and broke up the demonstrations without incident. *This is the third demonstration in Monrovia in less than a week. The populace continues to act out against the Liberian Government for lack of resources and responsiveness and violent protests will likely continue. No motive has been reported for this latest incident.*

**(U) Criminal Ring in Sinkor, Monrovia:** On 30 September, United Nations Police (UNPOL) received a report that two unidentified suspects, armed with a single barrel gun and cutlasses, allegedly robbed a man of his electronic items and ID card at the City Hall in Monrovia. *The rainy season historically experiences elevated crime in Liberia, exacerbated by the Ebola crisis causing a shortage in affordable commodities. Crime will likely continue to increase as the populace continue to seek essential items and local law enforcement units are stretched thin with the Ebola crisis.*

**(U) Ebola Impact is Among Top UNMIL Concerns:** Currently, the main concerns for UNMIL forces are the medical and security threats posed by EVD as well as the people of Liberia. The internal problems in Liberia, such as unemployment, armed robbery, economic disparities and unresolved land disputes, could lead to instability and a weakened security environment, *which will likely have long-lasting effects for the country.* Liberia needs to improve the capability of the national security agencies to assist in the efforts of law and order as well as EVD

containment.<sup>1</sup> *All events of civil unrest to date in Liberia during OUA have been focused on discontent with the Liberian Government. These events have been small in scale and handled by the Liberian Government utilizing the police forces; however, if conditions worsen then greater unrest and riots are likely.*



(U) **Ebola Outbreak to Reduce Arrests in Liberia:** Chief Justice, Francis Korpor, of the Supreme Court of Liberia, appealed to the magistrates throughout the country to be flexible in sending people to jail given the EVD crisis. These measures are to ensure that the judiciary system plays an essential role in containing Ebola, as an influx in the prison population could swiftly spread Ebola through prisons. *With the crime rate already high, the lack of prosecution of criminals will likely create additional force protection problems for OUA forces.*

(U) **JOA (Sierra Leone, Guinea, Senegal, Liberia)**

(U) **Sierra Leone Commends Chinese Ambassador for Aid:** On 1 October, the Vice President of Sierra Leone, Alhaji Samuel Sam Sumana, applauded the Chinese Ambassador Zhao Yanbo, for his effort to ensure China continued its support of supplies, personnel, and equipment. Sumana believes the swift rate the Chinese team has been working will soon break the transmission chain. Ambassador Zhao said “Sierra Leone is a very special country to President Xi and to himself, so China will not relent but continue to offer any help they can.”<sup>2</sup> *Chinese assistance will likely have a positive influence in controlling the spread of Ebola in Sierra Leone, in tandem with the UK’s focus on aiding its former colony.*



<sup>1</sup> (U) UNMIL, 01 OCT 14, (U)UNMIL Daily SITREP 01 OCT 2014, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

<sup>2</sup> (U) Awoko, 02 OCT 14, (U)Sierra Leone News: VP Sam Sumana commends Amb. Zhao, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

(U) Worldwide

(U) Sociocultural Analysis: Managing Expectations and Mitigating Dependency in Liberia

*(U) A 30 September article in Liberia's popular newspaper, The Daily Observer, titled, U.S. Military Not Here to Change Government, illustrates local frustration with the government and offers an example of the high expectations placed on the U.S. military to address issues beyond the scope of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) crisis. The EVD crisis can heighten frustrations about longstanding problems, trigger increased anti-government expressions, and deepen dependency on U.S. foreign assistance.*

**Quote on response to U.S. Troop Arrival**

*...the announcement and subsequent coming of the U.S. troop have been embraced with the public misconception that there is a hidden agenda that the U.S. Government will want to achieve as its troops comes in the name of fighting Ebola.*

*The public was especially prompted to speculate when a suspended local daily, The National Chronicles newspaper, earlier published a number of stories indicating that an interim leadership was underway to replace the administration of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.*

Daily Observer 30 September 2014

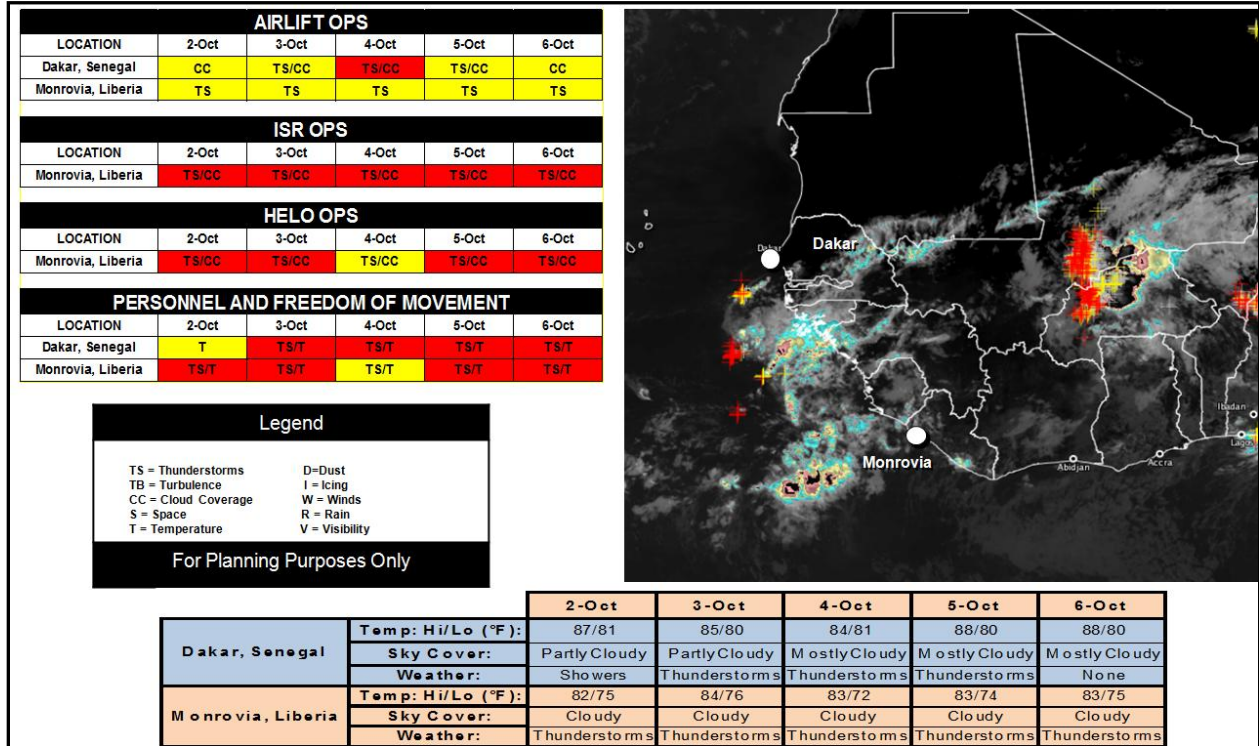
(U) A nationwide research survey conducted in 2011 identified Liberians' perceptions and attitudes on a range of topics. The data indicate Liberians believe the government has not adequately provided the populace with provisions that address basic needs such as electricity, roads, sanitation, and access to healthcare. Conversely, Liberians hold favorable opinions about organizations and countries that provide assistance to Liberia such as the African Union (AU), United Nations (UN), USAID, and the U.S. government.

(U) A crosscutting issue in Liberia is the perception that corruption is endemic in the government and private sector. U.S. interventions are viewed by many Liberians as trusted alternatives to an ineffective and corrupt system. The expression, "Liberians need big brother to watch over them," is a commonly noted expression amongst Liberians. *Based on historical ties, Liberians view the U.S. as a metaphorical big brother figure.*

*(U) It will be critical to continue to monitor Liberians' perceptions as part of the intervention strategy. The U.S. has an opportunity to address multiple and complimentary goals to include: containing the EVD, bolstering support and confidence in the Liberian government, and providing sustainable assistance that reduces Liberian dependence on U.S. foreign assistance.*

(U) **Confirmed case of Ebola in America:** On 1 October, the first case of Ebola diagnosed in the U.S. has been confirmed in a man who recently traveled from Liberia to Dallas. The man identified is Thomas Eric Duncan, a Liberian national, who flew from Liberia on 19 September to Dallas to visit family. It is unknown where in Liberia Duncan flew from; however, the CDC stated it will contact all civilians that came in contact with him when he became infectious. The patient started to develop symptoms on 24 September, initially sought treatment on 26 September, and was admitted to the hospital in Dallas on 28 September, where he was placed in isolation. *This incident will likely have an effect on soldiers morale deploying to Liberia as the fear of contracting EVD and spreading it across international borders will increase.*

(U) Weather:



(U) Dakar will see persistent lower ceilings and passing showers with thunderstorms returning tomorrow. The thunderstorms and showers will be isolated in nature and should not have impacts outside of delays when actually over the airfield. The 4<sup>th</sup> will be the peak of thunderstorm activity in Dakar.

(U) In Liberia, heavier than normal rain and more frequent thunderstorms can be expected on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. During this period, rain rates will exceed a quarter of an inch an hour between 07Z and 10Z. ***This will cause further trafficability issues and make site surveys and construction efforts difficult.*** Daily total rainfall amounts can exceed 1-2 inches, with higher amounts concentrated Lofa and Gbarpolu counties.