

UNITED ASSISTANCE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Info Cut-off: 250400LOCT14

(U) Liberia Update

(U) Non-Violent Demonstration in Monrovia: On 24 October, a group of youth protested in front of the Government Administration Building over the trial of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) soldiers involved in the August shooting in the West Point neighborhood of Monrovia. Shaki Kamara, a West Point resident, died during a demonstration against the quarantine. Protesters want the AFL soldiers to be tried under Liberian law instead of current plans to use the Uniformed Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). The Minister of Defense stated justice will be swift and served the same under the UCMJ as civilian law. The demonstration ended peacefully.

(U) Liberian Rubber Industry under Legislative Review: The House of Representatives has asked the Liberia Rubber Development Authority (LRDA) to review the Rubber Planters Associations payments to rubber farmers. The House believes rubber companies are under-paying farmers for production. The Liberian Petroleum Refining Corporation (LPRC) is under congressional review for alleged misallocation of Government funds. The House has created an anti-corruption team to investigate the LPRC.

(U) West Point Makes Changes to Address Ebola: On 23 October, the Wall Street Journal reported residents in West Point, Monrovia are taking proactive measures to counter EVD by changing habits and traditional practices. Reporting suggests the change in approach resulted from aid and information that flowed into the community after the August quarantine. International aid organizations provided households with bleach, rubber boots and information about the disease and protective measures. Residents are washing their hands, keeping their distance from others, wearing long pants and shirts to avoid contact, and encouraging those with symptoms to seek medical treatment. Community organizations go door-to-door to provide information and remind individuals to be vigilant.

(U) AU Chair Wants Flights to Resume: On 24 October, the *Daily Observer* reported that the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Madam Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, has been working behind the scenes to ensure that regional and continental airlines resume flights to Ebola-affected countries. Ebola has taken a significant economic toll on the affected countries, especially Liberia and Sierra Leone, which have been rebuilding after devastating civil wars.

(U) Joint Operations Area Update

(U) African Countries Increase HCWs Volunteer Pledges: Nigeria has pledged to send 600 healthcare worker (HCW) trained in EVD containment to the JOA. The first 250 volunteers are expected to deploy soon, although a specific date was not announced. Countries in East Africa have also pledged to send 600 HCWs, while the Democratic Republic of the Congo has pledged to train 1,000 HCWs. The WHO's

original appeal called for 12,000 local staff and 750 foreign experts to aid in the EVD fight, but the WHO has since raised those targets to 20,000 and 1,000 respectively. The WHO stated currently only 600 foreign experts are on the ground.

(U) **Worldwide Update**

(U) **Outcome of 22 October WHO Crisis Meeting – No Travel Bans:** The WHO Emergency Committee on Ebola determined that regular air travel should continue and there should be no bans on international travel or trade, as these would do more harm than good. The WHO has not supported travel bans since the Ebola crisis began, arguing they increase economic hardship in affected countries, constrain the flow of aid and humanitarian workers, and raise the risk of unmonitored migration from heavily-affected countries. These factors would reduce the international community's ability to respond, and would increase the risk of EVD spreading beyond the heavily-affected countries. Committee members took into consideration the fact that so few cases have been exported to other countries as a result of travel. The Committee emphasized that exit screening in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone remains critical for reducing exportation of EVD cases, and these countries should maintain and reinforce high-quality exit screening of all persons at international airports, seaports, and major land crossings.

(U) **EU Leaders Agree to Increase Ebola Support to More Than \$1 Billion:** On 24 October, European Union leaders agreed to roughly double their financial contribution to counter Ebola in West Africa. European contributions will increase from roughly \$630 million to \$1,260 million.

(U) **Possible Ebola Case in New Jersey:** On 24 October, *CNN Health* reported an unidentified woman in northern New Jersey developed a fever and was put in isolation at a local hospital. New Jersey Health Department spokesperson Donna Leusner stated the woman had returned to the U.S. on Friday through Newark's Liberty International Airport, after treating EVD patients in West Africa. If tests confirm she is EVD positive, she will be the fifth EVD case in the US.

(U) **Weather**

(U) Monrovia will have light rain showers in the morning with isolated thunderstorms moving through around 18z. Fair weather will be present for the rest of the day with low ceilings remaining throughout the majority of the forecast period. Rain totals for the 25th will be a tenth of an inch for most of the country, with the mountain regions seeing a quarter inch. ***Degradation to unpaved roads will be isolated and have minimal impacts; paved roads will remain favorable for travel.*** Monrovia will see evening thunderstorms through the 27th that will continue into the morning of the 28th. The 29th will have mostly fair weather with morning rain showers.

(U) Conakry and Freetown will continue to have afternoon thunderstorms for the next five days. Dakar will continue to see fair weather.