



ML Strategies Update

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Africa Update

Leading the News

West Africa Ebola Outbreak

On September 16th, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other local partners issued an Ebola preparedness checklist for U.S. hospitals to prepare for managing patients with Ebola virus. The document includes practical and specific recommendations to ensure that hospitals are able to detect possible Ebola cases, protect their employees, and respond appropriately. The checklist can be downloaded [here](#).

On September 18th, addressing a United Nations (U.N.) Security Council emergency meeting on Ebola, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for a 20-fold increase in resources to help respond to the Ebola epidemic in West Africa. Secretary-General Ban noted the number of Ebola cases is doubling every three weeks, which poses a threat to international peace and security. In addition, he warned the number of cases in Liberia alone will soon surpass the number of cases recorded in the four-decade history of the diseases. Secretary-General Ban also introduced the U.N. Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), which will focus on stopping the outbreak, treating the infected, ensuring essential services, preserving stability, and prevent further outbreaks. Excerpts from Secretary-General Ban's address were highlighted [here](#).

On September 18th, the U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution calling on Member States to provide more resources to combat the West Africa Ebola outbreak. The resolution, which calls on countries to provide aid in the form of medical staff and field hospitals and also calls for travel bans to be lifted, had a record 131 co-sponsors. The resolution's passage was noted [here](#).

On September 18th, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) issued a new report on the impact of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. According to the WHO, 5,335 people have been infected with Ebola and 2,622 have died. By means of comparison, at this time last month there were 2,457 infections and 1,346 deaths. The WHO observed that more than half of the total cases are in Liberia. In addition, the WHO reported that 318 health workers have been infected with Ebola and 151 have died. An update was

provided [here](#).

On September 18th, Guinean authorities said they recovered eight bodies, including local administrators, a preacher, and three journalists, who were found after a team trying to educate locals on the risks of Ebola was attacked in a remote area of southeastern Guinea. Guinean Prime Minister Mohamed Said Fofana said that six people were arrested following the incident, which occurred within proximity to the town where the first case of Ebola was reported in Guinea in March. The full story is available [here](#).

On September 18th, the U.S. Senate passed the House-passed continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government funded through December 11th by a vote of 78-22. The bill includes the \$88 million requested by President Barack Obama to assist in the global response to the Ebola crisis in West Africa. The bill, which passed the House by a vote of 273-156, was sent to President Obama for his signature following Senate passage. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On September 18th, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed a resolution introduced by Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Ranking Member Bob Corker (R-TN), African Affairs Subcommittee Chairman Chris Coons (D-DE) and Ranking Member Jeff Flake (R-AZ), and Assistant Majority Leader Dick Durbin (D-IL) pledging support for robust efforts to combat the Ebola virus in West Africa and to provide humanitarian relief for those affected. The resolution can be seen [here](#).

On September 19th, the U.N. General Assembly unanimously agreed to a resolution calling upon all Member States to harness their capabilities and competencies in a single, unified structure to ensure a rapid, effective, efficient, and coherent response to the Ebola crisis in West Africa. Ahead of the vote on the resolution, General Assembly President Sam Kutesa of Uganda called for a swift, coordinated, and powerful response to the international crisis, which he noted has disproportionately affected women caregivers in Africa. In addition, on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly meeting, Secretary-General Ban met with Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama, who expressed support for basing UNMEER in Accra. Details were reported [here](#).

On September 19th, a U.N. Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team deployed to Liberia to assess the response to Ebola virus. The 15-person team is comprised of experts from the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the European Union (EU), and the Liberian Government. The UNDAC team's deployment was announced [here](#).

On September 19th, the Government of Sierra Leone implemented a three-day quarantine intended to help bring the spread of Ebola under control. Approximately six million people were confined to their homes as health care workers went door-to-door hoping to find and isolate more people infected with Ebola. As the lockdown went into effect, President Ernest Bai Koroma encouraged the sick to leave their homes and seek treatment. Initial reports indicated that citizens were taking the quarantine seriously. More information can be found [here](#).

On September 19th, a U.S. C-17 arrived in Monrovia, Liberia, carrying the first of 3,000 U.S. military personnel that will deploy to West Africa to help combat Ebola virus. According to the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, the first of the team tasked with creating an air bridge to assist in response efforts delivered a heavy duty forklift, drill set, a generator, and seven military personnel, including engineers and airfield specialists who will assess the payload capacity and stability of airport runways in Monrovia. U.S. aircraft carrying more military personnel, equipment, and medical supplies are expected to continue to arrive in the coming days. The first delivery was reported [here](#).

On September 19th, Steve VanRoekel, Chief Information Officer at the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) concluded his service at the White House in advance of taking up a new role at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to help coordinate the U.S. Government's response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. VanRoekel will serve as a senior adviser to USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah and serve as Chief Innovation Officer for the agency. Administrator Shah noted that VanRoekel will help USAID to harness technologies such as open data and mobile platforms to reach communities and households with life-saving information about Ebola virus. VanRoekel's new position was announced [here](#).

On September 20th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon officially launched UNMEER and instructed

the advance teams for the operation to head to its base in Accra, Ghana, by September 22nd. Further, Secretary-General Ban explained UNMEER will provide the operational framework and unity of purpose to ensure the rapid, effective, and coherent action necessary to stop the Ebola outbreak, treat those infected, ensure essential services, preserve stability, and prevent the spread of Ebola to countries currently unaffected. Details on UNMEER were shared [here](#).

On September 20th, the *Washington Post* warned that Liberia's health care system is increasingly on the verge of collapse as the country continues to battle the Ebola epidemic. Western experts have reported that people in Liberia are increasingly dying of preventable or treatable conditions such as malaria, diarrhea, pneumonia, and strokes due to lacking health care services and fear among health care workers. The situation was detailed [here](#).

On September 22nd, the WHO Ebola response team published an article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* describing the worsening of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. While noting that there have been 4,507 cases and 2,296 deaths in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and Senegal since September 14th, the article suggests the number of Ebola cases could surpass 20,000 by early November, with thousands of new cases reported each week in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. Without additional interventions and changes in community behavior, the number of cases in Liberia and Sierra Leone could rise to between 550,000 and 1.4 million by January. According to the WHO, the current official case count is 5,843 cases, including 2,803 deaths. The study also finds that seven in every ten infected patients succumb to the disease. The full article can be read [here](#).

On September 22nd, in addition to a UNMEER advance team arriving in Accra, Ghana, to set up the operation's headquarters, another advance team also arrived in Liberia. The UNMEER teams deployed as the U.N. announced the creation of the Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund to help coordinate contributions from Member States, regional legislative bodies, inter-governmental organizations, NGOs, businesses, and individuals. In addition, the WHO concluded the second meeting of its Emergency Committee on the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, again reiterating that there should be no general ban on international travel or trade. An update on the U.N. activities to respond to the Ebola crisis was provided [here](#).

On September 22nd, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Prime Minister Augustin Matata Ponyo said the outbreak of Ebola virus in the DRC, which is unrelated to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, is almost over. DRC officials have recorded 68 Ebola cases in Equateur province and 41 deaths since August 24th. No new cases had been reported within a 10-day window. Prime Minister Matata Ponyo's comments were captured [here](#).

On September 22nd, Canadian drug maker Tekmira Pharmaceuticals said it has received authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to provide its experimental drug, TMK-Ebola, to patients with confirmed or suspected Ebola virus infections. Tekmira reported that the drug has already been administered to patients under emergency protocols and the treatments have been well tolerated. It was not clear how many patients have received the EMK-Ebola drug and whether treatments were provided in the U.S. or in Africa. Details can be viewed [here](#).

On September 23rd, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced plans to convene a High-Level Meeting on Response to the Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak at U.N headquarters on September 25th. The meeting will bring together global leaders to focus international attention to combat the outbreak of Ebola and to mobilize an exceptional response to contain and stop the spread of the virus. Participants were expected to include Guinean President Alpha Conde, as well as Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and President of Sierra Leone Ernest Bai Koroma by teleconference. The meeting was announced [here](#).

On September 23rd, following the end of a mandatory quarantine in Sierra Leone, Deputy Minister for Political and Public Affairs Karamoh Kabba announced that health teams that went door-to-door found 130 confirmed cases of Ebola. An additional 70 suspected cases are still being tested. Health teams also discovered 92 bodies during the three-day campaign and are in the process of determining how many of those deaths can be attributed to Ebola. In addition to looking for new cases, teams also reached more than one million households with additional information on the disease. In a radio address, President Ernest Bai Koroma said he was satisfied with the process and indicated Sierra Leone may consider additional lockdowns. The outcomes of the quarantine were discussed [here](#).

On September 23rd, six Red Cross aid workers were attacked in Forecariah, Guinea, while collecting bodies believed to be infected with Ebola. Family members of the dead initially set upon the workers and vandalized their cars. A crowd later gathered and headed to the regional health office, where they threw rocks at the building. The Red Cross reported that one of the victims is recovering after being wounded in the neck during the attack. The incident was reported [here](#).

On September 23rd, global health charity Wellcome Trust announced a \$5.25 million grant to enable partners including Mapp Biopharmaceutical, Sarepta, and Tekmira to launch clinical trials for experimental Ebola drugs at existing treatment centers in West Africa. Wellcome Trust said several potential drugs are under consideration and a group of independent experts appointed by the WHO is working to recommend which to prioritize based on which are likely to work best, their availability and safety, and whether they can be manufactured to a useful scale. More information can be found [here](#).

On September 23rd, U.S. Army Africa Commander Major General Darryl Williams met with the families of the troops who will deploy to Africa as part of the U.S. response effort to the Ebola crisis. Commander Williams assured families that soldiers will encounter only a minimal chance of contracting the disease because they will not be providing direct care to Ebola patients. U.S. troops in Monrovia, Liberia, are ultimately expected to number 3,000. Details were noted [here](#).

On September 23rd, USAID's *Impact Blog* featured a guest post from Morgana Wingard, a photojournalist helping to document USAID's response to the Ebola outbreak in Monrovia, Liberia. The post discussed the opening of a new 100-bed Ebola treatment unit, known as the Island Clinic, in the city on September 21st. Photos from the Island Clinic can be viewed [here](#). A second post including other photos from Liberia can be seen [here](#).

On September 23rd, Georgetown University hosted "A Symposium on the Ebola Crisis." Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf delivered keynote remarks. The event also included panel discussions on "Historical, Social, and Political-Economic Reasons for the Devastating Impact of the Ebola Virus in West Africa" and "Where do we go from Here: Greater Implications of the Ebola Crisis." Details were posted [here](#).

On September 24th, President of Sierra Leone Ernest Bai Koroma delivered a public address and announced that the Port Loko, Bombali, and Moyamba districts will be put under isolation as part of continuing efforts to stop the spread of Ebola. As part of the quarantine, only people delivering essential services will be allowed to enter and circulate in these areas, which have experienced a recent rise in Ebola cases. In addition, the government announced additional homes will be put under quarantine in other parts of the country when new cases are identified. Details were shared [here](#).

On September 24th, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry appointed Ambassador Nancy Powell to lead the Ebola Coordination Unit at the Department of State. In this role, Ambassador Powell will lead the State Department's outreach to international partners, including foreign governments, to ensure a speedy and global response to the crisis. Ambassador Powell has previously served as U.S. Ambassador to India, Director General of the Foreign Service, and Director of Human Resources. She has also previously served as the State Department's Senior Coordinator for Avian Influenza. Her appointment was announced [here](#).

On September 24th, U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee Ranking Member Jim Inhofe (R-OK) indicated he would put a hold on money requested by the Pentagon to help fight Ebola until the Obama Administration provides more detail on how the military would protect American personnel sent to Africa and how the financial and logistics demands would impact an already stretched defense budget. U.S. Army Africa has submitted two requests totaling \$1 billion to be reprogrammed within the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) account. Feedback from Senator Inhofe can be seen [here](#).

On September 24th, U.S. House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers (R-KY) noted the Committee has approved the Administration's \$1 billion OCO funding request for Ebola response efforts, but will refuse to release all but \$50 million until the White House provides a more detailed spending plan. While there is precedent for OCO funding to be used to support humanitarian efforts, Congressman Rogers said greater detail will help to spell out mission goals and ensure oversight going forward.

Comments from Congressman Rogers were captured [here](#).

On September 25th, the World Bank approved \$750,000 in financing to help Guinea-Bissau develop a plan to help prevent the spread of Ebola in the country. Although Guinea-Bissau has recorded no Ebola cases, the funding was urgently requested by Guinea-Bissau's Ministry of Public Health. A press release was issued [here](#).

Central African Republic

On September 19th, the Africa Growth Initiative (AGI) at the Brookings Institution, along with Mercy Corps and Search for Common Ground, hosted a conversation on "Peace and Development in the Central African Republic (CAR): A Conversation with Her Excellency Catherine Samba-Panza." As part of the event, CAR Transitional President Samba-Panza discussed her agenda to end the ongoing violence in the CAR and to prepare the country for national elections in 2015. The conversation was recorded [here](#).

On September 21st, French peacekeepers arrested Brice Namssio, a member of the Christian anti-Balaka militia, after discovering he had weapons and grenades in his car. Lieutenant Patrick Belier, who led the arrest, said that going forward, French forces will arrest anyone walking around with a weapon. Patrice Ngaissona, a senior official of the anti-Balaka, disagreed with the decision, believing that leaders of the groups should be allowed to carry weapons for security. The full story can be read [here](#).

On September 23rd, four senior generals of the Muslim Seleka rebel group resigned. According to a rebel spokesman, they did not support secessionist plans for the group's northern territory. General Joseph Zoundeko, Seleka's military commander, will meet with a general assembly next week to choose new leaders to replace the defectors. Details can be read [here](#).

On September 24th, the International Criminal Court (ICC) opened its second investigation in the CAR. According to the court's Prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, the ICC will investigate atrocities that have occurred as a result of sectarian fighting. Since 2012, violence between the Muslim Seleka rebel coalition and the Christian anti-Balaka militia has left at least 5,000 dead. Details can be found [here](#).

On September 24th, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed sadness after learning of the death of Margaret Vogt, who served as U.N. Special Representative in the CAR from 2011-2013. Secretary-General Ban saluted Special Representative Vogt's leadership, not only in the CAR, but also in Somalia and the African Union (AU). Secretary General Ban's comments were transcribed [here](#).

Libya

On September 22nd, the Governments of the U.S., Algeria, Egypt, France, Germany, Italy, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the United Kingdom (U.K.), along EU and the U.N., issued a joint communique on Libya. The global leaders condemned the ongoing violence and terrorism that is hijacking Libya's development and democratic process and called on all parties to accept an immediate, comprehensive ceasefire and to engage in peaceful political dialogue. In addition, the communique reiterated the legitimacy of the House of Representatives as the sole legislative authority in Libya. The group also commended the U.N. for its efforts to facilitate an end to the conflict in Libya, including by hosting a neighboring countries' ministerial in New York and agreeing to host a political dialogue between parties in Libya beginning on September 29th. The full communique can be accessed [here](#).

On September 22nd, while in New York for the 69th U.N. General Assembly, Secretary of State John Kerry participated in a Ministerial on Libya intended to bring some coherence to the response of the international community to the situation in Libya. Secretary Kerry's participation was noted [here](#). A background briefing on the ministerial meeting was transcribed [here](#).

On September 23rd, forces loyal to former Libyan General Khalifa Hifter claimed responsibility for an attack carried out by a warplane against a port in Benghazi. While the aircraft fired several times, it was unclear if any facilities at the harbor were hit. The targeted port serves as the primary gateway for wheat and fuel imports into Libya. It has also been reported that an umbrella group of Islamists fighters known

as Majlis al-Shura had also been using the port to import weapons and other supplies. Details were reported [here](#).

On September 23rd, Libyan authorities requested assistance from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in transporting some of the country's remaining chemical weapons out of the country due to the deteriorating security situation as rival militias continue to battle for political control. While acknowledging that some of Libya's chemical weapons have been destroyed since the removal of Muammar Gadhafi, OPCW estimates there may be as many as 850 tonnes of industrial chemicals that could be used to make weapons remaining in the country. More information can be seen [here](#).

On September 24th, an official with the National Oil Corporation in Libya reported that national production has increased to 900,000 barrels per day (bpd). The El Sharara oilfield is producing 200,000 bpd that is once again being processed at Zawiya oil refinery, which temporarily shut down due to damage caused by the conflict. Despite the increase in production, Libya's budget deficit could more than double, according to a senior lawmaker. In response to the looming economic crisis, the House of Representatives is prepared to cut spending in the 2014 budget by 12 billion dinars. The reports can be read [here](#) and [here](#).

On September 24th, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace hosted a briefing on "Libya's Civil War." At the event, Frederic Wehrey presented the findings of a new Carnegie paper on the institutional roots of Libya's violence and options for how the U.S. and the international community can assist. Additional speakers included Wolfham Lacher of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Faraj Najem of the University of Benghazi, Dirk Vandewalle of Dartmouth College, and Michelle Dunne, also of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. More information was shared [here](#).

South Sudan

On September 18th, the U.S. Treasury Department announced sanctions on the top military officers on both sides of the conflict in South Sudan, including Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) Major General Santino Deng Wol and James Koang Chuol, who defected from the SPLA to join the rebel forces loyal to former South Sudanese President Riek Machar. U.S. Under Secretary of Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence David Cohen accused Wol of leading military engagements after negotiators finalized a cessation of hostilities agreement and asserted that Koang of leading anti-government forces in attacks targeting civilians and facilities sheltering refugees. A press release was issued [here](#).

On September 21st, coinciding with the International Day of Peace, hundreds of people marched in the streets of Juba, the country's capital, calling for an end to the violence in South Sudan. The event, organized by the National Platform for Peace and Reconciliation (NPPR), included speeches by Archbishop Daniel Deng Bui and Chol Rambang, the Chairperson of the South Sudan Peace and Reconciliation Commission. The press release can be read [here](#).

On September 23rd, Seyoum Mesfin, the chief mediator in South Sudan's peace talks, told the warring groups to stop stalling with alleged procedural issues. Representing the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD), Mesfin voiced the frustration of the international and regional diplomats at the inability of both groups to end the fighting that has killed more than 10,000 people. The same day, Martin Tako, a Deputy Minister in President Salva Kiir's cabinet claiming to represent South Sudanese opposition parties, the Political Parties Leadership Forum (PPLF), was asked to leave the talks in Ethiopia. The negotiations have gone on without any PPLF representatives. More details can be read [here](#) and [here](#).

On September 24th, U.N. Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights Flavia Pansieri said that while human rights violations in the South Sudanese conflict are on the decline, approximately two million civilians have now fled the country and are not expected to be able to return to their homes any time soon. Deputy High Commissioner Pansieri reported that both the South Sudanese Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in Opposition continue to mobilize forces and amass weapons. She added that the country is also facing extreme food insecurity and possible famine. The impacts of

the conflict in South Sudan were detailed [here](#).

On September 24th, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) group said that food security has started to improve in South Sudan. The IPC's members include experts from the U.N. and other aid agencies. According to the IPC, food production has made progress with normal rainfall, good crop planting and the beginnings of a green harvest. Despite these improvements, however, the IPC said that the harvest is not as large as it should be at this time. Risk of widespread famine will continue as a result of continued conflict. Details can be read [here](#).

United States – Africa Relations

White House

On September 18th, the White House prepared a memorandum for Secretary of State John Kerry regarding presidential determinations for eligibility for U.S. assistance given certain countries' efforts to address trafficking in persons. The memorandum states the Governments of the DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, and Zimbabwe are not to be provided with funding in FY15 until they comply with the minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. On the contrary, the White House noted that providing assistance to Algeria, the CAR, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Libya, and Mauritania would be in the interest of the U.S. The memorandum can be accessed [here](#).

On September 21st, National Security Council (NSC) Spokesperson Caitlin Hayden issued a statement on the one-year anniversary of the Westgate Mall attack in Nairobi, Kenya. Spokesperson Hayden noted that Al Shabaab killed 67 innocent people and wounded some 200 others in the attack. She said the U.S. and Kenya stand together in the fight against Al Shabaab and like-minded terrorists groups and the U.S. will continue to support the Kenyan people in their efforts to improve their security and confront terrorism. The full statement can be read [here](#).

On September 25th, on the sidelines of U.N. meetings in New York, President Barack Obama met with Egyptian President Abdul Fattah Al-Sisi to discuss the growing coalition to combat the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). The meeting was noted [here](#).

Department of State

On September 18th, Secretary of State John Kerry met with Algerian Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra at the Department of State. In a joint appearance with Foreign Minister Lamamra, Secretary Kerry thanked the Government of Algeria for their prompt and strong support for counterterrorism cooperation, including in response to the situation in Libya. Secretary Kerry and Foreign Minister Lamamra also discussed Secretary Kerry's visit to Algeria in April. Their remarks were transcribed [here](#).

On September 19th, Secretary of State John Kerry delivered remarks at the USAID Frontiers in Development forum. In his comments, Secretary Kerry recognized Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete as a leader in confronting poverty and promoting peace in the Great Lakes region. Secretary Kerry also acknowledged Ethiopian Foreign Minister Adhanom Tedros and praised Ethiopia's leadership in addressing poverty and food insecurity to spur development and economic growth. In addition, Secretary Kerry announced the President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR) will commit \$63.5 million through USAID to support Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, and Nigeria, in increasing their domestic resource mobilization efforts to control their HIV/AIDS epidemics. Secretary Kerry's speech was posted [here](#).

On September 19th, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a press statement on Mali National Day. Secretary Kerry commended the Malian people for their peaceful return to democracy and support for the ongoing peace and reconciliation process. He also pledged to continue to work with Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita to promote national reconciliation, strengthen Mali's democratic institutions, and undertake security sector reform. Secretary Kerry's statement can be read [here](#).

On September 19th, the State Department issued a condemnation of the recent attack against the U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) that killed five Chadian peacekeepers and wounded three others. The State Department noted this is third such attack this month and called for an end to all attacks on U.N. peacekeepers. The statement also reiterated U.S.

support for MINUSMA, as well as Mali's national reconciliation efforts, including achieving a durable and comprehensive peace agreement through ongoing talks in Algiers, Algeria. The full statement was shared [here](#).

On September 22nd, Secretary of State John Kerry delivered remarks and the Call to Action Ministerial on Protection from Gender Based Violence in Emergencies. In his speech, Secretary Kerry noted that the kidnapping of schoolgirls in Chibok, Nigeria, and the violence against women in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are a call to action to prevent gender-based violence from threatening peace, security, and dignity. He also discussed how the year-old Safe from the Start initiative has been successful in providing solar lights for refugees who fled fighting in South Sudan. Secretary Kerry's full remarks were posted [here](#).

On September 22nd, State Department Counselor Tom Shannon met with Angolan Foreign Minister George Chikoti in New York City. The meeting was included on the State Department's daily appointment schedule, which can be accessed [here](#).

On September 23rd, Secretary of State John Kerry met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Hassan Shoukry in New York City. Secretary Kerry was accompanied by State Department Counselor Tom Shannon. The meeting was noticed [here](#).

On September 23rd, Secretary of State John Kerry issued a press statement on Guinea-Bissau's National Day. Secretary Kerry observed Guinea-Bissau has made tremendous progress over the last year, including the election of a new president and a return to democratic rule. In addition, Secretary Kerry said the U.S. will continue to stand with the government and the people of Guinea-Bissau as they work to solidify the democratic process, promote rule of law, and encourage greater economic growth and prosperity. Secretary Kerry's full statement can be seen [here](#).

On September 23rd, Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns met with Tunisian Foreign Minister Mongi Hamdi in New York City, around U.N. meetings. The meeting was listed [here](#).

On September 23rd, U.S. Ambassador-At-Large and Global AIDS Coordinator Deborah Birx attended an Organization of African First Ladies Against (OAFLA) HIV/AIDS event in Washington, DC. Additional information can be found [here](#).

On September 23rd, U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan Donald Booth met with U.N. Special Envoy for Sudan and South Sudan Haile Menkerios in New York City. The meeting was noted [here](#).

On September 24th, Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Catherine Novelli met with Nigerian Finance Minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. She also held a separate meeting with Moroccan Minister of Industry, Trade, Investment, and the Digital Economy Moulay Elalamy. Both meetings were held in New York City. Under Secretary Novelli's schedule was detailed [here](#).

On September 24th, U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan Donald Booth met with South Sudanese Permanent Representative to the U.N. Ambassador Francis Deng and held an additional meeting with German Director General for African Affairs George Schmidt. In addition, Special Envoy Booth delivered remarks at Columbia University's Institute for the Study of Human Rights at an event sponsored by the Two Sudans Program, in New York City. Special Envoy Booth's appointments were outlined [here](#).

On September 24th, the State Department announced the designation of ten individuals and two groups as Specially Designated Global Terrorists (SDGTs), imposing sanctions and penalties on terrorists and those providing support to terrorists or acts of terrorism. Included as part of the designations was Harakat Sham al-Islam (HIS), a Moroccan-led terrorist organization operating in Syria, Al Qaeda member Mohammed Abdel-Halim Hemaida Saleh, who was arrested in Egypt in May 2013 for planning to attack Western embassies in Cairo, and Maalim Salman, who serves as head of African foreign fighters for Al Shabaab. The designations were announced [here](#).

On September 25th, Secretary of State John Kerry met with Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta at the

U.N. The meeting was included on the State Department's daily appointment schedule, which can be accessed [here](#).

On September 25th, State Department Counselor Tom Shannon attended an event on South Sudan at the U.N. hosted by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Counselor Shannon's participation was noted [here](#).

On September 25th, the State Department issued a press statement expressing concern for the discovery of a number of corpses in Lake Rweru, which borders Burundi and Rwanda, in July and August. The State Department called on the Burundian and Rwandan Governments to conduct a prompt, thorough, impartial, and concerted investigation of these deaths with assistance from independent, international forensic experts. Further, the State Department said the victims should be identified and those responsible should be brought to justice. The full statement can be read [here](#).

U.S. Agency for International Development

On September 18th-19th, USAID hosted the second Frontiers in Development forum at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, DC. The two-day event engaged a community of global thought leaders and development practitioners to address the question of eradicating poverty by 2030. Speakers included Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete and former Ghanaian President John Kufuor. Lectures offered, additional details, and a list of speakers can be found [here](#).

On September 19th, as part of the Frontiers in Development forum, USAID and The Rockefeller Foundation announced a \$50 million commitment by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) to the Global Resilience Partnerships and the launch of the Global Resilience Challenge. The Global Resilience Partnership was launched with the goal of ensuring that communities and systems in Africa and Asia can thrive despite increasing shocks like droughts and floods and chronic stresses like extreme poverty and malnutrition. The Challenge, a three-stage grant competition, will help develop and implement locally driven, high-impact solutions that build resilience in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel. More information was shared [here](#).

On September 22nd, the U.S. Government's Power Africa initiative and the joint U.N.-World Bank Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative signed a Cooperation Understanding during the SE4ALL High-Level event at the U.N. The two initiatives will mutually support each other by expanding cleaner energy investment and providing access to the energy poor. Integrated cooperation between Power Africa and SE4ALL will facilitate implementing energy access projects through Power Africa's Beyond the Grid initiative and SE4ALL's focus on off-grid communities. More information on both programs and the Cooperation Understanding can be viewed [here](#).

On September 22nd, USAID partner TRAFFIC issued a new report warning that the illegal rhino horn trade has reached its highest levels since the early 1990s and issuing new recommendations for curtailing illegal ivory and rhino horn trafficking. Warning that rhino horn and ivory trafficking are believed to function as Asian-run, African-based operations, the report suggests developing coordinated, specialized intelligence units to disrupt organized criminal networks by identifying key individuals and financial flows and making more high-level arrests. The report can be downloaded [here](#).

On September 22nd, USAID's Chief Strategy Officer Carla Koppell authored a post for USAID's *Impact Blog* on USAID's efforts to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In Kenya, USAID is helping to increase resilience by diversifying sources of income for women. In sub-Saharan Africa, USAID is helping local farmers prepare for droughts and flooding in order to help eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and advance environmental sustainability. In addition, USAID is promoting partnerships through the Power Africa initiative. The full blog post can be read [here](#).

On September 23rd, USAID awarded Kansas State University a \$50 million grant to establish a Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Sustainable Intensification. This newest Feed the Future lab will identify technologies to help smallholder farmers in West Africa improve land, water, soil, crop, and livestock management while simultaneously improving yields and sustaining natural resources. A press release was issued [here](#).

Department of Defense

On September 18th, U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) hosted its first ever signing of an Acquisition Cross Serving Agreement (ACSA) continuing the military relationship between the U.S. and Chad. The agreement allows for the exchange of military services and equipment. A similar, ten-year agreement was signed in 2004. The U.S. has similar agreement with 18 other African nations, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Comoros, DRC, Djibouti, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Africa, and Tunisia. Details can be seen [here](#).

On September 18th, U.S. maritime professionals participated in the annual Africa Partnership Station (APS) planning conference in Naples, Italy, along with their counterparts from Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Denmark, Ghana, Madagascar, Mauritania, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, Togo, and the United Kingdom (U.K.) APS is an international security cooperation initiative facilitated by U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, aimed at strengthening global maritime partnerships through training and collaborative activities in order to improve maritime safety and security in Africa. The planning conference was detailed [here](#).

On September 18th, the U.S. Air Forces in Europe jazz band, Wings of Dixie, traveled to Benoni, South Africa, to host a musical workshop for 150 students at the Academy of Gauteng. The workshop taught the South African students advanced work in brass and woodwinds, guitar and keyboard, and drums. The workshop was described [here](#).

On September 20th, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel spoke with Egyptian Minister of Defense Colonel General Sedki Sobhy to confirm that the U.S. plans to deliver ten Apache helicopters to Egypt to support their counterterrorism efforts. Secretary Hagel and General Sobhy also discussed regional security in the Middle East and North Africa and the U.S.-led coalition to counter ISIL. In addition, Secretary Hagel thanked General Sobhy for Egypt's role in brokering a ceasefire to end the Gaza crisis. A readout of the call was released [here](#).

On September 20th-21st, a nine-Airman crew from a C-130J Super Hercules displayed the aircraft at the Africa Aerospace and Defense Expo held at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. During the Expo, the crew explained the aircraft's capabilities in air drops and transporting cargo to African partners. An article on the Expo can be read [here](#).

On September 23rd, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa and military leaders from 17 countries in the Gulf of Guinea area attended the Gulf of Guinea Security Dialogue to discuss maritime security in the region. Opening remarks were delivered by U.S. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus. At the conference, U.S. Naval Forces Africa agreed to host a Combined Force Maritime Component Commander seminar (CFMCC) in spring 2015 and AFRICOM detailed plans to sponsor another iteration of OBANGAME EXPRESS, also in spring 2015. Gulf of Guinea partners will meet again at next year's International Seapower Symposium to review progress and chart next steps. More information is available [here](#).

On September 24th, Marine Forces Europe and Africa reported on two AFRICOM-sponsored military engagements in Senegal that facilitated military personnel from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mauritania, Senegal, and Tunisia, supporting the Senegalese Wounded Warriors and a local orphanage. The service projects not only improved the local community, but also helped to build an environment of security and trust for the local population. Details can be viewed [here](#).

Department of Justice

On September 19th, Judge Lewis Kaplan of Federal District Court indicated that he would not immediately accept Egyptian terror suspect Adel Abdul Bary's guilty plea to charges that he had helped Osama bin Laden pass messages that claimed responsibility for the 1998 bombings of the U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. Judge Kaplan questioned the government's decision to allow the defendant to please guilty to three counts that carried a maximum sentence of 25 years. He also expressed concern that the plea agreement seemed to suggest that Bary could receive credit for years he was imprisoned in the U.K. while awaiting extradition to the U.S. More information was shared [here](#).

Overseas Private Investment Corporation

On September 19th, the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) approved a \$100 million commitment to Emerging Capital Partners' (ECP) Africa Fund IV, which is intended to provide expansion capital to high-growth companies throughout Africa. Recognizing the approval of support for the investment fund, OPIC President and CEO Elizabeth Littlefield noted at a time when a growing share of OPIC's portfolio is focused on sub-Saharan Africa, OPIC's support for the ECP Africa Fund IV will help foster the expansion of businesses that are critical to local job creation and sustained African economic growth. A press release was issued [here](#).

On September 24th, OPIC announced approval of a \$9.8 million loan to support the Luanda Medical Center (LMC), a world class medical clinic designed to provide high quality health care and diagnostic services for the local population in Angola. Vital Capital fund has also made a \$16.6 million equity investment. LCV will help increase access to health care services, including same-day ambulatory and cardiology procedures, MRIs, CTs, ultrasounds, and X-rays. Additional information was posted [here](#).

U.S. Trade and Development Agency

On September 23rd, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) awarded a grant to Hama for Food Industries, a leading Egyptian citrus supplier, in support of its plans to expand its processing and packing facilities. The grant will fund a feasibility study that will provide recommendations on the implementation of high-capacity citrus sorting, grading and packing processing lines, cold storage technology and equipment, and juicing and corrugated carton operations. The grant was announced [here](#).

On September 29th-October 10th, USTDA will host a reverse trade mission (RTM) on Malawi Power Sector Opportunities. The RTM will introduce high-level representatives from Malawi's electric power sector to U.S. technologies, equipment, and services, as well as policies, regulations, and financing mechanisms that can support the modernization of Malawi's power sector. Participating delegates from Malawi will attend a Business Briefing at USTDA headquarters, participate in the World Energy Engineering Congress (WEEC) annual conference, and conduct additional site visits in Washington, DC, Miami, FL, and Atlanta, GA. More information can be found [here](#).

Broadcasting Board of Governors

On September 23rd, the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) and Gallup hosted an event entitled, "Women and Media: Africa in Focus," to discuss women's media consumption habits across Africa and how those choices impact their lives. Presenters included former Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Tara Sonenshine, Sonja Gloeckle of IBB, and Magali Rheault of Gallup. Details can be seen [here](#).

North Africa

On September 19th, Amnesty International issued a press release accusing Egyptian authorities of putting at risk the life of Mohamed Soltan, a dual U.S.-Egyptian national and an activist who was arrested last August during the crackdown against protestors loyal to ousted Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi. Soltan has been on hunger strike for more than 230 days and has been placed in solitary confinement in al-Aqrab maximum security prison as punishment. His lawyer has also argued he is being denied access to medical care, as authorities only transfer him to the medical unit when he loses consciousness. The full story is available [here](#).

On September 19th, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) hosted a briefing on "Algeria-U.S. Relations: Challenges in the Maghreb and Sahel." The event was built around a discussion with Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ramtane Lamamra and moderated by CSIS's Jon Alterman. A recording of the discussion can be watched [here](#).

On September 22nd, Egyptian President Abdul Fattah Al-Sisi announced public support for the U.S. efforts against ISIL. President Sisi did, however, suggest that President Barack Obama expand U.S. efforts beyond Iraq and Syria to also include Libya, Sudan, Yemen and the Sinai Peninsula. Additional

details can be read [here](#).

On September 23rd, *TIME Magazine* interviewed Egyptian President Abdul Fattah Al-Sisi about the growing international coalition to combat ISIL, Egypt's economy, and the influence of Islam in his life. President Sisi reiterated his belief that the international effort against ISIL should be expanded as part of a broader war on terror in the Middle East. President Sisi also discussed Egypt's poverty, unemployment, and the idleness of young people in the country. The full interview can be accessed [here](#).

On September 24th, Morocco's state power utility ONEE received \$300 million from China Export-Import Bank to fund a 318 megawatt coal-fired plant in Jerada. With an energy production deficit and growing energy consumption, Morocco is hoping to meet domestic energy demand with thermal power. Details can be read [here](#).

On September 24th, French President Francois Hollande condemned the beheading of French mountain climber, Herve Gourdel, by Algerian militants who pledged their allegiance to ISIL. Goudel arrived in Algeria on Saturday and was captured on Sunday. On Monday, the militants released a video threatening to kill Gourdel within 24 hours if France did not put an end to the air strikes against ISIL. A video of Goudel's beheading was posted online on Wednesday. The full story can be viewed [here](#).

East Africa

On September 20th, Boeing announced Ethiopian Airlines' decision to buy 20 redesigned 737 aircraft valued at \$2.1 billion in the largest single order for Boeing planes from the continent. The deal also comes with an option for an additional 15 planes. The new aircraft will assist Ethiopian Airlines in executing its 15-year plan to grow its business to 18 million passengers per year. The deal was announced [here](#).

On September 21st, Kenya marked the one-year anniversary of the Al Shabaab attack on the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, which killed 67 people. A memorial plaque with the names of the victims was unveiled in conjunction with a candle-lit vigil. Ahead of events to commemorate the anniversary, Kenya was put on high alert amidst fears of possible attacks by militants. An article on the anniversary of the attack can be read [here](#).

On September 22nd, a report published by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) said that Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Uganda are spending significant amounts of their national budgets in addressing climate change. The ODI said this is due to the lack of support provided by the international community. Meanwhile, funding for education and health programs in these countries is decreasing. For example, from 2008 to 2011, Ethiopia spent 14 percent of its annual budget on climate change, equal to half its spending on education, and Tanzania spent 5 percent, equivalent to almost two-thirds of its health spending. The full report can be found [here](#).

On September 24th, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon held a High-Level meeting on Somalia along the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly debate. While acknowledging that Somalia's peace process is gaining momentum, Secretary-General Ban underscored the progress must remain on track leading up to Somalia's 2016 elections. Secretary-General Ban also noted that security, rule of law, and respect for human rights will remain important, especially as operations against Al Shabaab continue. Takeaways from the meeting were detailed [here](#).

On September 24th, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta spoke before the U.N. General Assembly. Referring to the Ebola crisis in West Africa, President Kenyatta called on African countries to build strong, resilient, and accountable states that can respond to shocks, adversities, and emergencies in the future. President Kenyatta also discussed the importance of adopting a Post-2015 Development Agenda and the need to counter terrorism and violent extremism, including along Kenya's border with Somalia. Additionally, President Kenyatta reported on some of Kenya's recent achievements, including universal immunization coverage, the provision of fortified foods and insecticide-treated mosquito nets, and free maternal and child care in government hospitals. President Kenyatta's speech was summarized [here](#).

West Africa

On September 19th, the U.N. Security Council condemned last week's attack on a MINUSMA convoy travelling between Aguelhok and Tessalit, Mali. The convoy was attacked by an explosive device, which killed five Chadian peacekeepers and severely wounded three others. In addition to offering condolences to the families of the peacekeepers who were attacked, the Security Council reaffirmed the need to combat threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. The Security Council's condemnation of the attack can be seen [here](#).

On September 19th, the Hudson Institute hosted an event entitled, "#WhereAreOurGirls? Escaped Schoolgirl Shares Her Account of Boko Haram Abduction." Speakers included Saa, a survivor of the April Boko Haram abduction in Chibok, Nigeria, Emmanuel Ogebe of U.S. Nigeria Law Group, and Nina Shea of the Hudson Institute. Event logistics were posted [here](#).

On September 23rd, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) indicated it was developing plans to move roughly 5,000 Nigerian refugees in Cameroon away from the northern border with Nigeria due to ongoing cross border attacks by insurgents. Over the past two weeks, more than 8,600 refugees have already been relocated. Since the beginning of the crisis in Nigeria, Cameroon has reported the arrival of 43,720 Nigerian refugees. Additional Nigerian refugees have fled to Niger and Chad, while others remain internally displaced. Feedback from UNHCR was provided [here](#).

On September 23rd, residents in Zouera, Mali, found the head and decapitated body of a Tuareg hostage seized last week by suspected Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) militants. The victim was one of five hostages captured last week. Militants warned that the man was captured and beheaded for allegedly acting as an informer for French forces operating in Mali. The full story is available [here](#).

On September 24th, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan addressed the U.N. General Assembly. President Jonathan reported that the continuing violent and criminal activities of Boko Haram continue to challenge Nigeria and lamented the abduction of more than 200 schoolgirls from a secondary school in Chibok in April. He reported that efforts to find the missing schoolgirls continue and pledged to bring their kidnappers to justice. In addition, President Jonathan expressed concern for the impact of Ebola virus in West Africa. President Jonathan's remarks were summarized [here](#).

On September 25th, Nigerian police announced that one of the schoolgirls captured by Boko Haram militants in Chibok was freed this week. Authorities reported that the victim was dropped off by suspected Boko Haram militants in Adamawa state and found in a village after spending several days hiding in the bush. Police said the victim's condition is stable, but she is still receiving medical attention. More information was shared [here](#).

On September 25th, CSIS hosted a discussion on "Nigeria's 2015 Elections: Engaging Voters," to explore strategies for expanding public participation in Nigeria's February 2015 national elections. The event featured panels on "Lessons from 2011 and INEC's Outreach Strategy" and "Building an Informed and Active Electorate." Event details can be viewed [here](#).

Sub-Saharan Africa

On September 22nd, speaking at a U.N. meeting of the signatories of the Peace, Security, and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the Region, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon noted progress has been made in impairing armed groups and improving security in the region. Moving forward, Secretary-General Ban called for swift repatriation of eligible former M23 rebels to the DRC in order to improve the environment for elections. He also called on the African Development Bank (AfDB), the EU, the World Bank, and other bilateral partners to remain committed to supporting initiatives for peace, security, and cooperation in the DRC and surrounding areas. Secretary-General Ban's remarks were highlighted [here](#).

On September 22nd, a ranger and two other employees of South Africa's Kruger National Park were arrested on suspicion of rhino poaching. The suspects were found with a hunting rifle and ammunition in the Lower Sabie area of the park, which has recently been hard hit by poachers. The arrests were made after a recently killed rhino was found nearby. The full story is available [here](#).

On September 22nd, the Russian atomic energy agency, Rosatom, signed a \$10 billion deal with South Africa to help install 9.6 gigawatts of nuclear capacity by 2030 to help the country's economy in spite of looming electricity shortages. Following the announcement, South African authorities reported the agreement is still in its early stages and the government anticipates a procurement process, as well as additional inter-government agreements. An article on the deal can be read [here](#).

On September 24th, Rwandan President Paul Kagame addressed the U.N. General Assembly at its annual general debate. President Kagame highlighted how public-private partnerships have been effective in achieving the MDGs and called for similar partnerships to be developed to help combat climate change. He also called on the international community to do more to address crisis in Africa, including undertaking efforts to ensure that physical security and national identity promote nation building, peace, and security. Excerpts from President Kagame's remarks were highlighted [here](#).

On September 24th, South African President Jacob Zuma addressed the U.N. General Assembly. President Zuma welcomed the recently announced U.N. efforts to combat the Ebola crisis in West Africa and said that South Africa will continue to assist the people and Governments of Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone. In addition, President Zuma lauded the partnership between the African Union (AU) and the U.N., especially on coordination to help sustain progress in the DRC. President Zuma also paid tribute to former South African President Nelson Mandela and applauded the U.N.'s creation of the U.N. Nelson Mandela Prize. An overview of President Zuma's address was provided [here](#).

General Africa News

On September 22nd, World Bank Vice President for the Africa Region Makhtar Diop authored an op-ed in *Modern Ghana* calling on international leaders to listen more closely to African leaders on climate change. Vice President Diop argues that Africa is the continent that has contributed least to the profound changes in the earth's climate, but is home to the people who will suffer the most from the impacts of climate change. The full op-ed can be read [here](#).

On September 22nd, related to U.N. meetings this week in New York, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on the more than \$16 million in unpaid parking tickets owed to New York City by diplomats from more than 180 countries. Egyptian diplomats, who owe nearly \$2 million, are at the top of the list. Nigeria and Morocco also both owe more than half a million dollars, trailed slightly by Senegal, Sudan, and Angola. The full story can be viewed [here](#).

On September 23rd, as part of the U.N. Climate Summit, the AU announced the Extreme Climate Facility (XCF), a multi-year funding mechanism that will issue approximately \$1 billion worth of climate catastrophe bonds. The XCF will be overseen by the African Risk Capacity and is intended to leverage private capital for climate adaptation initiatives and to support African governments in the aftermath of extreme weather events caused by climate change. Additional information was shared [here](#).

On October 2nd, the American Security Project (ASP) will host a conference on "Africa: Promoting Investment and Extending America's Security." The event will include panels on "Extending America's National Security Through Private Sector Investments," "Opportunities for Investment in Africa," and "How to Invest and Manage Risk for U.S. Companies." Event details can be accessed [here](#).

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