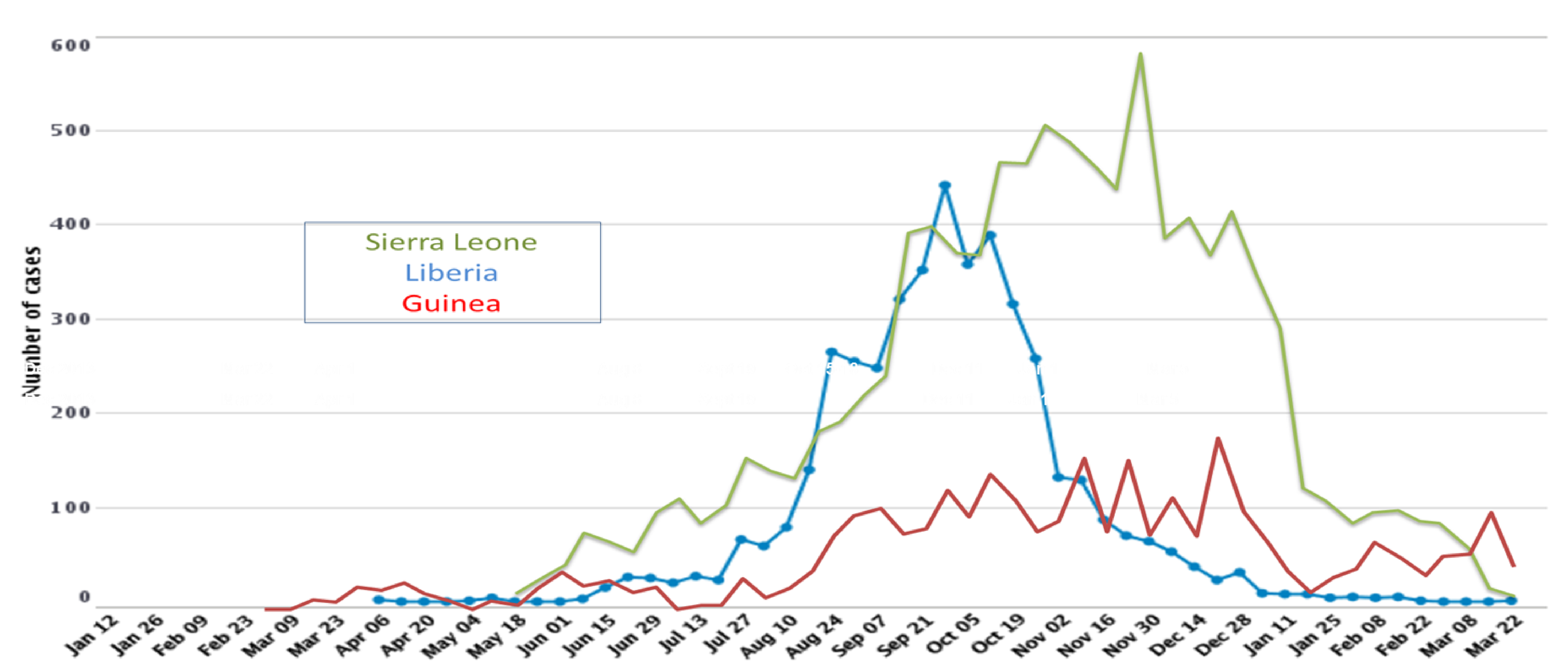
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION & THE EBOLA EPIDEMIC: WHY IT MATTERS IN WEST AFRICA

BACKGROUND:

It began in December 2013, with the death of a young boy just two years old, in a remote village in Guinea, from fever, vomiting and bloody diarrhea. It would become the worst outbreak of Ebola in history, claiming more than 10,000 lives across West Africa over the following year. The spread of the disease was compounded by the isolated location of the first patients, close to the porous borders of both Sierra Leone and Liberia, and the lack of health infrastructure in all three countries. In March 2014, the WHO officially confirmed the outbreak, but there was little notion that this would escalate into a crisis of unprecedented magnitude. Over the summer, the death toll began to rise rapidly in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia and spread to Nigeria - a signal that the disease could become a pandemic. As the disease rampaged in Liberia's densely populated capital Monrovia, the WHO declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern in August. It took the UN another month to mobilize, passing resolutions in both the General Assembly and Security Council that established the **UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER)**. It was the first ever UN Mission for a health emergency.

TIMELINE OF OUTBREAK:



Dec 2013 — Outbreak begins in Meliandou, Guinea

Mar 22 — WHO confirms Ebola outbreak in Guinea

Aug 8 — WHO declares Public Health Emergency of International Concern

Sept 19 — UN Mission on Ebola Emergency Response established

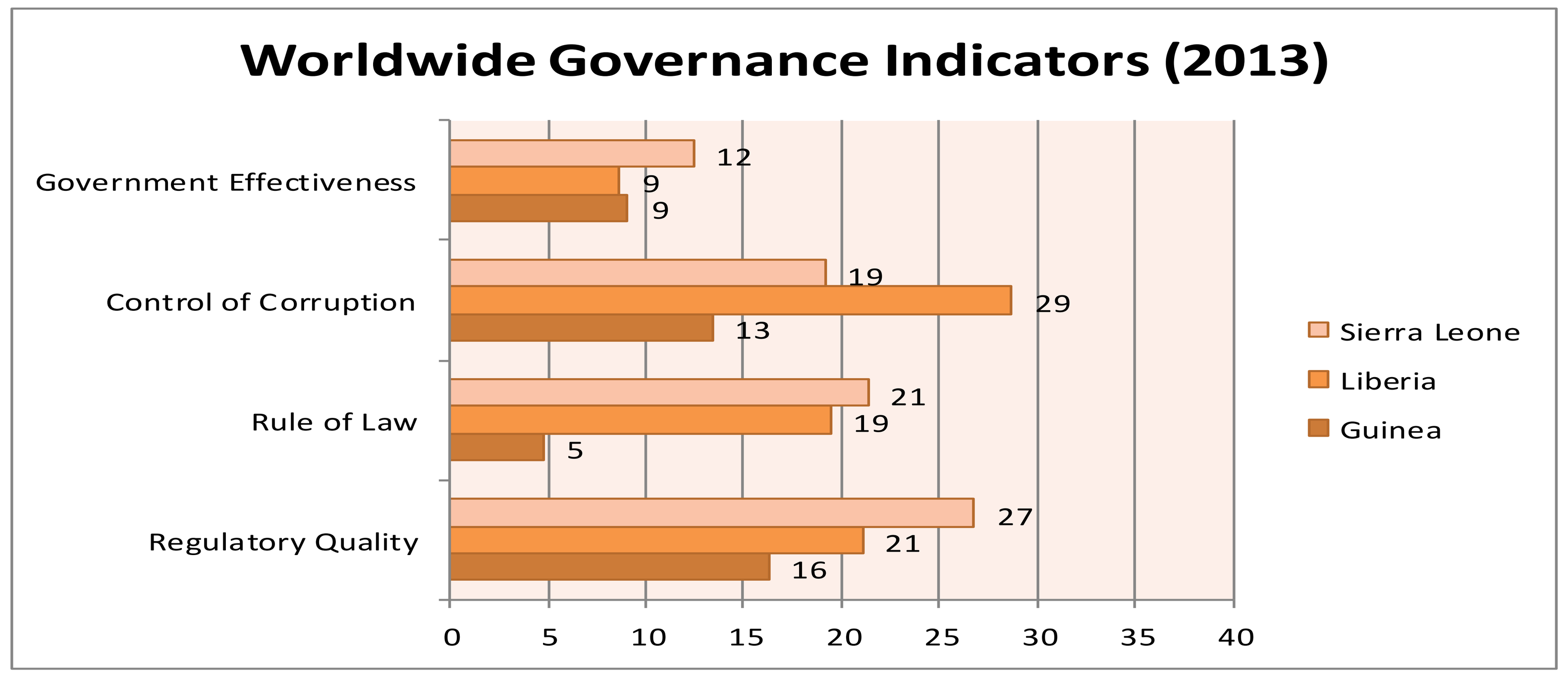
Dec 11 — UN-Business Collaboration Meeting

Mar 5 — Liberia releases last Ebola patient

Source: UNMEER & WHO

GOVERNMENT DEFICIENCIES IN DEALING WITH EBOLA:

All three countries lacked the necessary resources and infrastructure to combat a complex emergency such as Ebola. In particular, health services were poorly lacking,: according to Afri-Dev.Info, Liberia had just 51 doctors for their population of 4.2 million, Sierra Leone had 136 doctors for their almost 6 million population, and Guinea doing only slightly better with 940 doctors for 11.5 million population.



Source: World Bank, Natural Resource Governance Institute & Brookings Institution

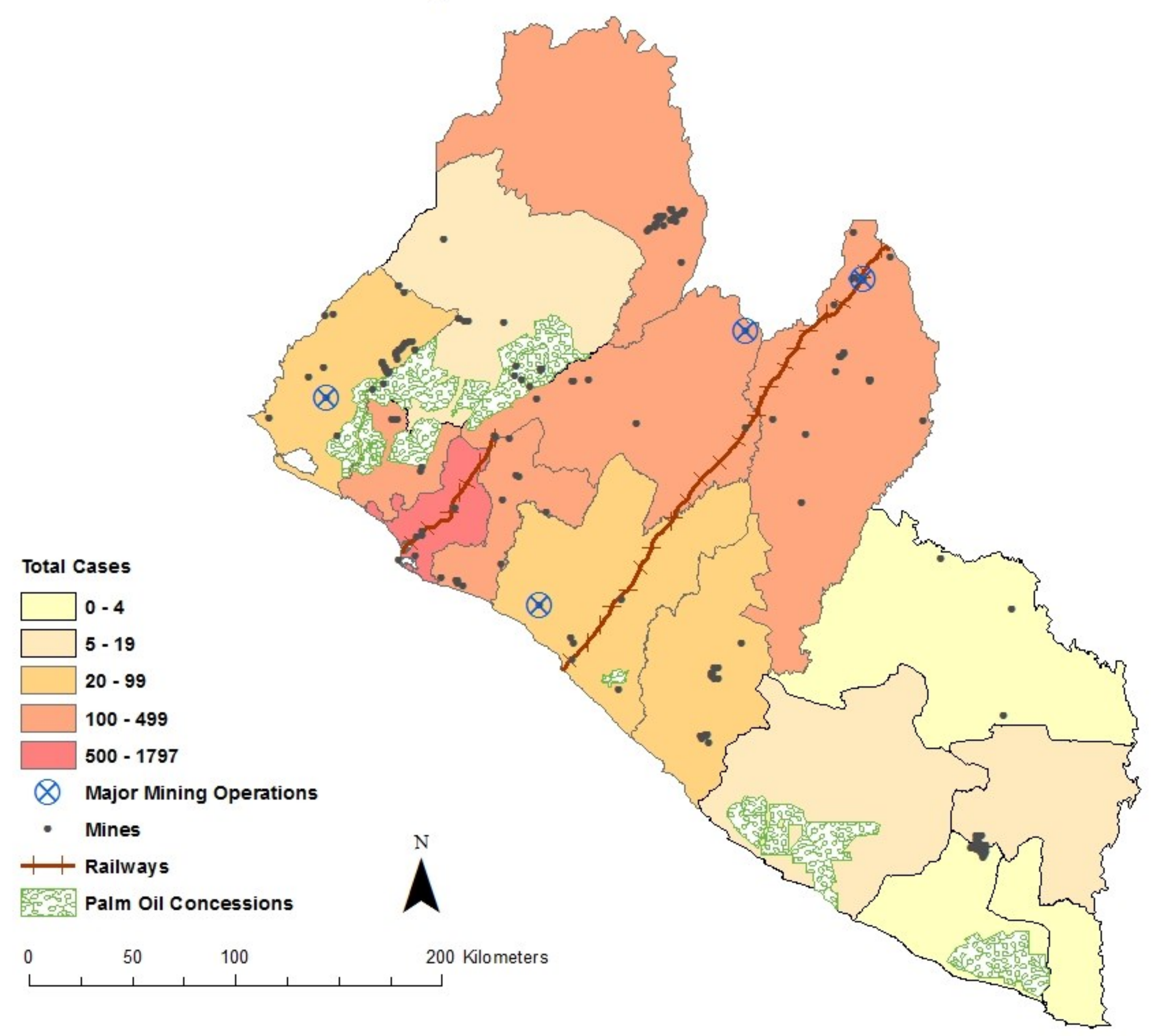
EBOLA PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION GROUP:

Private sector entities, spearheaded by mining giant ArcelorMittal began to take proactive steps against Ebola in April. In July, they formalized their collaboration as the "Ebola Private Sector Mobilization Group" (EPSMG). The majority of the companies involved were in extractive industries, having invested billions in various concessions in West Africa.

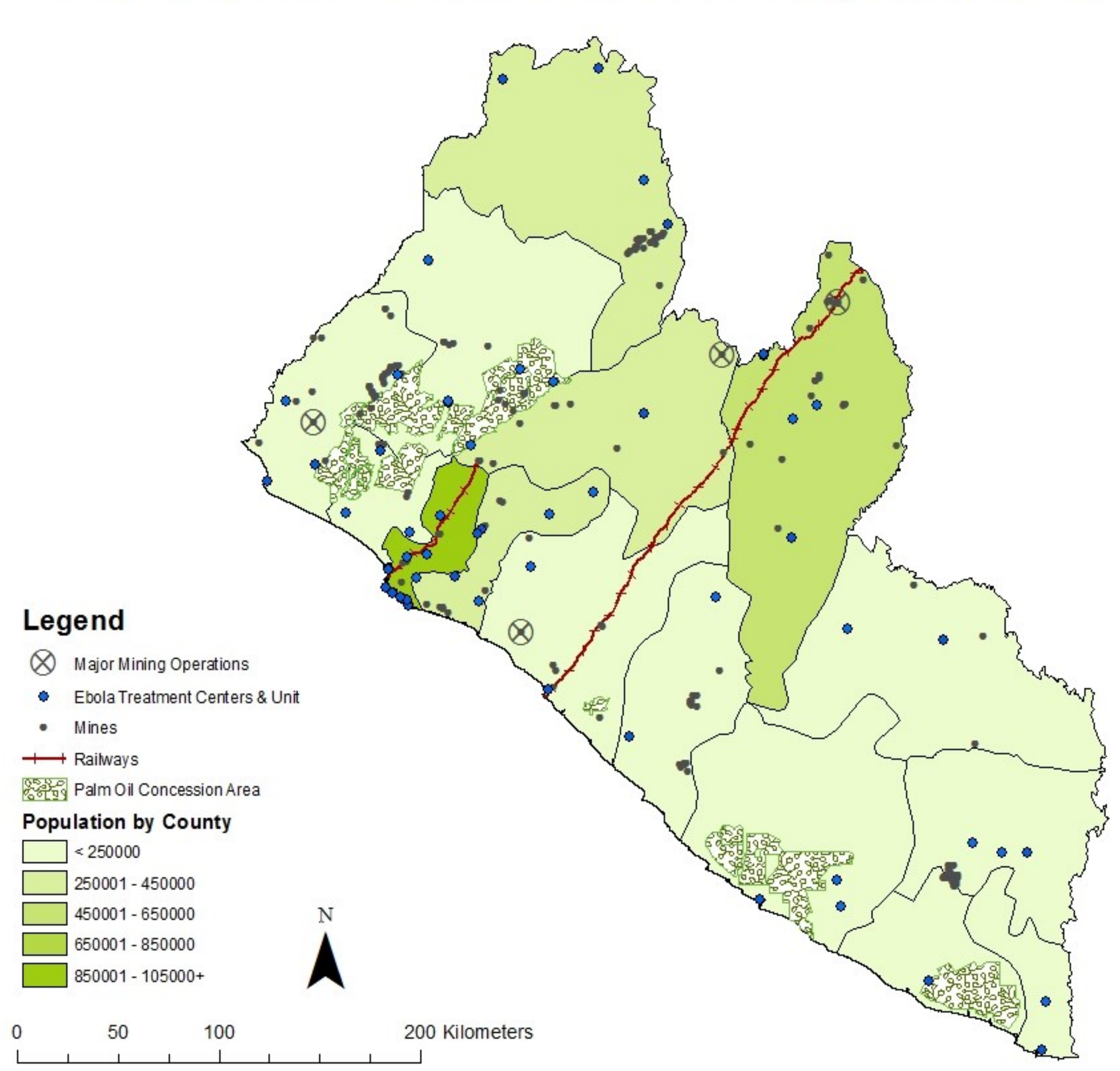
- Liberia: ArcelorMittal invested $1.7 billion to expand mine and infrastructure in Yekepa
- Guinea: Rio Tinto and Chinalco signed a $20 billion deal to develop iron ore deposits
- Sierra Leone: China Kingho invested more than $6 billion in infrastructure, energy, iron

(Source: Reuters)

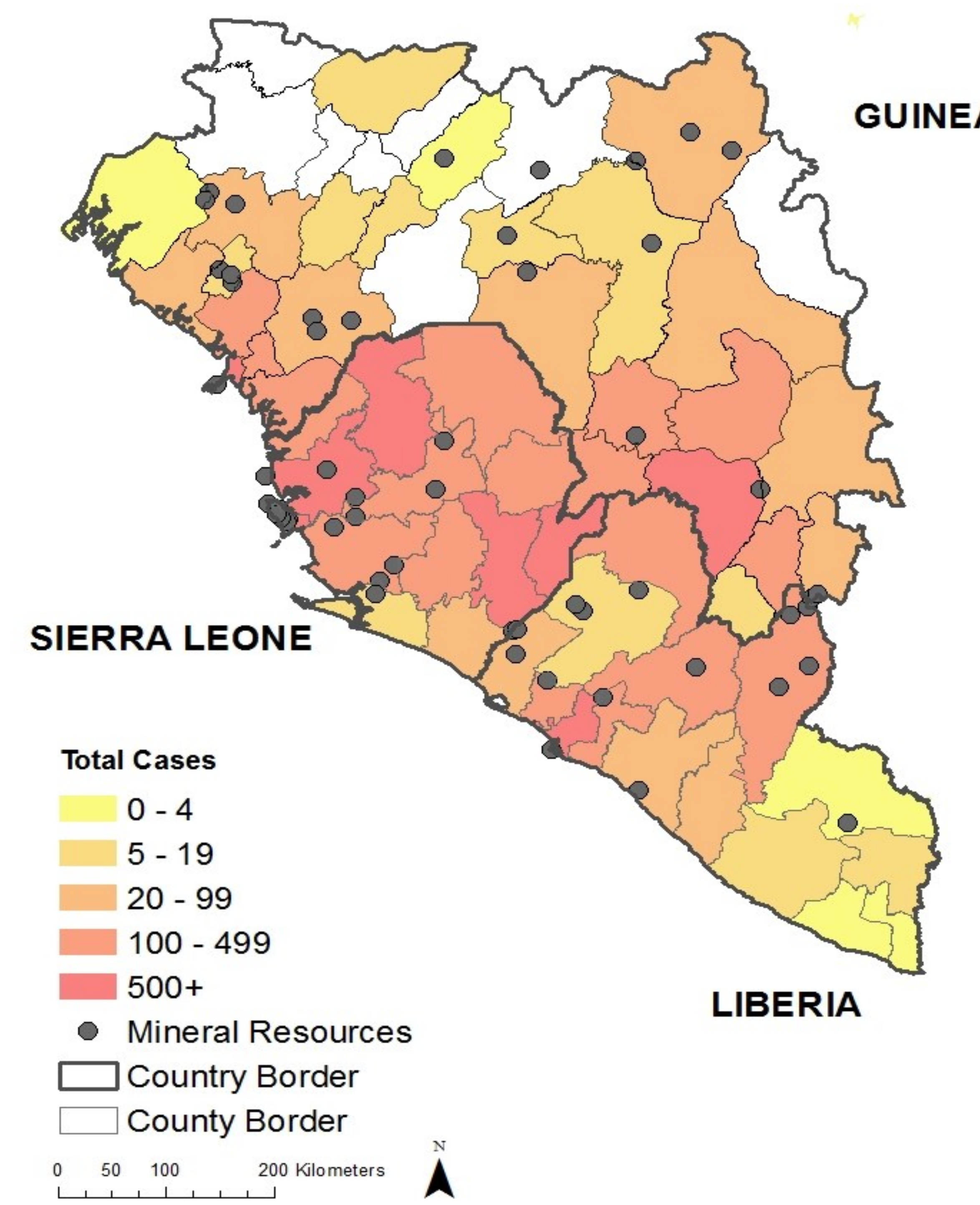
Liberia: Mining Resources & Ebola Case Distribution



Liberia: Ebola Treatment Centers & Population Distribution



TOTAL EBOLA CASES BY COUNTY



- Mining accounts for 17% of GDP in Liberia, 16% in Sierra Leone, and 20% in Guinea, approximately, driving up exports and FDI
- Numerous services and logistics companies rely on the mining industry's for much of their business in West Africa
- The exact numbers are debated but the World Bank estimates $1.6 billion in forgone growth for the three core countries

Due to the myriad number of deficiencies in the local government health infrastructure and the lack of a coordinated international response until September, the private sector filled the gaps in the interim. This included measures such as community outreach and education on Ebola, providing health supplies to NGOs and clinics, and screening employees for signs of illness. After UNMEER began to lead the Ebola Response, the UN Global Compact in partnership with the EPSMG set up the Business Action Pledge on Ebola Elimination, which sought to effectively coordinate the private sector response based on specific UN needs.

Cartographer: Mio Yamada **Date: May 2015**

DHP P207: GIS for International Applications

Projection: Africa Albers Equal Area Conic

Sources: UNMEER; WHO; UN Global Compact; Ebola Private Sector Mobilization Group; 2014 West Africa Ebola Response; Open Street Map; Mineral Resources Data System, USGS; Open Humanitarian Data Repository; Ebola Geonode; Humanitarian Data Exchange

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