

UNITED ASSISTANCE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Info Cut-off: 060400LOCT14

6 October 2014

(U) Executive Summary: *There has been no significant reporting in the last 24 hours and the security situation in Liberia will likely remain stable in the near term. Degraded road conditions from inclement weather effects will continue to hinder the construction of ETUs and evacuation of EVD cases to proper treatment facilities. Liberians are beginning to implement best practices to prevent spread of EVD, including precautionary burial customs and awareness campaigns which will likely mitigate civil unrest and the spread of EVD.*

(U) **Liberia:**

(U) **Parloken Inaccessible to Aid Workers:** On 3 October, Liberian Ministry of Health (MoH) personnel along with humanitarian partners conducted an assessment of Grand Kru County. The health workers were scheduled to visit the town of Parloken. Parloken was deemed inaccessible due to poor road conditions and is currently reporting 20 new, suspected EVD cases. MoH is coordinating with UN Logistic Cluster to receive helicopter support.

(U) **Lofa County is Leading Example of Counter-EVD Practices:** Lofa County has the second highest number of EVD cases in Liberia, but has established and improved coordination mechanisms that are showing great success in fighting the disease. Lofa's system has families participating in burials and county leader tracking potential cases. The MoH wants to capture these lessons learned and teach them to the other 14 counties. *Liberian Government implementation of best mitigation practices will likely improve EVD containment and increase support from the populace.*

(U) **African Union Sends Medical Support:** African Union (AU) medical teams currently being trained by the WHO are expected to alleviate strain on current medical staff. The WHO emphasized that expatriate health worker are still needed in Liberia as partners have difficulty attracting foreign medical staff to man future ETUs. The greatest need in Liberia remains the requirement for body removal teams. *Weak infrastructure and poor weather will continue hamper ETU building efforts.*

(U) **Nimba County ETU Build:** Nimba County has the fifth highest EVD cases in Liberia and the county lacks modern infrastructure to contain the outbreak. The Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) has conducted the initial ETU site survey for Ganta, about 800 meters from the local

hospital. Currently EVD patients from Nimba County are being transported to Monrovia. The MoH has donated an ambulance to help with EVD transportation and 17 contact tracers were trained in Nimba County to help identify possible EVD patients. The new, 125-bed ETU will be the size of two soccer fields. *The Nimba County ETU site has a good road system in and around the area and the county will provide the equipment to build a well which can supply year-round water. The survey showed no existing issues.*

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

(U) **Israel to Help with Ebola Fight:** On 5 October, Israel is scheduled to send three teams of medical professionals, along with three mobile emergency clinics, to West Africa. The Israeli Foreign Ministry has decided to increase Israel's contribution to the international effort in response to requests by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The clinics will be built in accordance with the WHO's standards for Ebola treatment. A staff of medical experts will be attached to each clinic to train local medical staffers in its operation and equipment. There has already been favorable response to emergency equipment that has been sent to the government of Sierra Leone and personal protection equipment has been shipped to AU teams. *Additional countries will probably continue get involved with the fight against Ebola.*

(U) **Sociocultural Analysis: Methods and Sources of Information Exchange in Liberia**

(U) *Word-of-mouth exchanges are the most popular form of communication in West Africa, followed by radio and newspaper reporting, and can either facilitate or curtail efforts to better equip the population to contain the spread of Ebola. For example, word of mouth fuels the formation of angry mobs and protests that pose low-level security threats in various parts of Liberia and violent attacks in Guinea. Understanding information sources and forums for sharing information can defuse, and potentially deter panic and violence during the Ebola crisis.*

(U) Liberians politicians gather at designated spaces to exchange ideas and discuss a variety of topics. Liberians refer to these locations as **palava huts**, **attahee centers** (tea shops) or **massive centers**. In Monrovia these centers are located in the area near Cary and Benson Street but each district has an equivalent location. Tea shops are sources of information and word-of-mouth exchanges about topics such as the EVD crisis, political dynamics, and local events. *It may be helpful for the EVD crisis response team to identify the tea shops in towns designated for Ebola treatment units (ETUs).*

(U) Billboards and visual posters effectively communicate messages and slogans that are picked up and spread through word of mouth exchanges. Slogans are particularly popular in Liberia. People enjoy spirited word play and incorporating popular slogans into everyday conversation.

(U) Songs, skits, and street performances inform and generate word of mouth dialogues. Nonprofit organizations and community based organizations (e.g. churches, civic associations) can galvanize performers to support this form of information exchange.

(U) Western societies are somewhat critical of word of mouth exchanges because they may not accurately communicate complex and fact-based information. *In cultures where people lack electricity to power televisions, have low literacy rates, and value communal deliberations and face-to-face communication, word of mouth retains high value.*



(U) Weather:

(U) Liberia will see storms in the area starting late in the morning and lasting throughout the day with a forecasted precipitation amount near 1 inch for Monrovia. Starting on the 7th thunderstorms become more isolated and will continue through the forecast, excluding the mornings of the 9th and 10th. Degraded ground conditions affecting travel will continue through the forecast.

(U) In Dakar, low ceilings will impede airlift in the morning hours with minimal rain expected as the thunderstorm activity remains to the south.

(U) Temperatures will affect personnel in all regions with Dakar expecting a heat index near 95°F during the max heating hours while the other locations reach between mid 80s and low 90s throughout the forecast period.

(U) SATCOMM issues will continue every night with scintillation occurring along with the posted climatologic schedule.

(U) Ramstein will continue to see showers today which will last through the 7th. Lagos will see rain and thunderstorms through the 7th with fair weather through the 10th.