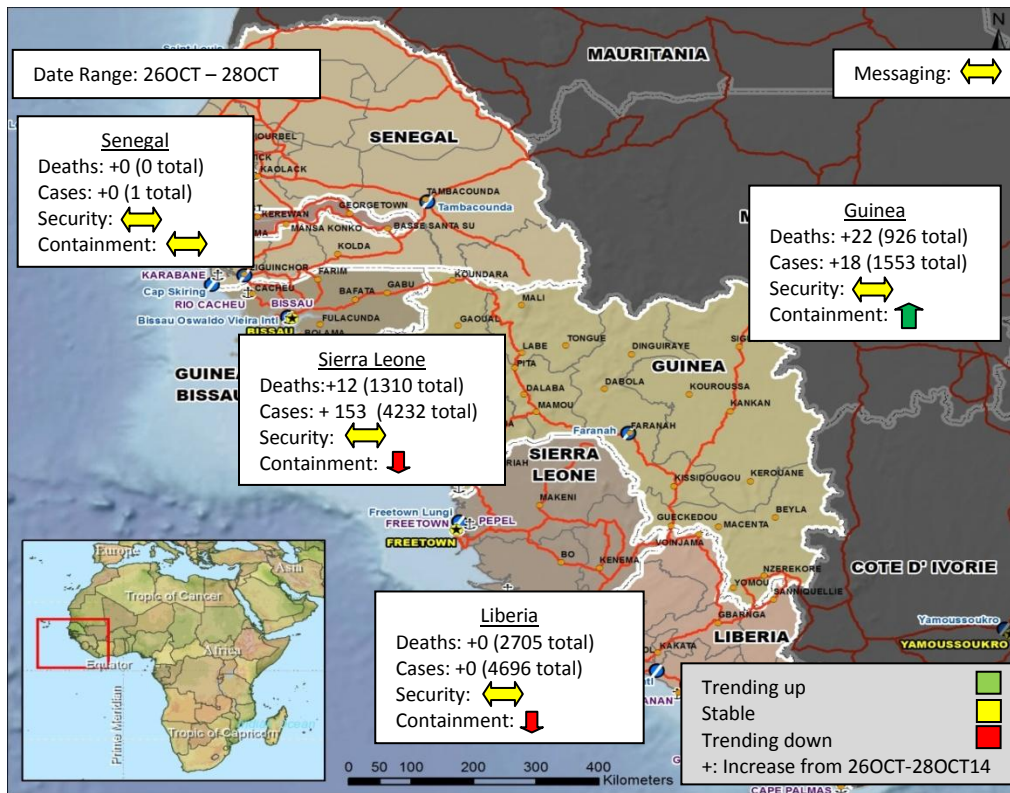


OPERATION UNITED ASSISTANCE
SUMMARY

30 0600Z October 14

(U) Weather at a glance

Thu 30 Oct 14		Fri 31 Oct 14		Sat 01 Nov 14		Sun 02 Nov 14		Mon 03 Nov 14	
LO: 75F/24C HI: 88F/31C		LO: 75F/24C HI: 86F/30C		LO: 75F/24C HI: 84F/29C		LO: 75F/24C HI: 84F/29C		LO: 73F/23C HI: 84F/29C	
WIND CHILL	N/A	WIND CHILL	N/A	WIND CHILL	N/A	WIND CHILL	N/A	WIND CHILL	N/A
HEAT INDEX	95F/35C	HEAT INDEX	94F/34C	HEAT INDEX	90F/32C	HEAT INDEX	90F/32C	HEAT INDEX	92F/33C
VRB	10G15	VRB	10G15	VRB	10G15	VRB	10G15	VRB	10G15
3 MI / 2000FT	2 MI / 1200FT	3 MI / 1500FT	4 MI / 1500FT	3 MI / 1500FT	5 MI / 1500FT	3 MI / 1500FT	5 MI / 2000FT	3 MI / 1500FT	7 MI / 2000FT
THUNDERSTORMS	THUNDERSTORMS	MIST	THUNDERSTORMS	MIST	THUNDERSTORMS	RAINSHOWERS	THUNDERSTORMS	SCATTERED TSTMS	MOSTLY CLOUDY



Executive Summary: The media continues to highlight local agencies and NGOs suggesting the number of new EVD cases and deaths are dropping. While true, there is not yet enough data to assess whether this is an enduring or temporary trend. The JFC J2 assessment is that conditions are improving and there is an increased capacity to deal with the EVD outbreak in Liberia. However, Liberian Ministry of Health’s EVD reporting chain remains fluid and is still adapting to changing conditions.

The possibility of EVD cases forming in communities remains with Bong County being the most recent example. According to the Bong County lab, on 29 October, two individuals tested positive in a community that had been clear of Ebola for over a week. Rural counties like Lofa and Bong have done exceptionally well with identifying new cases, treating them and educating the populace to prevent further spread. Most of the new cases in these areas are assessed as individuals traveling from EVD outbreak areas, primarily Montserrado, back into “clear” areas.

Within Liberia, there have been noted incidents in Montserrado, Maryland, and Rivercess of communities either refusing to cooperate or clearly stating their disbelief of EVD and how it is transmitted. This is a trend that continues throughout the region. As an attempt to further educate the community and

reduce the potential for incident, the Sierra Leone Red Cross conducted a press conference in an attempt to dispel rumors they are responsible for spreading EVD to the population and that the U.S. has hidden agendas in Africa.

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1. (U) Complete Weather Update

Thu 30 Oct 14		Fri 31 Oct 14		Sat 01 Nov 14		Sun 02 Nov 14		Mon 03 Nov 14	
LO: 75F/24C	HI: 88F/31C	LO: 75F/24C	HI: 86F/30C	LO: 75F/24C	HI: 84F/29C	LO: 75F/24C	HI: 84F/29C	LO: 73F/23C	HI: 84F/29C
WIND CHILL: N/A	HEAT INDEX: 95F/35C	WIND CHILL: N/A	HEAT INDEX: 94F/34C	WIND CHILL: N/A	HEAT INDEX: 90F/32C	WIND CHILL: N/A	HEAT INDEX: 90F/32C	WIND CHILL: N/A	HEAT INDEX: 92F/33C
VRB 10G15 KTS	VRB 10G15 KTS	2 KTS	9 KTS	2 KTS	9 KTS	2 KTS	9 KTS	2 KTS	9 KTS
3 MI / 2000FT	2 MI / 1200FT	3 MI / 1500FT	4 MI / 1500FT	3 MI / 1500FT	5 MI / 1500FT	3 MI / 1500FT	5 MI / 2000FT	3 MI / 1500FT	7 MI / 2000FT
THUNDERSTORMS	THUNDERSTORMS	MIST	THUNDERSTORMS	MIST	THUNDERSTORMS	RAINSHOWERS	THUNDERSTORMS	SCATTERED TSTMS	MOSTLY CLOUDY
MAX DA: +2408FT	MAX PA: +181FT	MAX DA: +2170FT	MAX PA: +126FT	MAX DA: +2095FT	MAX PA: +126FT	MAX DA: +2095FT	MAX PA: +126FT	MAX DA: +2139FT	MAX PA: +126FT
BMNT: 0542	EENT: 1909	BMNT: 0542	EENT: 1908	BMNT: 0542	EENT: 1908	BMNT: 0542	EENT: 1908	BMNT: 0542	EENT: 1908
SR: 0628	SS: 1822	SR: 0628	SS: 1822	SR: 0628	SS: 1822	SR: 0628	SS: 1822	SR: 0628	SS: 1822
MR: 1214	MS: **	MR: 1307	MS: 0027	MR: 1359	MS: 0123	MR: 1450	MS: 0218	MR: 1540	MS: 0313
DARK PERIOD: 5:42	MOON PERIOD: 4:51	DARK PERIOD: 5:15	MOON PERIOD: 0:27 / 4:52	DARK PERIOD: 4:19	MOON PERIOD: 1:23 / 4:52	DARK PERIOD: 3:24	MOON PERIOD: 2:18 / 4:52	DARK PERIOD: 2:29	MOON PERIOD: 3:13 / 4:52
38%		38%		49%		60%		71%	
TS TS		TS TS		TS TS		TS TS		TS TS	
TS TS		V TS		V TS		V TS		V TS	
TS TS		V TS		V TS		V TS		V TS	
C TS/C C		C C/V C		C C/V C		C C/V C		C C/V C	
P P		P P		P P		P P		P P	
P P		P P		P P		P P		P P	
00 06 12 18		00 06 12 18		00 06 12 18		00 06 12 18		00 06 12 18	

2. (U) Ebola Update

(U) Assessment: The unfilled beds in Liberian ETUs suggest the Liberian National Red Cross's (LNRC) reported assessment of cases dropping over the past four weeks is accurate.¹ According to LNRC statistics, there has been a decrease for four consecutive weeks.² Additionally, the Armed Forces of Liberia report the daily averages of burial teams has dropped from 30-80 bodies in August and September to 10-30 bodies in October. It is important to note that while case counts could be dropping in Monrovia, there are a number of factors that could mask accurate case counts such as underreporting, lack of transportation to healthcare facilities, survivor stigmas in their communities, cremation concerns,

¹ <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/beds-for-ebola-patients-go-unfilled-in-liberia/article21361389/>

² <http://reliefweb.int/report/liberia/aid-workers-see-hope-ebola-body-count-drops-liberia>

disbelief of the virus, and a lack of reporting procedures in some areas. Despite a decline of Ebola cases, it is prudent to remain cognizant of the ability for the virus to re-emerge in already clear areas. Re-emerged cases are highlighted by the Bong County Mobile lab, who received two positive Ebola samples from individuals who lived within Bong County. These cases represent new EVD instances in a county which had no cases of internal community transmission for over a week.

- a. **(U) Beds for Ebola Patients Go Unfilled in Liberia:** Liberia has long been a focal point of the Ebola epidemic, the nation with the most cases and deaths from the disease, prompting a global call to action. Hundreds of beds were added in recent weeks, but now many are unfilled even before any of the 18 treatment centers built by the U.S. military are opened. As of 26OCT, fewer than half of the 649 treatment beds across the country were occupied. Now, admissions to treatment centers are dropping, the sample numbers submitted to Ebola laboratories decreased significantly, and the percentage of people testing positive for the disease dropped as well. (<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/beds-for-ebola-patients-go-unfilled-in-liberia/article21361389/>)
- b. **(U) Reoccurrence of Ebola Transmission Cases in Bong County:** Bong County Mobile Lab received 10 samples from Bong and Margibi Counties, of which five were positive. Unfortunately, two of the positive cases represent a new cluster in Bong County. Bong County was free from any cases of community transmission prior to this week. (Bong County Mobile Lab Update 29OCT14) **(PIR 2)**

3. **(U) Current Security Situation**

(U) Assessment: Countries and NGOs continue their attempts to counter negative Ebola media reporting and rumors through transparency with the local population of current efforts and EVD education.^{3 4 5} Allegations made towards governments and NGOs about contributing to the spread of the virus can affect support to the region and hinder ongoing relief efforts. Quick reactions to negative information will likely prove vital in mitigating possible tensions between aid organizations and the citizens of the affected countries.

- a. **(U) NGO Rejects Media Allegations of Spreading Ebola Disease:** On 29OCT14, the Sierra Leone Red Cross denied all media allegations made against the Red Cross Society. During a press conference at the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society headquarters, the management and staff stated allegations will hinder efforts and undermine operations. The Acting Secretary General of the Sierra Leone Society, Mr. Constant H. Kargbo, stated the accusations are portrayed as a controversial opinion on the Ebola epidemic. Also, the assumptions were primarily focused on conspiracy theories about America's hidden agenda in Africa and have no element of truth regarding the Ebola outbreak. (https://www.opensource.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_0_200_203_121123_43/content/Display/AFN2014102950486085#index=2&searchKey=16951585&rpp=10) **(PIR 5)**
- b. **(U) Nigeria's President Pledges to Defeat Threat to West African Security:** On 25-26OCT14, President Goodluck Jonathan and his Benin Republic counterpart, Boni Yayi, discussed their determination to stamp out threats to the security, stability and well-being of West Africa. President Jonathan stated that Nigeria is determined to decisively deal with these threats to their security and durability. Jonathan also stated that stability in the sub-region will accelerate economic growth and development throughout West Africa. (Lagos The Sun Online in English 21 OCT 14)

4. **(U) Internal and External Influences**

³https://www.opensource.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_0_200_203_121123_43/content/Display/AFN2014102950486085#index=2&searchKey=16951585&rpp=10

⁴<http://www.techyville.com/2014/10/trends/hbcu-professor-claims-ebola-was-created-by-the-us-government/>

⁵<http://www.nairaland.com/1844820/ebola-lab-virus-created-make>

(U) Assessment: Any ban on international travel or trade can significantly hinder relief efforts by limiting critical personnel and supplies from areas that need assistance in a timely manner. As of 29OCT14, Mauritania reopened its borders with Mali following the first confirmed Ebola case in Mali.⁶ The Ebola incident in Mali, involving the two year old girl on 24OCT14, increased awareness of just how susceptible the West African region is to EVD expansion. A common reporting theme are border closures and travel bans to mitigate the spread of the virus into surrounding countries.⁷ These actions remain fluid continue to highlight that West African governments believe that travel bans and border closures are a successful way to mitigate Ebola transmission. The CDC and World Health Organization (WHO) continue to speak out against travel bans.

- a. **(U) Mauritania Reopens Border with Mali Following Closure Over Ebola Fears:** Mauritanian authorities decided to reopen the border with the Republic of Mali, following its closure for several days after the first reported case of Ebola in Mali. Sources were told that the borders are open as 29OCT14 and that the movement of goods and people can proceed in a normal fashion.
- b. **(U) 5,000 Ebola Health Workers Needed in West Africa:** Speaking alongside U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and African Union Chairwoman Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, the World Bank President, Jim Yong Kim, says that Ebola-affected countries in West Africa need at least 5,000 more health workers to effectively fight the epidemic. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon added the virus transmission continues to out pace the international community's response. He appealed to African Union's 54 member states not to impose Ebola-related travel restrictions or close their borders. Dlamini-Zuma said African Union states pledged to send more than 2,000 health care workers to West Africa but did not say when the workers would arrive. (Associated Press)
- c. **(U) Kuwait Donates Medical Equipment to Liberia To Assist in Fight Against Ebola Virus:** A consignment of medical equipment and accessories to aid Liberia's fight against the deadly Ebola virus arrived in Liberia from the State of Kuwait. A dispatch from the Liberian Embassy in near Kuwait City put the value of the medical supplies at over USD \$45,000. Kuwait donated 470 boxes of medical items, including Non-Woven Surgical face mask-ear loops, disposable N-95 face mask, non-woven surgical face mask-ties, medical gloves powered small, and alcohol swab pad among others. (Front Page Online Africa)

⁶https://www.opensource.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_0_200_203_121123_43/content/Display/AFL2014102942156216#index=40&searchKey=16945082&rpp=100

⁷http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/alarm-grows-as-ebola-outbreak-spurs-more-flight-cancellations-border-closures/2014/08/25/87e6d020-2c66-11e4-994d-202962a9150c_story.html