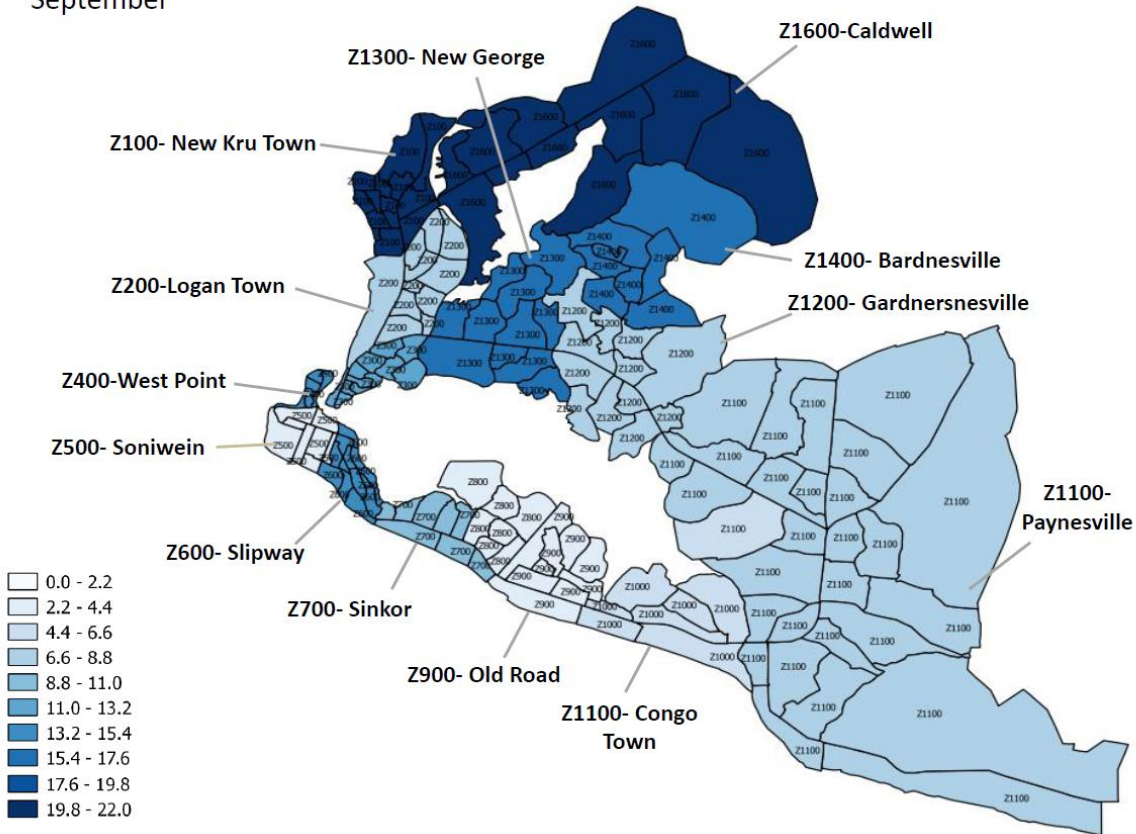


UNITED ASSISTANCE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Info Cut-off: 240600L SEP 14

24 September 2014

Cumulative Incidence of Ebola per 10,000 population by zone, Greater Monrovia- 20th September

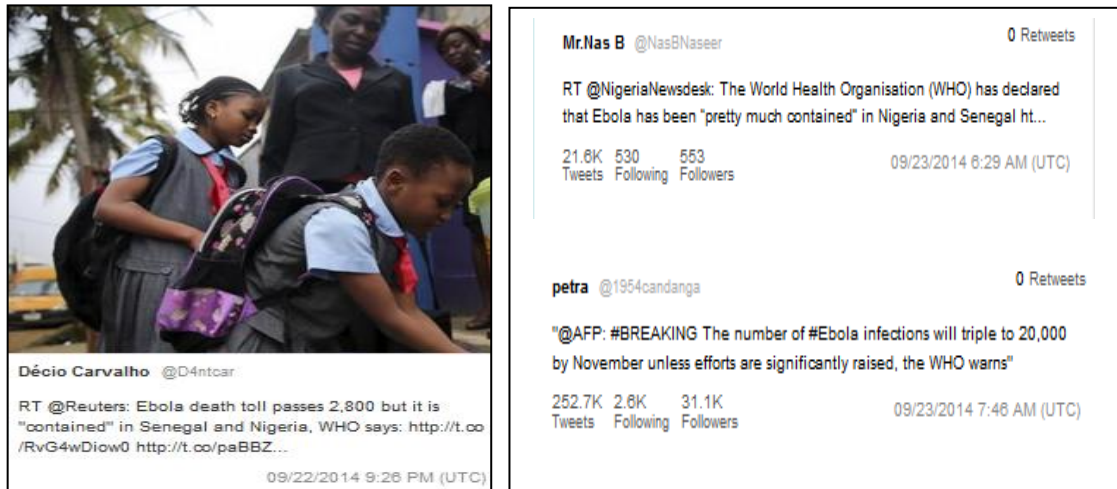


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(U) Executive Summary: *There has been no significant reporting in the last 24 hours and the security situation in Liberia is expected to remain stable in the near term. The World Health Organization (WHO) is concerned with the rapid rate in which the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) is spreading and warns of significant increases if not swiftly controlled. The international community is rushing to provide humanitarian aid and propose solutions to the governments of Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea. Nonetheless, experts foresee significant economic and political instability in the affected countries; some even warn of civil war potential, though civil unrest and political instability is far more likely. The economic impact continues to be more pronounced as food prices grow and food availability dwindles.*

¹ (U) Relief web, 23 SEP 14, (U) reliefweb: WHO: Liberia Ebola Situation Report no.129, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

(U) **Social Media Trends and Sentiments on Ebola Outbreak:** Trending on Twitter over the past 24 hours, the WHO has declared Ebola as “contained” in Senegal and Nigeria. The WHO also estimated the number of Ebola infections in West Africa will increase to 20,000, which is higher than initially anticipated.² *The Ebola outbreak is spreading at a higher rate than initially projected. Although positive feedback regarding containment is trending, the WHO expects the number of infected to increase before the Ebola crisis begins to abate.*



(U) **Liberia:**

(U) **Liberia Warns Ebola May Force Region Back Into Conflict:** Liberia has warned that if the EVD epidemic continues to spread through West Africa, the region has the potential to slip back into civil war. On 23 September, the WHO warned the number of Ebola infections will triple to 20,000 by November if the assistance to stop the outbreak is not greatly increased.³ *The likelihood of a return to civil war in Liberia is low, but the already strained government may suffer popular unrest and political upheaval if the EVD crisis is not contained in the mid to long term.*

(U) **Ebola's Agricultural Effects in Northern Liberia:** On 23 September, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) spokesperson for Liberia, Alexis Bonte, stated the agriculture needs in Liberia will top more than \$6 million over the next 6 months. “Neighbors, friends, and family members are dying within just a few days of exhibiting shocking symptoms, the causes of which are not fully understood by many local communities. This leads them to speculate that water, food, or even crops could be responsible. Panic ensues, causing farmers to abandon their fields for weeks.” *The loss of crops due to medical fears will further exacerbate the already strained economic conditions and could lead communities to migrate to areas they believe will be able to provide food and water. If communities begin to migrate due to failing crops, the spread of EVD could accelerate across Liberia and beyond.*

(U) **Relocation Concerns to Treatment Centers in Liberia:** According to WHO, Ebola victims will be removed by force from their families, if necessary, and relocated to community care centers. At least 70 centers are planned to be created with approximately 15 to 30 beds each, holding up to 1,500 patients in

² (U) Twitter, 23 SEP 14, (U) Social Media Trends and Sentiments on Ebola Outbreak, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

³ (U) Relief Web, 23 SEP 14, (U) Liberia warns Ebola may force region back into conflict, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

total.⁴ *Medically, the plan will probably work if these efforts are made swiftly and timely; some communities will also be resistant to the authorities using force to relocate family members, and some clashes are inevitable between healthcare workers, police, and the community.*

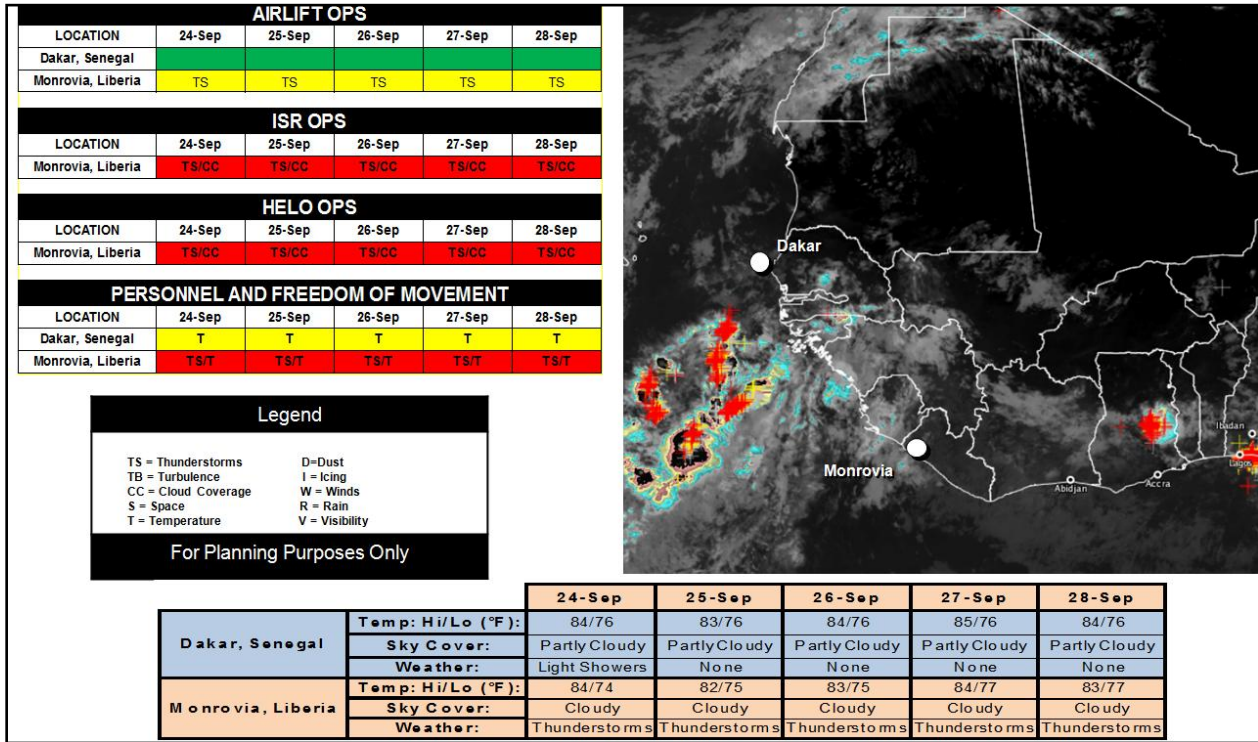
(U) JOA (Sierra Leone, Guinea, Senegal, Liberia):

(U) **First Ebola Treatment Clinical Trials To Start In West Africa:** On 23 September, scientists in London unveiled plans to push ahead with EVD prototype treatment clinical trials, possibly as early as November. Wellcome Trust, a British biomedical research charity, has funded the trials with a \$5.2 million grant. The charity stated there have been some experiments with treatments already but none have yet to be tested for efficacy and safety in humans. David Heymann, Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, suggested that plasmapheresis, a process in which blood serum is taken from Ebola survivors, offered good prospects. The procedure takes the survivors' antibodies and transfers them to Ebola infected patients with the intent to boost their immune system. Scientists hope to collect enough serum for trials to begin once suitable sites had been identified, on recommendations of WHO. Wellcome aims to "fast-track trials of the most promising drugs," but warned it would take several months before any treatments were released for trial. *It is unlikely that even the clinical trials will be ready by November due to lack of testing regarding the safety and effectiveness on infected humans, and even if successful, a broader treatment might take several months to become available.*⁵

⁴ (U) *Washington Post*, 22 SEP 14, (U) *New Effort to Fight Ebola in Liberia Would Move Infected Patients Out of Their Homes*, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

⁵ (U) *Relief Web*, 23 SEP 14, (U) *First Ebola treatment clinical trials to start in W. Africa*, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

(U) Weather:



(U) Monrovia will see no change in the weather pattern though the forecast, rain and isolated thunderstorms are expected to last through the next five days. *On the 24th 0.25 inches to 0.50 inches of rain is forecasted which will continue to degrade ground conditions, affecting travel on roads classified as “fair-weather”, along with construction activities.* In Dakar, cloudy skies will continue with minimal rain expected as the thunderstorm activity remains to the south. Temperatures will affect personnel in both regions as they are forecasted to remain in the mid 80s with high humidity. This will continue to produce a heat index near 90°F during the afternoon hours throughout the forecast period.