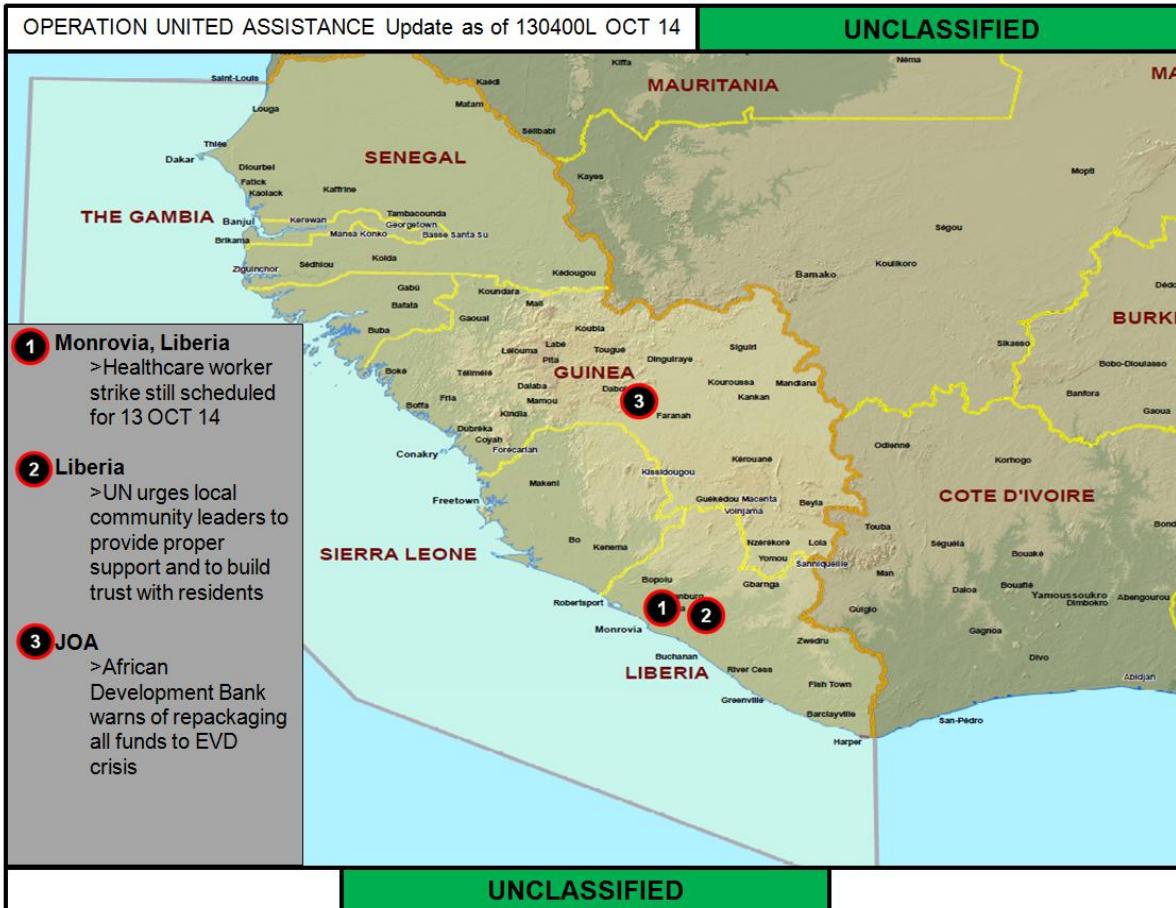


UNITED ASSISTANCE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Info Cut-off: 130400LOCT14

13 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. Healthcare workers (HCW) in Liberia continue to threaten a strike in demand for higher compensation, despite President Sirleaf's personal pleas to stay on the job during a tour of ETU sites over the weekend. The UN senior representative in Liberia urges county leaders to be more proactive in providing accurate information and reducing resistance to EVD efforts in their communities.*

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(U) Liberia

(U) Senior UNMIL Staff Met with the National Civil Society Organization (CSO) Leaders: Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) to Liberia Karin Landgren met with CSO Leaders to discuss EVD mitigation measures. SRSG Landgren stressed the need for county and district leaders to earn popular trust and reduce skepticism in their areas. The CSO Chairperson expressed the need to sensitize communities on EVD prevention and stressed the importance of case and death reporting. CSO representatives also asked the government to address the threat of a health worker strike and the need for psychosocial care in high-EVD rate areas.

County officials continue to struggle with managing negative sentiments from their constituents. Putting trusted local leadership in the lead of counter-EVD efforts could assist in building local trust.



(U) Health Care Worker Strike Update: Liberian healthcare workers (HCW) are staged to hold a “go-slow/work-slow” demonstration on 13 October. The National Health Workers Association is requesting hazard pay to increase from \$435 to \$700. Liberian Ministry of Health and other government officials are urging workers to show up for work. President Sirleaf toured ETU locations in Monrovia this weekend personally asking workers to continue to work. *The strike on 1 September, the government has continually made promises to address health care workers concerns. HCWs are likely to continue to threaten to strike until some agreement is reached to increase hazard pay or the epidemic begins to slow down.*

(U) Finance Minister Addresses Economic Concerns:

Liberian Finance Minister Amara Konneh stated the economy is in a recession. Liberia’s service sector has declined by 10% and the agricultural sector by 12%. The mining and manufacturing are also cited to be under heavy pressure. Government revenue in Liberia has dropped 20%, leaving a deficit of 106 million USD. The Government of Liberia is currently looking at raising the lending restriction to allow the country to borrow money to cover its deficit. *Liberia’s already fragile economy has faced significant pressure since the EVD Crisis. Any additional travel restrictions on exports and imports will likely further damage the economy.*



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(U) JOA

(U) Pennsylvania Non-Profit Organization Donates to Fight Ebola in Sierra Leone: On 10 October, Mission Central in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania collected and sent donations of approximately \$10,000 and two tons of supplies to help in the fight against Ebola in Sierra Leone. The donations, aimed at addressing the lack of medical supplies, included hospital-grade gloves, boots, masks and full-body suits, and an ambulance. Mission Central plans to continue to collect donations to send to the country. *As donations continue to flow into the affected countries, this could aid in filling current gaps in supplies, but it also raises questions about who on the ground is coordinating incoming assistance.*

(U) African Development Bank (ADB) Concerned with Fund Allocation: The ADB is concerned that donors are repackaging existing aid rather than providing additional aid to the Ebola crisis. This could negatively affect Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea in the long run because it will reduce available funding for rebuilding healthcare systems and other reconstruction once the crisis has ended. Donald Kaberuka, head of the ADB, is worried that projects started prior to the Ebola outbreak will not have the support needed to continue. The ADB has pledged \$210 million to these three countries and is open to providing further financial aid. *Although reallocating existing aid to meet current funding shortfalls in the fight against Ebola might move aid into the right places in the short term, it risks leaving heavily affected countries in a more difficult position to recover once the epidemic ends.*

(U) Worldwide

(U) Second U.S. Case of Ebola; First Confirmed Instance of Ebola Being Transmitted in the U.S.: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed on 12 October another case of Ebola in the U.S. The patient, so far unnamed, is one of the nurses that treated the first U.S. Ebola patient, Thomas Eric Duncan, at the Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas. Although hospital officials stated the nurse wore protective equipment, the Director of the CDC, Dr. Thomas Frieden, said it appeared the woman had breached safety protocol at the hospital, possibly when removing the protective gear, and they are investigating the incident. The CDC is also recommending that U.S. health officials look more closely at the protective gear used when treating Ebola patients, and for the first time is considering whether Ebola patients should be transferred to hospitals with special containment units and experience in treating the disease. Officials in Dallas have expanded the pool of people they are monitoring for the disease. National Nurses United, the country's largest union and professional association of nurses, threatened to picket if more was not done to protect U.S. healthcare workers.

(U) Weather

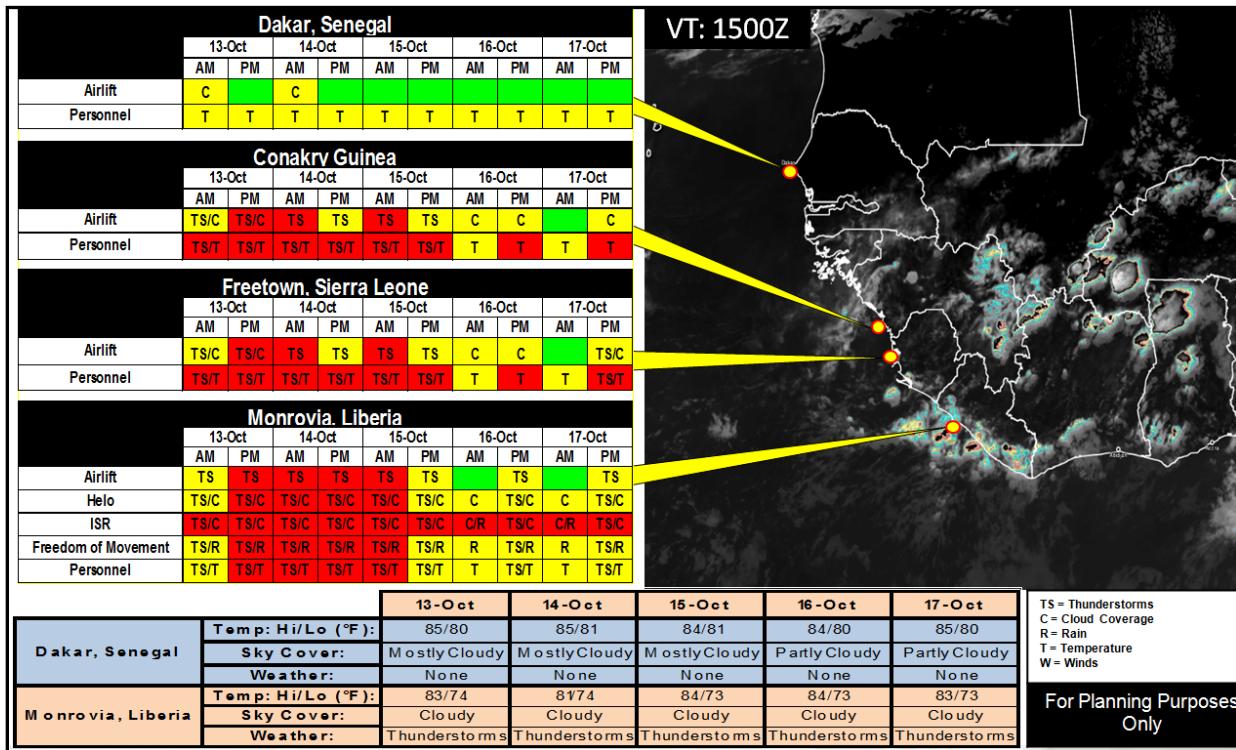
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(U) Isolated rain and thunderstorms will continue across the central and southern portions of the JOA through the majority of the forecast. ***The strongest storms are expected from the afternoon of 13 October through the morning of 15 October. The system will bring heavy rains and thunderstorms which will delay airlift and severely degrade unpaved roads.***

(U) Both mornings of 16 and 17 October will be free of thunderstorms; however, cloud cover, high temperatures, and rain showers will continue to produce marginal conditions while airlift remains mostly favorable. ***Temperatures and high humidity will continue to produce marginal conditions for personnel throughout the JOA with the heat index remaining over 85°F.***

(U) Dakar will experience marginal impacts to airlift operations due to low ceilings during the morning hours of 13 and 14 October while the rest of the forecast remains favorable.



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