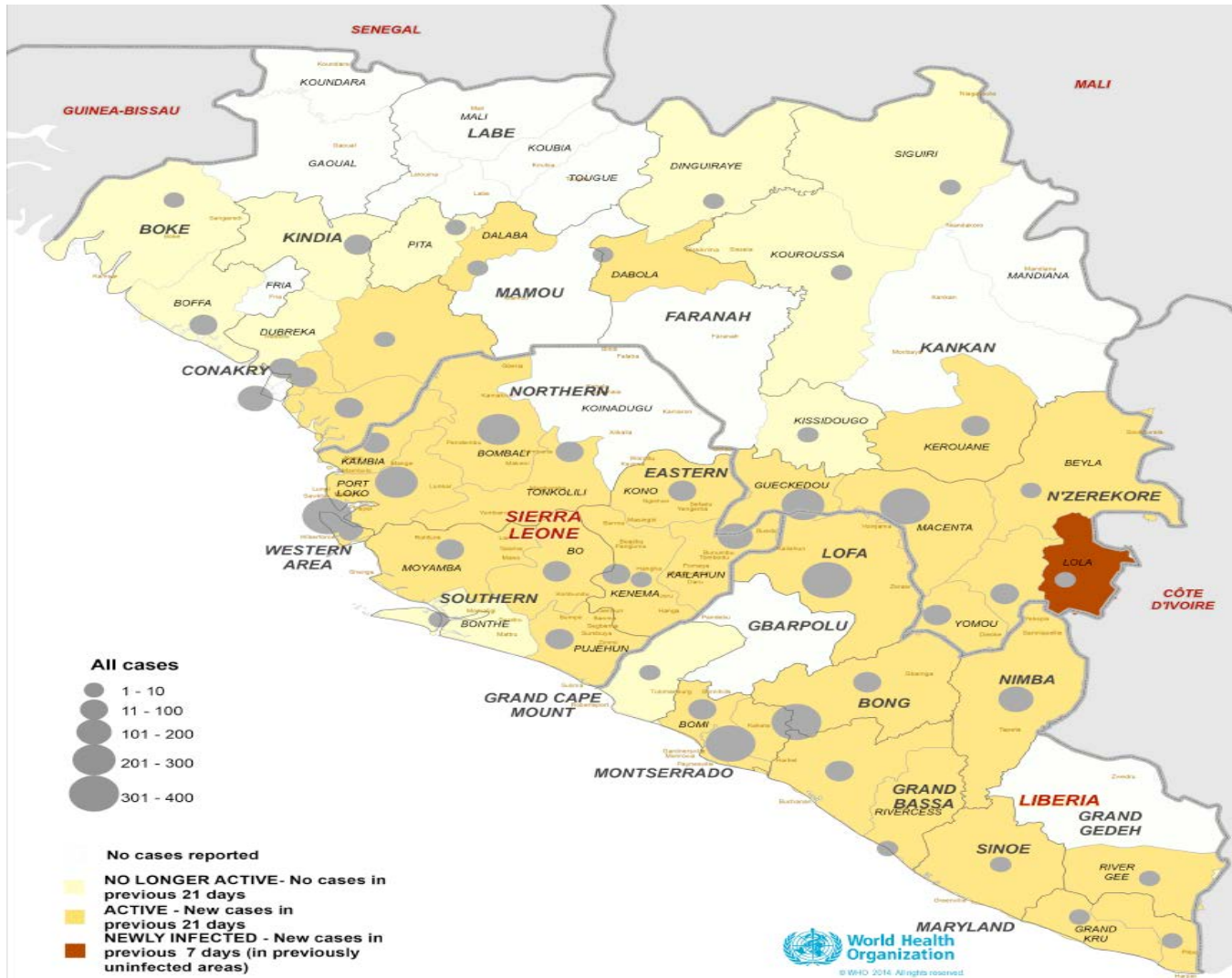




U.S. AFRICA COMMAND
(U) UNITED ASSISTANCE Security Update

8 October 2014

(U) West Africa: Operation UNITED ASSISTANCE Security Update—8 October 2014



(U) Source: World Health Organization¹

(U) SITUATION OVERVIEW

(U) As of 8 October 2014, the World Health Organization indicated that 7,470 probable, confirmed, and suspected cases of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and 3,431 deaths have occurred. Cases are primarily

confined to Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.² No significant security incidents have been reported in the last week and all three countries remain generally stable.

(U) GUINEA

(U) No security incidents occurred in Guinea in the past week.

(U) LIBERIA

(U) No security incidents have occurred in Liberia in the past week.

(U) SIERRA LEONE

(U) No major security incidents occurred in Sierra Leone over the past week.

(U) SOURCE ENDNOTES

¹ (U) World Health Organization, no serial number, 30000 OCT 14, (U) Ebola Update Map, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

² (U) World Health Organization, no serial number, 30000 OCT 14, (U) Ebola Update Map, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

³ (U) Gambia Information Site, 001, 070001Z OCT 14, (U) Tobaski Feast Day in Gambia, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

⁴ (U) www.routard.com, 001, 070001Z OCT 14, (U) L'agenda du routard: Aid el-Kebir (Eid el-Adha ou Tabaski), cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

⁵ (U) www.islam.about.com, 001, 070001Z OCT14, (U) When is Eid Al-Fitr 2014?, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

⁶ (U) International Business Times, 001, 040001Z OCT 14, (U) Eid al-Adha 2014: Ebola Outbreak in West Africa Dulls Celebrations, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

(U) Ebola Subdues Muslims' Islamic Tabaski Festival

(U) The West Africa Ebola outbreak resulted in subdued Tabaski festivities this year. All West African countries have either Muslim majorities or significant Muslim communities, normally ensuring widespread observance of Islamic holidays, such as Tabaski. Commencing 4 October, following the annual pilgrimage (Hajj) to Mecca,³ Muslims celebrated the 2- or 3-day Islamic Tabaski Festival—known in the broader Islamic world as Eid al-Adha, festival of sacrifice, or Eid al-Kabir⁴—the second greatest holiday after Eid al-Fitr, the festival after the fasting month of Ramadan that occurred this year from 28 to 30 July.⁵ Families performed the traditional sheep sacrifice at home in small groups rather than in large crowds in open squares,⁶ which may result in a religious community precedent that will detract from interfaith interactions, as many people traditionally celebrate each other's holidays.