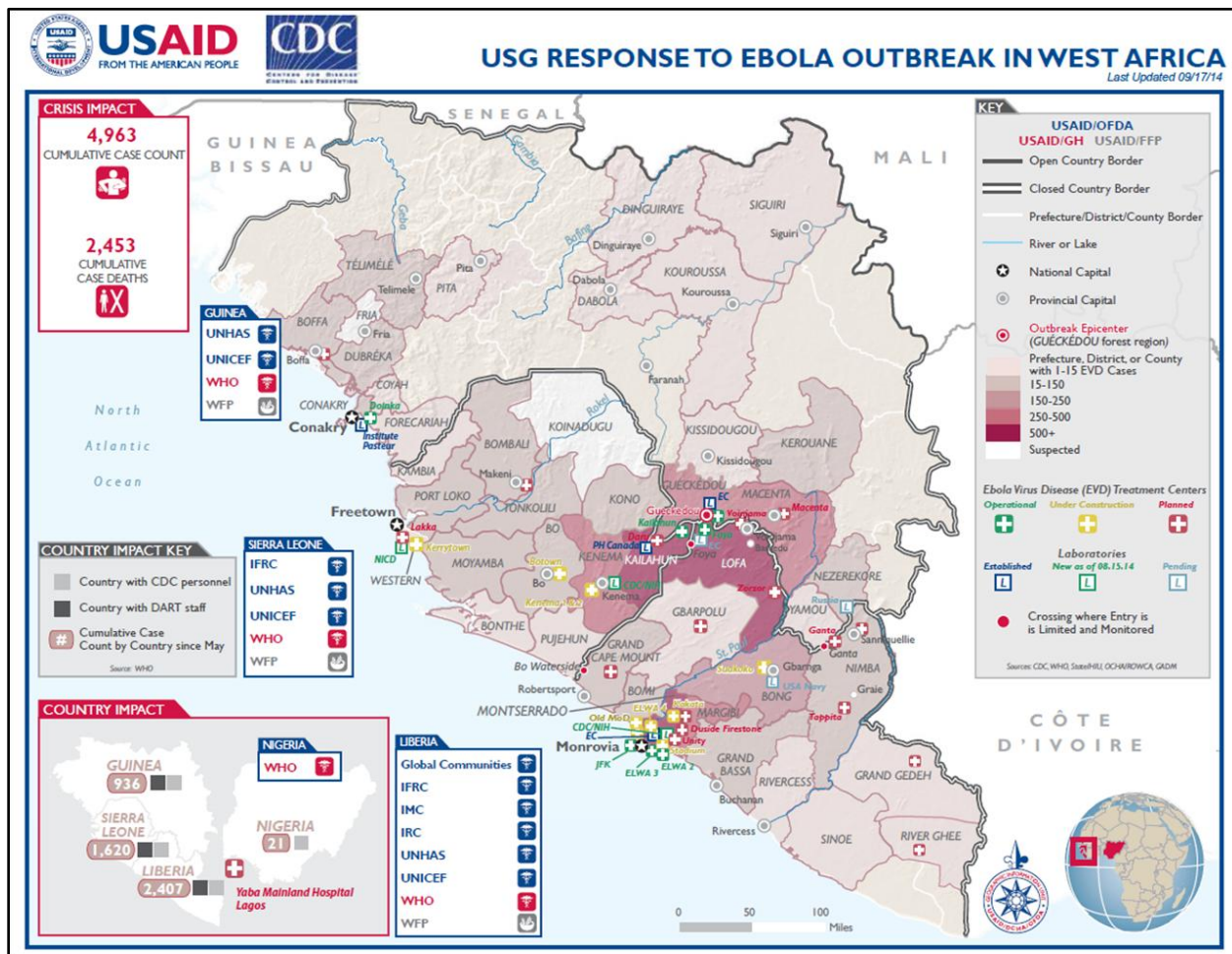


UNITED ASSISTANCE INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Info Cut-off: 210600L SEP 14

21 September 2014



(U) Executive Summary: *The overall security situation in Liberia is stable and is expected to remain so in the near term. There have been no reported security incidents in the last 24 hours. The disbursement of humanitarian aid is likely to remain severely constrained until the rainy season ends in late October, allowing construction and logistics freedom of movement in the air and on ground. As local villagers continue to volunteer and assist their governments by border patrolling and spreading EVD awareness, it will help control the outbreak, but will pose challenges of liaison with such decentralized groups.*

¹ (U) United States Agency for International Development, 17 SEP 14, (U)USG West Africa Ebola Outbreak Program Map-Sept 17, 2014, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

(U) **Liberia:**

(U) **Inclement Weather Causes Logistical Concerns:** Heavy rains continue to hinder construction of treatment facilities and operation centers across the countries affected by Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). With already underdeveloped road systems, the affected countries will experience difficulty in transporting materials out to construction sites without the use of specialized trucks during the rainy season, which lasts until late October. Lofa County, (far north Liberia) and bordering areas are experiencing serious constraints for air and ground operations due to the heavy rains making transit almost impossible passage due to mud washouts and thick jungle.² *The jungle county of Lofa and bordering areas have experienced the worse of the pandemic and given the logistical limitations of heavy rains, the numbers will likely increase.*

(U) **JOA (Sierra Leone, Guinea, Senegal, Liberia):**

(U) **Local Neighborhood Watch Patrols Border:** Along the Guinean and Senegalese border, locals are volunteering to patrol the barely monitored area for persons crossing illegally into Senegal. Volunteers as young as teenagers are stopping, questioning, and arresting persons crossing the border to prevent the spread of EVD into their villages.³ *The initiative demonstrates willingness to combat the spread of EVD; however, it has the potential to cause mistrust and clashes if the volunteers are too heavy-handed. This type of volunteer participation is likely to yield positive near-term results and potentially influence neighboring communities.*

(U) **Mixed Results from Sierra Leone Lockdown:** Expectations from Sierra Leone's three-day lockdown have not reaped the desired goals yet. Reports of ill-prepared volunteers and unresponsive residents have made some onlookers doubtful of the benefit and decision to enforce the isolation. Press reports food prices have risen 30% and people are not going about daily business as usual.⁴ *Although the lockdown experienced setbacks, it is likely to result in some positive control of the outbreak. Ultimately, the Sierra Leone nationals are providing fellow nationals with EVD awareness, which is crucially important since foreign aid workers experience severe resistance. Incomes will be squeezed and food prices will continue to rise until EVD is controlled, further worsening the economic impacts of EVD.*

(U) **United Nations (UN) Public Health Emergency Update:** Following the UN's 18 September decision to set up the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) to treat and contain EVD in West Africa, the UN has announced it will set up headquarters immediately in Accra, Ghana. The UN intends to cooperate with the governments of Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea. Although, the World Health Organization (WHO) plays a leading role in the humanitarian assistance of the affected countries, the UN will provide assistance in security measures, social and economic

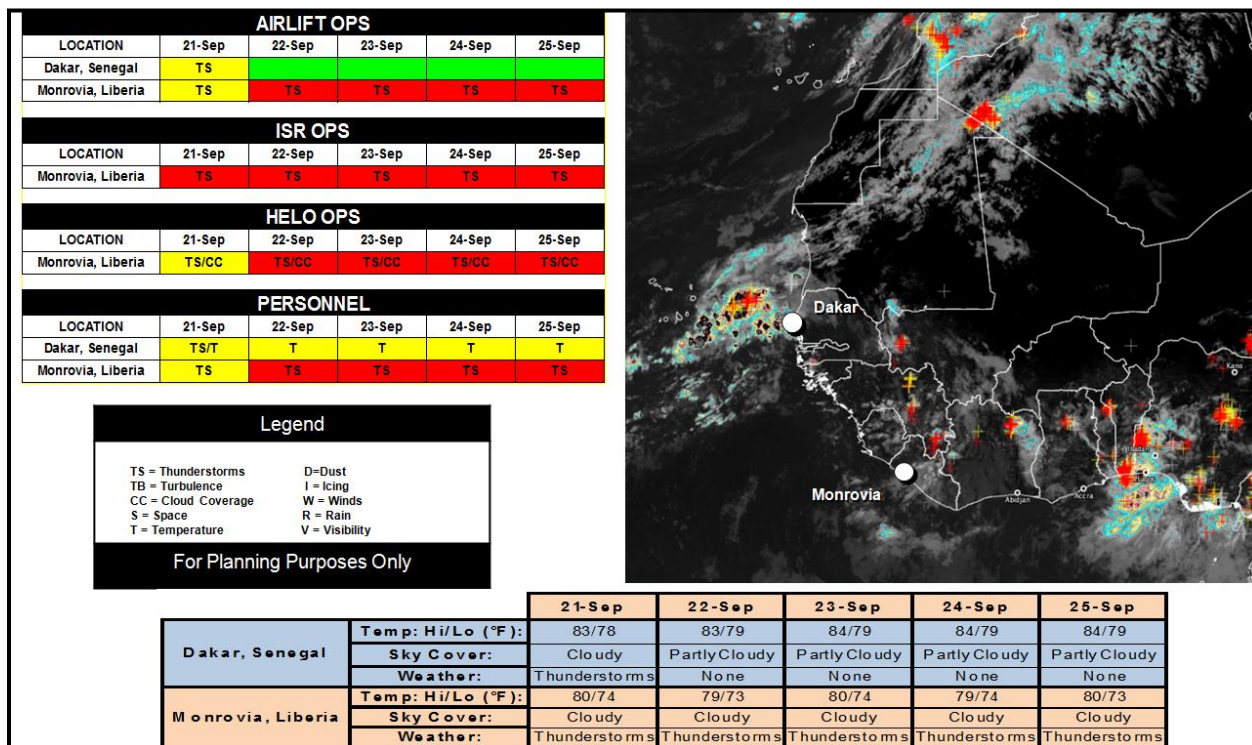
² (U) Logistics Cluster, 19 SEP 14, (U)Ebola Outbreak: Logistics Center, Situation Update, **cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U**

³ (U) al Jazeera, 20 SEP 14, (U) Senegal: Fear of Ebola Sees Vigilantes Patrol Border to Prevent Illegal Crossings from Guinea, **cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U**

⁴ (U) Agence France Presse, 20 SEP 14, (U) Sierra Leone Faces Criticism over 19-21 September Ebola Shutdown, **cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U**

concerns.⁵ *The extremely limited resources to build facilities, to ship and airlift items into “safe zones,” and limited storage capacity will cause competition for logistical resources and space if not de-conflicted in advance.*⁶

(U) Weather:



(U) Monrovia will continue to see persistent rain with embedded thunderstorms throughout the forecast period. *These atmospheric conditions will make it very difficult for engineering and construction-based activities due to persistent and at times heavy rains.* Furthermore, travel along all roads classified as “fair-weather” will be nearly impossible to traverse, due to the deterioration of ground conditions as 0.25 inches to 0.5 inches of rain is forecasted to occur on the 20th. Roads classified as “all-weather” roads will be difficult to traverse during periods of heavy downpours. Forecasted thunderstorms and ceilings consistently below 1,500 feet (lower in higher terrain) will also limit operating times for helicopter operations. Although there will be windows to operate helicopters, these windows may close quickly. Based on historic data, the afternoon hours tend to have the best ceilings. However, this is also the time that thunderstorm activity typically increases. These conditions will begin to improve in mid-October as Monrovia transitions towards the dry season in November.

(U) After today, Dakar will see a marked improvement in conditions for airlift as thunderstorms abate. However, the clearing skies will allow temperatures to rise slightly. Temperatures will remain in the mid 80s, conditions will remain marginal for personnel due to levels of high humidity producing heat indexes in the upper 80s to mid 90s.

⁵ (U) World Health Organization, 19 SEP 14, (U) WHO Welcomes Decision to Establish United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U

⁶ (U) Logistics Cluster, 19 SEP 14, (U)Ebola Outbreak: Logistics Center, Situation Update, cited portion classified: U, overall document classified: U