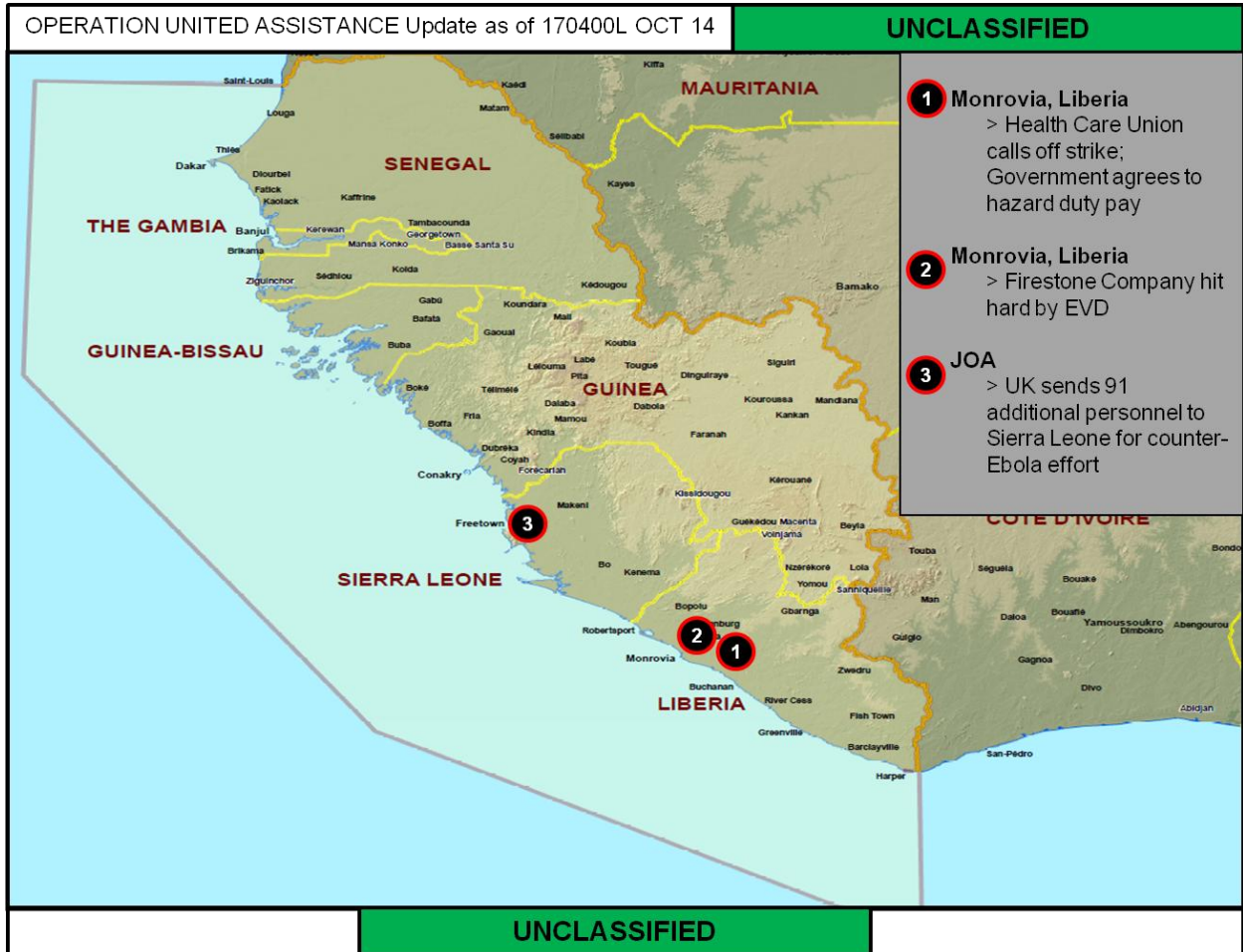
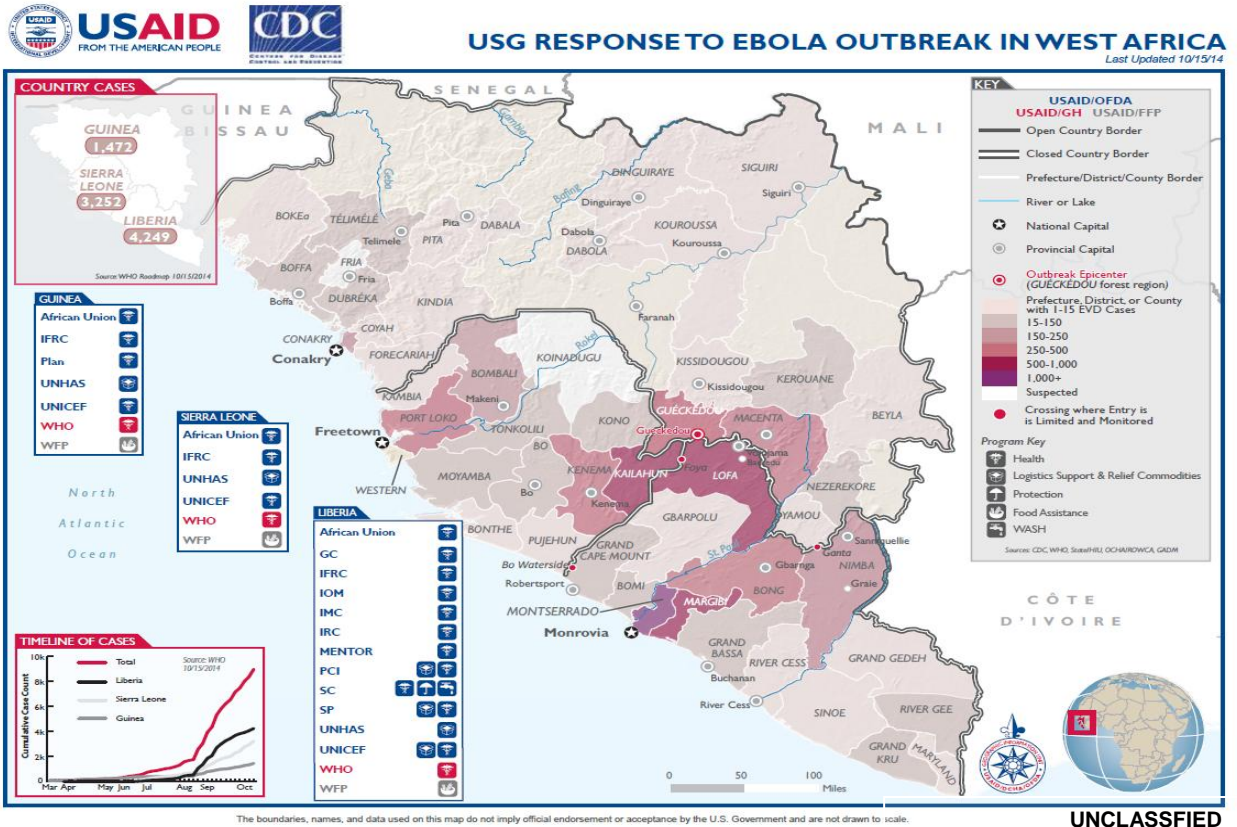


UNITED ASSISTANCE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Info Cut-off: 170400LOCT14

17 October 2014





(U) **Ebola Case Update.** As of 15 October, reports of Ebola deaths continue to increase linearly. Sierra Leone numbers increased sharply in early October due to retrospective analysis of hospital records. In Liberia, problems collecting data continue to contribute to under-reporting. Additional ETUs and mobile testing will likely help to increase the accuracy of data moving forward.

(U) **Liberia**

(U) **Healthcare Union Call off Strike:** The Finance Minister, Amara Konneh, announced on 16 October the government would pay hazard allowances from September consistent with the pay schedule presented on 8 October. Konneh stated that the 619 HCWs with bank accounts (of a total 1,015 eligible) had already received their payments on 13 October, while the remaining 333 were told to collect their payments in cash from a local bank, although most have not yet done so.

(U) **Firestone in Liberia Hit Hard by EVD:** Firestone Tire and Rubber Company’s production facility in Liberia has 71 cases of EVD among its more than 8,000 staff. The company has set

up treatment measures and has helped 17 of the 71 victims recover from EVD. Firestone's success is being noted and used as a model for future EVD treatment practices.

(U) Road Projects on Hold Due to Ebola: On 16 October, *AllAfrica* reported that the government and its international partners have put the Ganta to Tapita road project on hold due to the Ebola outbreak, stating concerns they may not receive bids from quality companies due to the epidemic.

(U) AFL to Rehab Bong County Roads: Engineers of the AFL have disclosed plans to undertake several reconstruction works in Bong County. The engineering company out of Tubman Military Barracks will repair several portions of the road in Bong County, and has identified locations in Nimba County for repair. The Defense Minister, Brownie Samukai, stated work will begin at the end of the rainy season in November.

(U) Island Clinic ETU Releases 12 Patients: Island Clinic ETU released 12 patients on 16 October. The patients have either tested negative of EVD or recovered. Half of the 12 patients were children. The Island Clinic is now able to process Ebola tests within a 24-hour period due to the efforts of the mobile lab. The Island Clinic Mobile Lab processed 33 samples on 16 October, 21 samples tested positive for EVD.

(U) JOA

(U) EU, WHO to Inspect Airport Screening Procedures in Ebola Countries: The EU and the WHO will carry out an audit of Ebola airport screening procedures in the Ebola-affected areas.

(U) UK Sends Further Medical Workers to Fight Ebola in Sierra Leone: On 16 October, 91 doctors, nurses, and infectious disease consultants from 22 field hospitals in Aldershot, England traveled to Sierra Leone to join 40 British soldiers to run a field hospital specifically designated for HCWs infected from treating Ebola patients.

(U) Norway Pledges Doctors in Addition to Previous Aid: On 14 October, Borge Brende, Foreign Minister of Norway, announced the country will continue to participate in the global efforts to counter Ebola, to include sending 160 doctors to the three most affected countries and military logistical support. The country previously designated over \$60 million to the response in the Mano River region and \$15 million through the WHO to countries affected by the disease.

(U) Sociocultural Analysis: Burials Continue to Be a Source of Ebola Transmission and Localized Community Violence

(U) Risk of Transmission

(U) The bodies of Ebola victims are highly contagious at death, and can remain so for at least three days.¹ Traditional burial practices – including washing and dressing the body for burial, touching the body at the funeral, and communal meals at funerals – expose individuals to the virus and have facilitated the transmission of Ebola in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

(U) Reports have surfaced in Liberia of burial management teams accepting bribes to leave bodies in communities or provide certificates stating the dead did not die from Ebola, and therefore could be buried traditionally. Families reportedly can get dispensations for proper burials, even for Ebola victims, but this requires political connections.

(U) Risk of Localized Violence

(U) When burial management teams collect bodies from ETUs, this often means families cannot say their goodbyes or properly honor their dead or in some cases even see the dead body, except in a body bag, which is not common to traditional burial practices in these communities.² This has led to rumors of harvesting body parts and healthcare workers bringing the disease to communities, which have generated fear and suspicion in some populations, and even led to localized attacks on a few health clinics over the past several months.



Burial team sprays a body for collection



Body strapped into truck for transport

(U) Weather

(U) Liberia will have isolated thunderstorms through the 18th with a break in activity on the 19th.

(U) Conakry and Freetown will have mostly fair weather in the morning with thunderstorms in the afternoon for most of the forecast period. Conakry will see a break in activity during the 19th and 20th.

(U) Temperature impacts will continue to occur throughout the JOA with heat indices remaining over 85 degrees Fahrenheit through the forecast period.