

UNITED ASSISTANCE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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7 October 2014

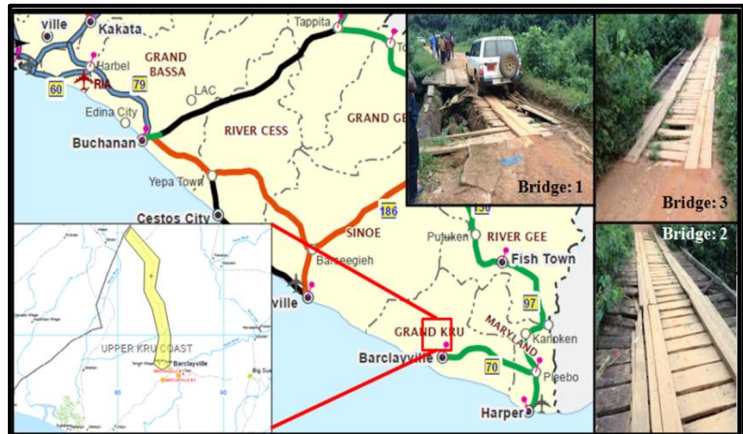
(U) Executive Summary: *There has been no significant reporting in the last 24 hours and the security situation in Liberia will likely remain stable in the near term. Bomi County, Liberia is showing signs of progress with the establishment of a Community Care Center that accommodates up to 90 beds, but healthcare worker attrition and limited communication capabilities pose ongoing challenges to its effective treatment. An assessment of Parluken, Grand Kru County, is less optimistic: the EVD outbreak has contributed to a rise in crime and orphans, while problems related to clean water, communications, and severely restricted roads persist.*

(U) Liberia:

(U) **Parluken Rapid Assessment Meeting:** United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) and the Ministry of Health met to assess the EVD situation in Grand Kru County. The intent of the meeting was to plan delivery of personal protective equipment (PPE), medical equipment, and food

to quarantined personnel. The Ministry of Health delivered two weeks' worth of PPE, but county officials requested more. Other concerns raised included education on how to prevent EVD and better hygiene practices. EVD has caused a spike in crime, especially looting homes of the deceased. Additionally, officials expressed concern over the

lack of a coherent plan for orphaned children in the area, *which is exacerbating the looting and humanitarian situation*. Intervention will be challenging as cell phone coverage is absent and the rainy season washed out usable wells. *The Ministry of Health has been proactively visiting future ETU locations like Parluken. These visits are educational for all parties involved, and will enable the ministry to boost local support for its initiatives.*



(U) **Route Update: Barclayville to Parluken, Grand Kru County:** Medical officials for Grand Kru County reside in Barclayville, and so will need to use the route from Barclayville to the Parluken ETU. It is a secondary road which is eight feet wide, with dense foliage on both sides.

The road is made of hard-packed red clay, waterlogged and muddy in areas due to the rains. The worst portions of this route are the three bridges, severely degraded and composed of hastily-made wooden slats. These bridges are unfavorable for even light vehicle traffic. ***This route connects Barclayville to the Parluken ETU and logistical support vehicles will not be able to use this route for supply transport. Parluken has already been identified by UNMIL as a candidate for aerial support.***

(U) **Bong County Mobile Lab Update:** The Bong Mobile Lab in Bong County has tested 49 samples to date with a 39% positive EVD return; however, the lab has been experiencing power generation issues. On 6 October, the power went out, leaving a technician to decontaminate in the dark. The lab will contact the power manager to help prevent recurrence, as power outage was due to routine generator maintenance. ***Intermittent power outages can leave lab workers vulnerable to contamination. Lack of power distribution capabilities in Bong will cause safety issues and will likely continue to affect timely lab results.***

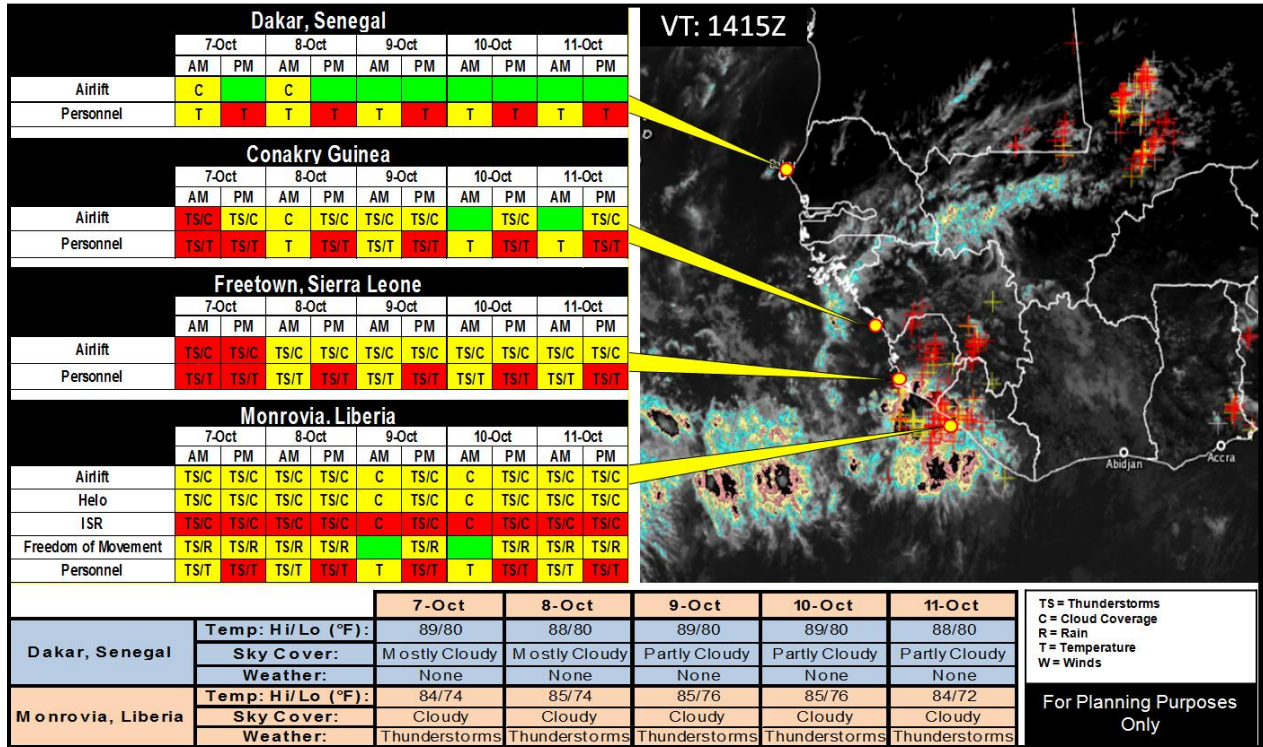
(U) **Bomi Field Assessment Mission:** On 3 October, UNDAC held a meeting in Bomi County. Bomi has established a Community Care Center (CCC) comprised of three annexes. The first two annexes are newly built and hold EVD cases while the third annex holds quarantined personnel. The annexes hold 20 to 30 beds each, for a total of 60 to 90 beds. Bomi County has approximately 20 health care workers (three to five per district) and there are four districts in Bomi County. Most healthcare workers in Bomi are not on the Ministry of Health's payroll, so the county struggles to maintain its best staff. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is highly active in Bomi and maintains good vital statistic data, so ongoing coordination with UNDAC and UNICEF will play a large role in combating EVD in Bomi. The county has very poor cell phone coverage. Additionally, contact with officials in the county will likely be difficult. UNDAC is looking to local religious leaders to help educate the populace on EVD preventive measures. ***Weak infrastructure is a common theme in outlying counties like Bomi. County officials and local leaders will be instrumental in communicating information to the populace. Additionally, Bomi County is rumored to have a doctor using HIV medication to treat EVD. The county believes the medication has cured 12 people; however, these claims have not been verified by the international community.***

Worldwide:

(U) **Spanish Nurse Infected with Ebola in Spain:** On 7 October, a Spanish nurse treating two Spanish missionaries at a hospital in Madrid contracted Ebola despite extensive medical precautions including two sets of overalls, gloves, and goggles. The Spanish nurse exhibited symptoms for a few days before admitting herself to the hospital for treatment, and authorities are checking her contacts to monitor for further spread of the disease in Spain. ***This is the first case of Ebola infecting an individual outside of Africa. It is unusual that medical personnel in an advanced hospital with extreme precautions would contract Ebola, and this may cause***

negative public perceptions toward international involvement in West African and repatriation of infected individuals.

(U) Weather



(U) Liberia will see isolated thunderstorms through the majority of the forecast period excluding the mornings of the 9th and 10th. In Monrovia, precipitation amounts of .25 inches are forecasted over the next 24 hours. Freedom of movement along improved roads will continue to be degraded due to the rain and thunderstorms; however, *on the morning of the 9th and 10th rain is not expected and roads classified as “all-weather” will be favorable.*

(U) In Dakar, low ceilings will impede airlift in the morning hours with minimal rain expected as the thunderstorm activity remains to the south.

(U) A combination of high temperatures and high humidity will unfavorably affect personnel in all regions, with the heat index reaching 95°F during the maximum heating hours.

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