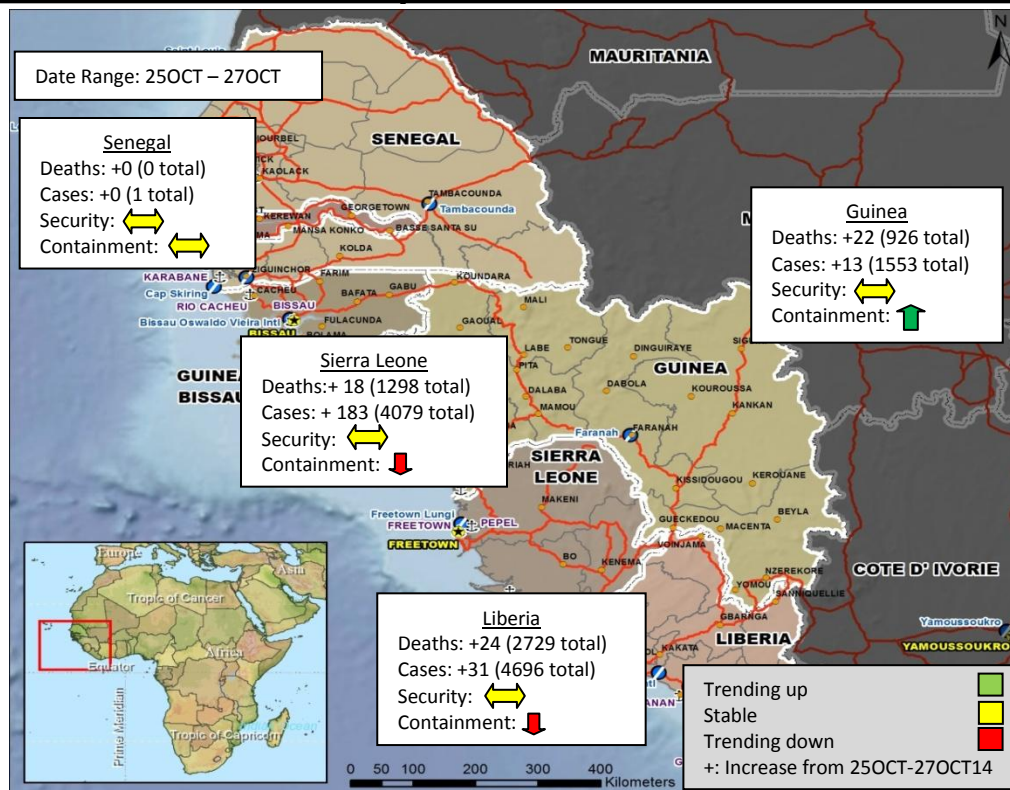


OPERATION UNITED ASSISTANCE SUMMARY

29 0600Z October 14

(U) Weather at a Glance

Wed 29 Oct 14		Thu 30 Oct 14		Fri 31 Oct 14		Sat 01 Nov 14		Sun 02 Nov 14	
LO: 34F/1C	HI: 84F/29C	LO: 75F/24C	HI: 84F/29C	LO: 75F/24C	HI: 86F/30C	LO: 75F/24C	HI: 84F/29C	LO: 75F/24C	HI: 84F/29C
WIND: 26F/-3C	HEAT INDEX: 90F/32C	WIND: N/A	HEAT INDEX: 90F/32C	WIND: N/A	HEAT INDEX: 94F/34C	WIND: N/A	HEAT INDEX: 90F/32C	WIND: N/A	HEAT INDEX: 90F/32C

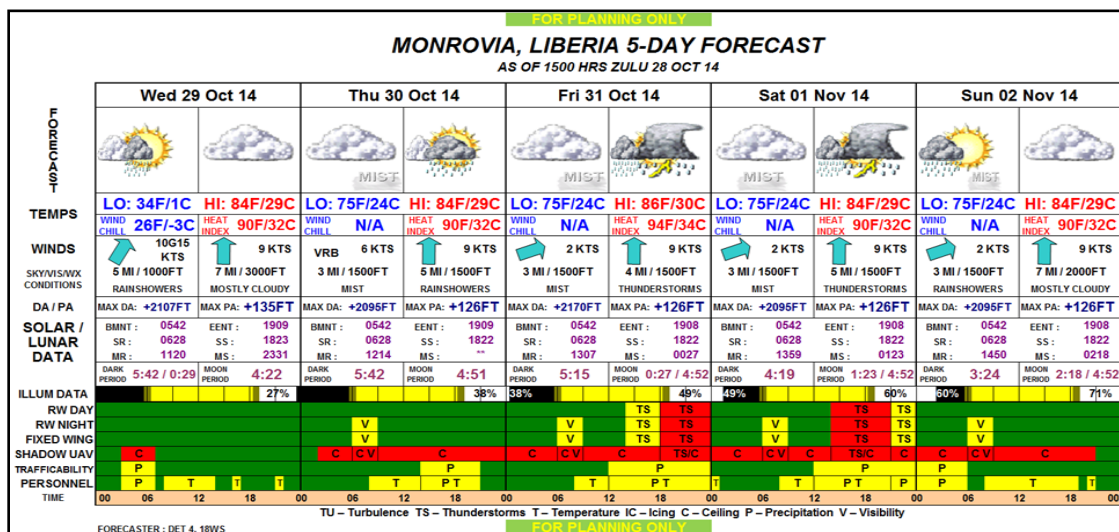


(U) Executive Summary: The current security situation continues to remain stable and aid workers are cautiously optimistic EVD numbers are trending down in Liberia. The building of Ebola Treatment Units, the support of health and aid workers, and the Liberian Government's focus on education in urban and rural areas is the major factor for this success. As international support to EVD eradication continues in Liberia, cross-county and cross-border movement of the Ebola virus will continue to remain a major concern in the JOA.

Table of Contents

1. (U) Weather Update
2. (U) Ebola Update
 - a. Healthcare Personnel in Western Mali Trained on Ebola Prevention
 - b. Radio Networks in Liberia Tribal Languages Spread Ebola Message
 - c. Guinea Sets December Deadline to End Ebola Contamination
3. (U) Current Security Situation
 - a. Youths Attack Ambulance Carrying Possible Ebola Patients
 - b. Czech Republic: Blackmailers Threaten to Spread Ebola Virus in Public Unless State Pays 1M Euros
4. (U) Internal/External Influences
 - a. Liberia: More Chinese Assistance Packages Arrive
 - b. Christian Aid Distributes Emergency Food Aid to Quarantined Homes in Ebola 'Hotspots' to Prevent Starvation
 - c. Liberia: House Approves U.S. \$62.31 Million to Fight Ebola
 - d. Experienced Doctors are Still Rare
5. (U) Social Media
 - a. Trends and Sentiments on Ebola Outbreak

1. (U) Complete Weather Update



2. (U) Ebola Update

(U) Assessment: Throughout the JOA, countries continue to focus on education to help prevent the spread of the Ebola virus. As originally reported, on 24OCT14, Mali had its first Ebola death after a two year old girl crossed the Guinean-Mali border infected with Ebola. Since then, the Mali Government, in conjunction with international organizations, has proactively attempted to mitigate further spread in the country. In Liberia, the use of local dialects over the radio and television is just one of many ways the Liberian Government is attempting to, and has successfully reached, rural areas.

- a. **(U) Healthcare Personnel in Western Mali Trained on Ebola Prevention:** Following the death of Mali's first Ebola case in the Kayes region, healthcare service agencies and volunteers from the Red Cross received training to prevent the Ebola virus and isolate infected people. The attendees received instructions on how to search for people who were in contact with the deceased girl and her grandmother. Healthcare agents' training is part of priority measures advised by authorities in order to break the transmission chain of Ebola. A team of agents from the regional hospital, health centers, and the Red Cross were trained on the prevention and monitoring of Ebola, and follow up techniques for people who come into contact with Ebola victims. (Text of report by Malian state-owned ORTM TV on 27 October) **(PIR 1)**
- b. **(U) Radio Networks in Liberia Tribal Languages Spread Ebola Message:** In Liberia, the primary means of disseminating information on Ebola is through the radio network. However, only an estimated 20 percent of the four million person population understands English, with everyone else communicating in one of 30 minority languages. Religious leaders, tribal elders, and other trusted officials use commercials, phone-in shows, and news programs broadcast over the radio and television in the local dialect to reach the rest of the populace. Human Rights Watch (HRW) hailed the "key role" played in public health education by Liberian media groups, which produced Ebola information programming in local languages broadcast on 44 community radio stations. (<http://reliefweb.int/report/liberia/radio-tribal-languages-spreads-ebola-message>) **(PIR 1)**
- c. **(U) Guinea Sets December Deadline to End Ebola Contamination:** On 27OCT14, Guinea's national coordinator in the fight against Ebola, Dr. Sakoba Keita, said his institution set the end of December as the deadline for stopping further contamination of the Ebola virus. At the same time, the national coordinator announced a new transit center for Ebola patients at Forecariah, a village near the border with Sierra Leone. Local health personnel and the French Red Cross will manage the center. Recently, Guinea's President, Alpha Conde, urged retired health workers and students in the country who graduated in medicine to collaborate with medical teams in the fight against Ebola. (Xinhua China) **(PIR 1)**
- d. **(U) Liberian National Red Cross Reports Drop in Ebola Death Rate:** As of 28OCT14, the Liberia National Red Cross Society (LNRCS) released burial statistics, showing a significant drop in the number of Ebola dead bodies picked up by its burial team in Monrovia. According to LNRCS Secretary-General Fayia Tamba, the LNRCS team buried an average of 171 bodies for a week between 06OCT14 and 19OCT14. However, the figure dropped to 117 bodies between 20OCT14 and 26OCT14. The highest weekly body collection was recorded from 15-21SEP 14 at a rate of 315 bodies and averaged 220 bodies a week for the remainder of September. (<http://www.gnnliberia.com/articles/2014/10/27/liberia-red-cross-reports-drop-ebola-death-rate>) **(PIR 2)**

3. (U) Current Security Situation

(U) Assessment: Education and burial practices continue to be the leading cause of altercations between Ebola workers and the local populace in Sierra Leone. The 27OCT14 attack on an ambulance by local youths highlights the difficulty Sierra Leone's Government has in reaching rural areas with education projects. The focus on the implementation of education efforts across the JOA is the key to mitigate issues between the local population and the healthcare workers attempting to support them.

Safer burial practices, along with focused education campaigns, and the timeliness of mobile lab testing are critical in order to mitigate further incidents.^{1 2}

- a. **(U) Youths Attack Ambulance Carrying Possible Ebola Patients:** On 28OCT14, an ambulance carrying suspected Ebola patients was chased and pelted with stones by local youth in Port Loko, Sierra Leone. The altercation caused the driver to lose control of the vehicle and crash into a ditch. There were no injuries to the patients and the military was called in to quell the situation. The youth were attempting to prevent their loved ones from being taken away because they do not believe the Ebola virus exists. The locals in the area have a strong belief in witchcraft and local government officials believe this belief is hindering the fight against the spread in parts of the Port Loko District. (<http://cocorioko.info/?p=13053>) **(PIR 1, 5)**
- b. **(U) Czech Republic: Blackmailers Threaten to Spread Ebola Virus in Public Unless State Pays 1M Euros:** On 28OCT14, the Czech Republic Interior Ministry stated that unknown perpetrators are attempting to blackmail the Czech State by threatening to spread the Ebola virus in public spaces. The Deputy Police President said the perpetrators main goal is to spread panic and that they will face up to 12 years in prison if found. The Czech Interior Minister said the police have been investigating the threat for several days. (https://www.opensource.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_0_200_203_121123_43/content/Display/EUN2014102856872278#index=4&searchKey=16931834&rpp=10) **(PIR 6)**

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

(U) Assessment: International assistance is critical in the containment efforts of the Ebola virus in West Africa. Multiple countries continue to pledge aid in the form of supplies, funding, and personnel. Currently, China is on its fourth round of assistance, providing hospital beds, ambulances, motorcycles, and PPE. Supplies such as these are necessary to mitigate the spread of the Ebola virus. However, material supplies will not likely provide the effected countries the ability to sustain current relief efforts. Building a sustainable health care system needs simultaneous attention in order to avoid its continued downward trend and exit of qualified medical personnel.^{3 4 5 6}

- a. **(U) Liberia: More Chinese assistance package arrives:** Three Boeing 747 cargo planes arrived at the Roberts International Airport (RIA) with materials and medical equipment for the construction of Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs). During this fourth round of Chinese assistance to Ebola-hit countries, China is providing hospital beds, ambulances, motorcycles, personal protective equipment (PPE) and other urgently-needed supplies to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. Prior to the latest assistance, China offered more than USD \$40 million in aid, including the assistance as the first country to deliver a huge consignment of PPE, pharmaceuticals, and other equipment to fight Ebola. Additionally, China announced that it will donate USD \$6 million to the UN Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund to support the efforts being made by the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response. (UNMEER).(<http://allafrica.com/stories/201410280598.html>)
- b. **(U) Christian Aid distributes Emergency Food Aid to Quarantined Homes in Ebola 'Hotspots' to Prevent Starvation:** As of 27OCT14, Christian Aid delivered emergency food and hygiene kits to some of the most vulnerable families under quarantine in areas of Sierra Leone to prevent families from starving. Pregnant women, single mothers, people living with HIV, the elderly and young children are among the 2,100 targeted quarantined residents. The kits contain

¹ <http://online.wsj.com/articles/u-s-military-sends-bio-experts-to-staff-mobile-ebola-labs-in-liberia-1412714122>

² <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/bringing-safer-burial-rituals-ebola-countries/>

³ <http://reliefweb.int/report/liberia/china-provides-food-aid-ebola-hit-countries>

⁴ <http://reliefweb.int/report/guinea/china-contributes-us6-million-wfp-fight-against-ebola-guinea-liberia-sierra-leone>

⁵ <http://www.liberianobserver.com/news/%E2%80%9Cwe-are-here-build-and-maintain-treatment-training-centers-chinese-ambassador-declares-china>

⁶ <http://www.cgdev.org/blog/china-africa-health-cooperation-new-era>

enough food to give a family a balanced diet for two weeks. They also include essential hygiene materials such as soap, female sanitary items, chlorine, disinfectant, latex gloves, and infra-red thermometers. (<http://reliefweb.int/report/sierra-leone/christian-aid-distributes-emergency-food-aid-quarantined-homes-ebola-hotspots>)

- c. **(U) Liberia: House Approves USD \$62.31 Million to Fight Ebola:** As of 23OCT14, the Liberian House of Representatives approved two Loan Agreements totaling USD \$62.31 million, as additional funding to fight the Ebola virus. President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf submitted the Loan Agreements, known as the African Development Fund (ADF) Loan Agreement for Ebola Sector Budget and the Transitional States Facility Loan Agreement for the Ebola Sector Budget Support (TSF). According to the financing agreements, the ADF Loan Agreement is for approximately USD \$54.25 million, while the TSF Agreement amounts to approximately USD \$8.06 million. (<http://allafrica.com/stories/201410280854.html>)
- d. **(U) Experienced Doctors are Still Rare:** As of 27OCT14, reporting states the difficulty of finding doctors with field experience hampers international medical intervention to help curb Ebola in West Africa. The fear of contracting the virus and restricted air travel has also slowed the response. According to World Health Organization (WHO), more than 240 medical workers died from Ebola in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, while regular commercial flights to the affected countries have decreased. Médecins Sans Frontiers (MSF) conducted two-days of training for doctors coming to help with Ebola control. Even with the training, working in a field hospital in full protective gear while trying to contain a highly infectious virus is difficult, and the death rate is emotionally distressing. (<http://reliefweb.int/report/liberia/ebola-experienced-doctors-still-rare>)

5. (U) Social Media:

(U) Assessment: As members of non-government organizations comment negatively on social media about the conditions and mission in Liberia, it may degrade popular support for aid in West Africa. Complaints of low conditions for quarantine may also lead to problems with the local populace questioning aid groups and government organizations abilities to combat Ebola. Negative reporting may also highlight some of the faults in current quarantine measures.

(U) Trends and Sentiments on Ebola Outbreak: A volunteer in Liberia posted several times on Twitter within the past 24 hours regarding the quarantine conditions and management of the health workers in the region. Unsatisfactory quarantine conditions and extensive meetings are on the foreground of this username's concerns.⁷ This user has tweeted concern over health conditions in quarantines since 25 OCT. The posts are derived from reports by local agencies that are currently in Liberia such as Doctors Without Borders.



⁷ (U) Twitter, 28 OCT 14, (U) Social Media Trends and Sentiments on Ebola Outbreak, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U