

UNITED ASSISTANCE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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22 October 2014

(U) Liberia

(U) Civil Society Organization (CSO) Rejects Senate Election Date: On 20 October, the CSO rejected the proposed 16 December date for the Senatorial Elections postponed from 14 October. The CSO claimed more attention needs to be focused on the EVD crisis and the community does not desire an election during this time of crisis. The National Election Committee (NEC) scheduled meetings with the WHO and CDC this week to seek county-level consultations on the EVD crisis. The NEC has already published a list of candidates for the Senate elections and plans to continue with the proposed December date.

(U) Main Hospital in Monrovia Closed to EVD Patients: JFK Hospital ETU has closed and transferred EVD patients to Island Clinic. The hospital has transferred patients to focus on non-EVD patients at JFK. The hospital stated that with available beds in Island Clinic ETU there is no need to hold EVD patients in both locations. Administration from Redemption Hospital, Monrovia, indicated in the near future it would transfer its EVD patients to Island Clinic as well. Island Clinic currently has roughly 150 patients admitted to its 200-bed capacity. The Minister of Defense recently announced a new 200-bed ETU will soon be open in Monrovia.

(U) County Health Workers Charged for Stealing Ebola Food Supplies: According to local press, county health workers stole food donated by the World Food Program intended for quarantined victims in Nimba County. Items stolen included 200 25-kg bags of rice, 10 bags of beans, and 15 containers of vegetable oil which were stored at G.W. Harlay Hospital Warehouse and the Sanniquellie Administrative Hall under the supervision of a Nimba County inspector.

(U) Reports Continue of Ebola Patients “Vanishing”: On 20 October, *the Washington Post* reported that EVD victims continue to “disappear” from the health care system. The article provided an example of Linda Wilson repeatedly looking for her best friend Barbara Bai, and not being able to find her. Bai’s name was not on any list, even though she was admitted to a hospital one month earlier. There was no record of her death or her survival at any hospital in Monrovia.

(U) Using Music to Fight Ebola in Liberia: On 21 October, *CNN* reports the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has worked with local musicians to educate Liberians on how to contain the spread of the disease by producing a song "Ebola is Real," which urges Liberians to take measures against the disease.

(U) JOA

(U) **Shooting in Koidu, Sierra Leone over Ebola Case Results in Curfew:** On 22 October, Reuters reported authorities imposed a curfew in the eastern town of Koidu, Sierra Leone, after a dispute between youth and police over a suspected case of Ebola turned violent. The incident began when a former youth leader refused to accept a quarantine of her 90-year old grandmother, a suspected EVD case. Koidu does not have an ETU and EVD patients must travel to Kenema or Kailahun for treatment. Reports suggest the protest resulted from the lack of available medical care in the area.

(U) **Comparison of JOA Healthcare Systems:** The inadequacies of the healthcare systems in the three most-affected countries help to explain how the Ebola outbreak has reached such devastating proportions, as displayed by the *Economist* graphic on the right. Spain, whose first locally transmitted case was confirmed on 6 October, spends more than \$3,000 per person at purchasing-power parity on health care; Sierra Leone spends roughly \$300. The WHO estimates Liberia needs nearly 3,000 treatment beds for Ebola; its current capacity is 742.

(U) **Food Shortages Are Becoming More Apparent Due to the Ebola Outbreak:** More than 80% of people in eastern Sierra Leone eat less expensive food due to the Ebola outbreak and 75% have reduced the number and portion size of their meals, according to the World Food Program. The population expresses concern about having enough food to eat because of lack of jobs and commerce due to the outbreak. The Food and Agriculture Organization found that 47% of farmers face challenges in continuing their work due to field closures and lack of available labor.