**DRAFT**

**UNICEF OPSCEN Brief – Thursday, 09 October 2014**

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GENERAL

**5 U.S. airports to screen for fever**

The US White House said extra screening for fever will be carried out for arriving passengers from West Africa. Extra screening for fever will be carried out for arriving passengers from West Africa. The screening will start at New York's John F. Kennedy airport from the weekend, and later be used at Newark Liberty, Washington Dulles, Chicago O'Hare and Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta. The case has stirred attention and concern that someone with Ebola had been able to fly into the United States from Liberia, raising the specter more passengers could arrive and spread the disease outside of West Africa, where nearly 4,000 people have died in three impoverished countries.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/08/us-health-ebola-usa-idUSKCN0HX1OK20141008**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/08/us-health-ebola-usa-idUSKCN0HX1OK20141008)

**Second UN medical official in Liberia had contracted Ebola**

The United Nations said that one of its medical officials in Liberia had contracted Ebola and was being treated there. The international worker, who's not been named, is the second member of the U.N. mission in Liberia to be infected with the virus. The first died on September 25.

**CNN -** [**http://www.cnn.com/2014/10/08/world/europe/ebola-spain/index.html**](http://www.cnn.com/2014/10/08/world/europe/ebola-spain/index.html)

**Global Ebola Response Coalition on October 10**

The Fifth Committee of the U.N. General Assembly a body responsible for administrative and budgetary issues recently adopted a measure to allocate $49.9 million to fund UNMEER. The U.N. plans to launch a Global Ebola Response Coalition on October 10, which will bring business, political, and health leaders together to mobilize resources and support for the ongoing response.

**Relief web -** [**http://reliefweb.int/report/liberia/west-africa-ebola-outbreak-fact-sheet-2-fiscal-year-fy-2015-8-october-2014**](http://reliefweb.int/report/liberia/west-africa-ebola-outbreak-fact-sheet-2-fiscal-year-fy-2015-8-october-2014)

**Thomas Eric Duncan, the first person diagnosed with Ebola in the US who died Wednesday will be cremated.**

US State officials, in announcing the planned cremation, cited the strict federal policies on the handling of Ebola victims. "The cremation process will kill any virus in the body so the remains can be returned to the family. No protective gear is needed to handle the remains after cremation," said a statement from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

**CNN -** [**http://www.cnn.com/2014/10/08/health/ebola-us/**](http://www.cnn.com/2014/10/08/health/ebola-us/)

CEE/CIS

**Turkey**

**Turkey demands creation of no-fly zone and buffer zone inside Syria**

Turkey has demanded the creation of a no-fly zone as well as buffer zones inside Syria. U.S. officials sent mixed messages on the latter idea, with US Secretary of State John Kerry saying it was worthy of close study but the Pentagon and White House decidedly cooler. Without Turkish or other troops on the ground, which seems unlikely for the now, matters remain in the hands of Syrian Kurd fighters and the U.S. air strikes.

**Haaretz -** [**http://www.haaretz.com/news/middle-east/1.619980**](http://www.haaretz.com/news/middle-east/1.619980)

**Ukraine**

**Eastern Ukraine conflict continues to take heavy toll on civilians, UN report warns**

While the fragile month-long ceasefire in eastern Ukraine is a welcome step towards ending the conflict, armed groups continue to terrorize the population in areas under their control, pursuing killings, abductions, torture, ill-treatment and other serious abuses, the United Nations Human Rights Office said today as it released its latest report on the situation in the country. “Further prolongation of this crisis will make the situation untenable for the millions of people whose daily lives have been seriously disrupted,” UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein said in a statement from his Office on the release of the report.

UN News - <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49027#.VDVrYa3D_Gg>

EAP

**China**

**China Facing Mosquito-Borne Dengue Fever Epidemic**

China is facing its worst outbreak of mosquito-borne dengue fever in two decades. The total number of cases in the hardest-hit province of Guangdong has reached 23,146, with 1,661 new cases reported on Monday. The situation is getting severe, with more than 1,000 new cases found daily for the past three days,” the official Xinhua New Agency reported on Tuesday. Six people have already died, five in the provincial capital of Guangzhou and a sixth in the city of Foshan. Twenty out of 21 prefectural cities in the southern province are affected.

**Bloomberg -** [**http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-10-08/china-faces-dengue-fever**](http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-10-08/china-faces-dengue-fever)

**Philippines**

**Al-Qaeda-linked militants threaten to behead German hostage on Oct 17**

Elite Philippine troops have been deployed to "flush out" al-Qaeda-linked militants holding two German tourists captive in southern Sulu province - an Abu Sayyaf stronghold. Earlier this month, the Abu Sayyaf threatened to behead one of them October 10 - later extending the deadline to October 17 - unless a P250-million ($5.62-million) ransom is paid and Germany stops supporting a U.S.-led campaign against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

**AA -** [**http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/xinhua-news-agency/141008/elite-forces-sent-southern-philippine-province-rescue-hostag**](http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/xinhua-news-agency/141008/elite-forces-sent-southern-philippine-province-rescue-hostag)

ESA

**South Africa**

**Moroccan diplomat found dead in South Africa**

South African police are investigating the fatal stabbing of a Moroccan diplomat whose body was found in the guesthouse where he was staying. The South African government on Wednesday identified the diplomat as Noureddine Fatmi, first secretary in charge of consular affairs. A South African police spokesman, Brig. Neville Malila, says the diplomat suffered multiple stab wounds. Malila says his colleagues discovered the body after the diplomat failed to show up for work. The police spokesman says a cellular phone was missing, but no other belongings were removed from the guesthouse in Pretoria, the South African capital. Morocco's ministry of foreign affairs says it is working with South African authorities on the case.

AP - [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/moroccan-diplomat-found-dead-south-africa-26046041**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/moroccan-diplomat-found-dead-south-africa-26046041)

MENA

**Syria**

**U.S. military says air strikes may not save Kobani from Islamic State**

The U.S. military on Wednesday said air power alone may not save the Syrian town of Kobani from Islamic State militants as U.S. officials appeared to brace for the town's fall. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, echoed by other officials, made the case in public on Wednesday that the loss of the town would not be a strategic defeat in the two-month-old U.S. air campaign to "degrade and defeat" the group.

**Haaretz -** [**http://www.haaretz.com/news/middle-east/1.619980**](http://www.haaretz.com/news/middle-east/1.619980)

**Syria declares another 4 chemical weapons facilities**

Syria has declared four chemical weapons facilities it hadn't mentioned before, a special representative of the U.N. secretary-general told the Security Council on Tuesday. The news heightened concerns that the Syrian government hasn't been fully open about its chemical weapons program. Diplomats said Sigrid Kaag told them during closed consultations that three of the facilities are for research and development and one is for production, and that no new chemical agents have been associated with the four sites.

**ABC News -** [**http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/syria-declares-chemical-facilities-26021611**](http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/syria-declares-chemical-facilities-26021611)

**Yemen**

**20 people killed in suicide bomb blast in Yemeni capital Sanaa**

At least 20 people were killed when a suicide bomber struck a demonstration in the heart of the Yemeni capital. The attack ripped through Sanaa's Tahrir Square a central plaza currently held by Zaidi Shia rebels. The rally had been called by the Houthis to protest against the president's choice of prime minister who has now turned down the post.

BBC- <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29548568>

AP - <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/yemen-simultaneous-attacks-leave-dead-26037911>

**Yemen**

**Leader of Yemen's Houthis calls protest against new prime minister**

The leader of the Houthi group which seized control of Yemen's capital last month called on Wednesday for a mass protest in Sanaa on Thursday against the appointment of a new prime minister, which he said had been dictated by the United States.

**Reuters -** [**http://www.jpost.com/Breaking-News/Leader-of-Yemens-Houthis-calls-protest-against-new-prime-minister-378442**](http://www.jpost.com/Breaking-News/Leader-of-Yemens-Houthis-calls-protest-against-new-prime-minister-378442)

**Yemen**

**Nine killed as al-Qaeda attacks south Yemen town**

At least nine people have been killed in an attack by al-Qaeda militants on security and government buildings in the south of Yemen, The official Saba news agency said car bombs were used in the dawn assault on the town of Bayda which was repelled. Al-Qaeda's local offshoot reportedly targeted security forces in Bayda because it saw them as sympathetic to Shia rebels who recently overran Sanaa. The jihadist group has vowed to fight the Shia Houthis in defense of Sunnis. The deadly violence in the capital last month was the outcome of a Persian plot a reference to the Houthis' links to regional Shia power Iran.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29534934**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29534934)

SA

**Across SA**

**Five more civilians killed in worst India-Pakistan fighting for years**

Five civilians were killed and thousands took refuge in camps in the disputed region of Kashmir on Wednesday after some of the most intense fighting between **nuclear**-armed neighbours Pakistan and India in a decade. A total of nine Pakistani and eight Indian civilians have been killed since fighting erupted more than week ago in the mostly Muslim Himalayan region. Kashmir is claimed by both countries and has been a major focus of tension in South Asia. Each side has accused the other of targeting civilians and unprovoked violations of a border truce that has largely held since 2003.

Reuters - <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/08/us-india-pakistan-idUSKCN0HX0EV20141008>

**India**

**Health workers dump newborn into garbage bin**

Health workers from a government hospital in Bihar dumped a newborn baby in a garbage bin after the mother refused to tip them. However, the baby survived even after being left in the bin for some time. The baby is now safe and in good health. According to the report, Kanti Devi, wife of Rajendra Manjhi from the Sisai village in Gopalganj district, was admitted to the local primary government health centre on Monday night when she went into labour. The health workers attended to the patient and ensured a safe delivery. According to reports, soon after the delivery, the health workers asked for money from the patient's family for services rendered for the safe delivery but they refused citing their lack of finances. The refusal left the health workers angry and they later dumped the baby in the hospital's garbage bin saying the baby was a stillborn.

Gulf News - <http://gulfnews.com/news/world/india/india-health-workers-dump-newborn-into-garbage-bin-1.1395838>

**Pakistan**

**Polio becomes ‘public health emergency’ in Pakistan as number of cases soars**

As world health officials struggle to respond to the Ebola epidemic, Pakistan has passed a grim milestone in its efforts to combat another major global health crisis: the fight against polio. Over the weekend, Pakistan logged its 200th new polio case of 2014, the nation’s highest transmission rate in more than a dozen years. In response to the WHO declaration, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif vowed to redouble efforts to vaccinate children through house-to-house searches and checkpoints along major travel routes. After the Pakistani military launched an operation against militants in North Waziristan in June, more than 1 million residents fled their homes and resettled in other areas of the country. The displaced included about 350,000 children who health officials fear have never been vaccinated. “It’s like if you break the walls on a dam, the waters come down on the village,” said Bilal Ahmed, a **UNICEF** health specialist in northwestern Pakistan. “There was high movement of the virus.”

**Washington Post -** [**http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\_pacific/polio-becomes-public-health-emergency-in-pakistan-as-number-of-cases-soars/2014/10/07/9b6a065e-4e3e-11e4-8c24-487e92bc997b\_story.html**](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/polio-becomes-public-health-emergency-in-pakistan-as-number-of-cases-soars/2014/10/07/9b6a065e-4e3e-11e4-8c24-487e92bc997b_story.html)

**Pakistan**

**Civilians become worst casualties of Kashmir clashes**

At least 16 people have been killed and dozens injured as Indian and Pakistani troops continue to exchange fire in some of the worst violence in the disputed region of Kashmir in a decade.

Hundreds of villagers have fled their homes. Although a 2003 ceasefire remains in place both sides have accused each other of starting the hostilities. Civilians have become the worst casualties of the latest round of border hostilities.

**BBC -** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-29547567**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-29547567)

WCA

**Across WCA**

**Ebola effect reverses gains in maternal, child mortality**

Maternal and infant deaths in Liberia and Sierra Leone are set to rise above their current alarming rates as fear of Ebola keeps pregnant women away from hospitals and makes already-scarce health workers reluctant to deliver babies. “At the beginning of the outbreak, health service staff were the ones getting Ebola – many of them were dying. And they had no facilities to help sufferers. People grew terrified and when news spread, everyone got scared,” said the head of maternal health for the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in Sierra Leone, Augustin Kabano. “Some centres have just two or three staff so if one dies, the whole system shuts down.”

IRIN - <http://www.irinnews.org/report/100698/ebola-effect-reverses-gains-in-maternal-child-mortality>

**Liberia**

**Health workers planning to strike**

Health workers said they planned to strike if their demands for more money and safety equipment were not met by the end of the week. Health workers there are demanding monthly salaries of $700, as well as personal protective equipment, said George Williams, secretary-general of Liberia's National Health Workers Association.

**USA Today -** [**http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2014/10/08/ebola-sierra-leone-spain/16898253/**](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2014/10/08/ebola-sierra-leone-spain/16898253/)

**Mali**

**Mali to UN: Consider a Rapid Intervention Force**

Mali's foreign minister urged the United Nations on Wednesday to consider creating a rapid intervention force to fight extremist groups in the African country's troubled north, warning that the region "once again runs the risk of becoming the destination of hordes of terrorists." Abdoulaye Diop spoke to the U.N. Security Council via videoconference the day after a peacekeeper with the U.N. mission in Mali was killed in a rocket attack. That follows the death of nine peacekeepers in an attack on Friday, the deadliest since the mission began last year. U.N. peacekeeping chief Herve Ladsous has called the situation "intolerable" as French troops in northern Mali draw down, leaving peacekeepers largely on their own in the rebellious region.

AP - <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/mali-rapid-intervention-force-26043804>

**Sierra Leone**

**Ebola burial teams in Sierra Leone go back to work**

Burial teams responsible for collecting the corpses of Ebola victims in Sierra Leone returned to work Wednesday, one day after going on strike because of a delay in receiving hazard pay. Members of the teams receive $100 a week on top of their regular salary for working under extremely dangerous conditions but say they had not been paid in weeks. The Ebola burial teams are comprised of 600 workers in groups of 12 per team.

**USA Today -** [**http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2014/10/08/ebola-sierra-leone-spain/16898253/**](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2014/10/08/ebola-sierra-leone-spain/16898253/)

**Sierra Leone: strike leaves Ebola dead in streets**

The Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation says bodies of Ebola victims have been left in the streets because of a strike by burial teams, who complain they have not been paid.

Health Ministry spokesman Sidie Yahya Tunis says the situation is "very embarrassing" and said money was available to pay the teams. He promised to provide more information on Wednesday.

AP - <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2014/10/08/ebola-sierra-leone-spain/16898253/>

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