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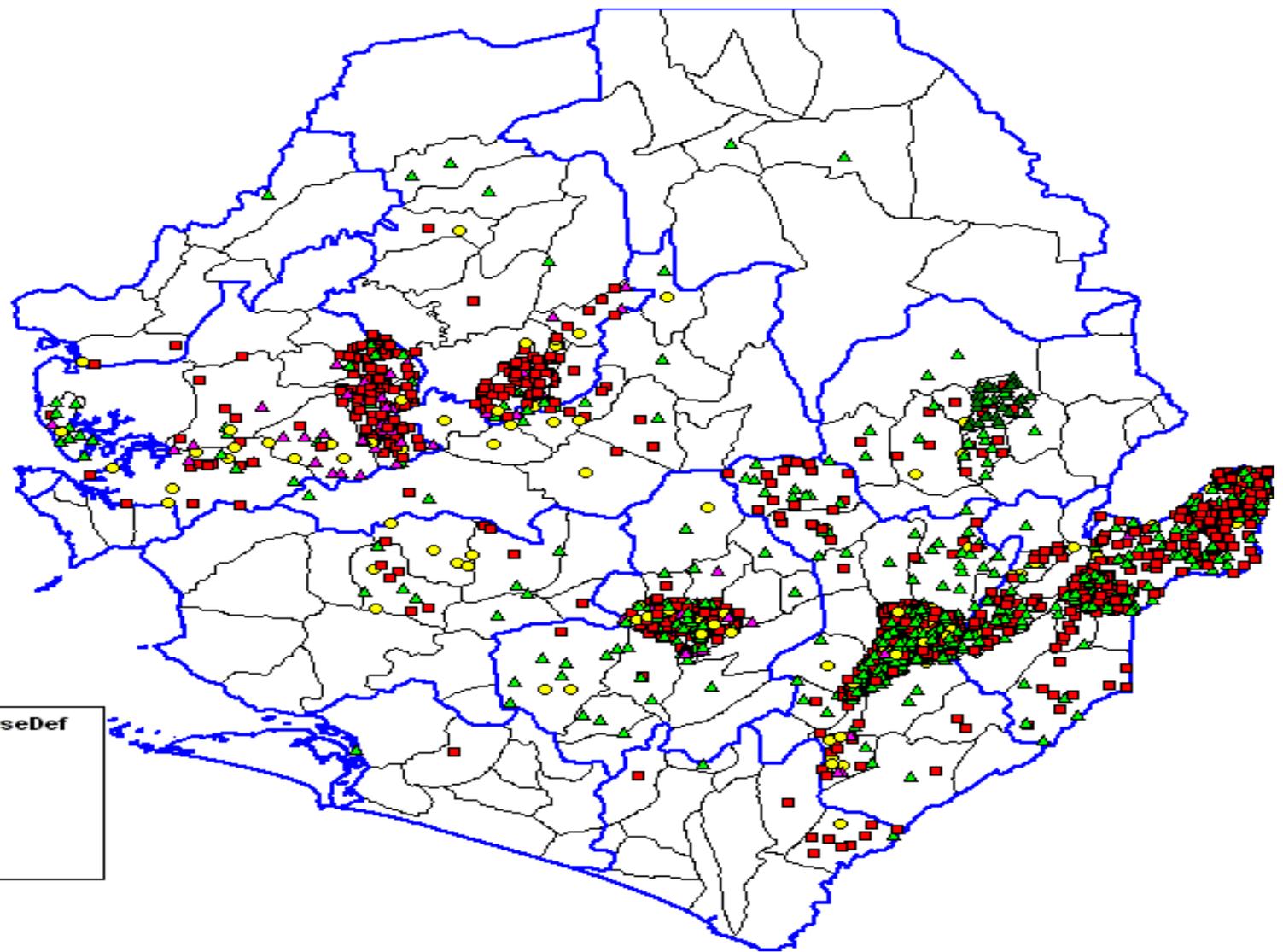
Estimating the social and economic impact of the Ebola crisis.

The case of Sierra Leone

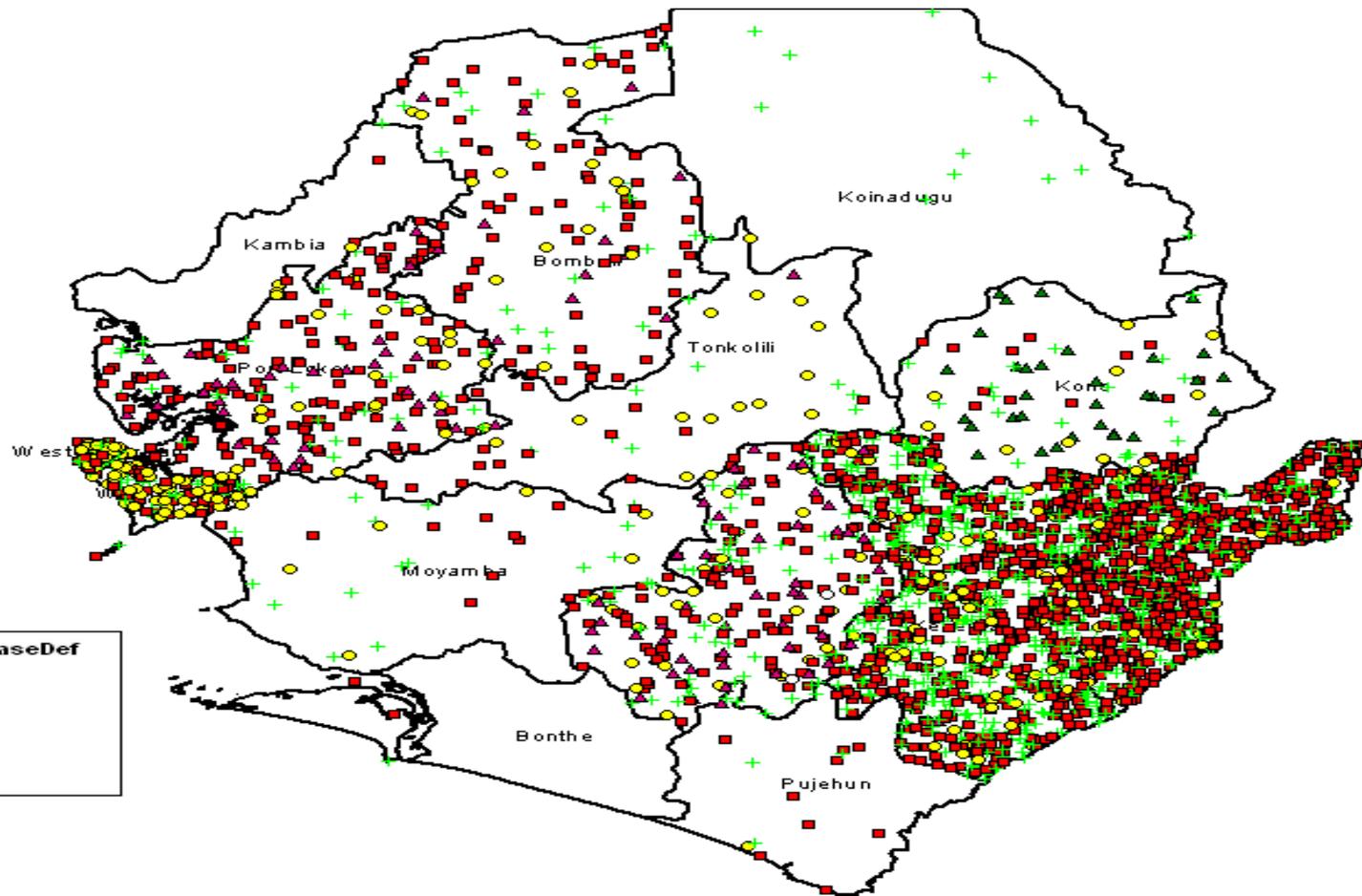
Introduction:

- Onset of Ebola – facts and figs
- The spread of the epidemic
- World reactions
- Ebola control measures and effects
- Actual and potential economic impact
- Compensatory and correction measures opportunities and challenges
- Lessons from experience
- (Failure to diagnose a problem accurately results in inaccurate prescriptions, and missed opportunity to learn lessons and prevent future failures).

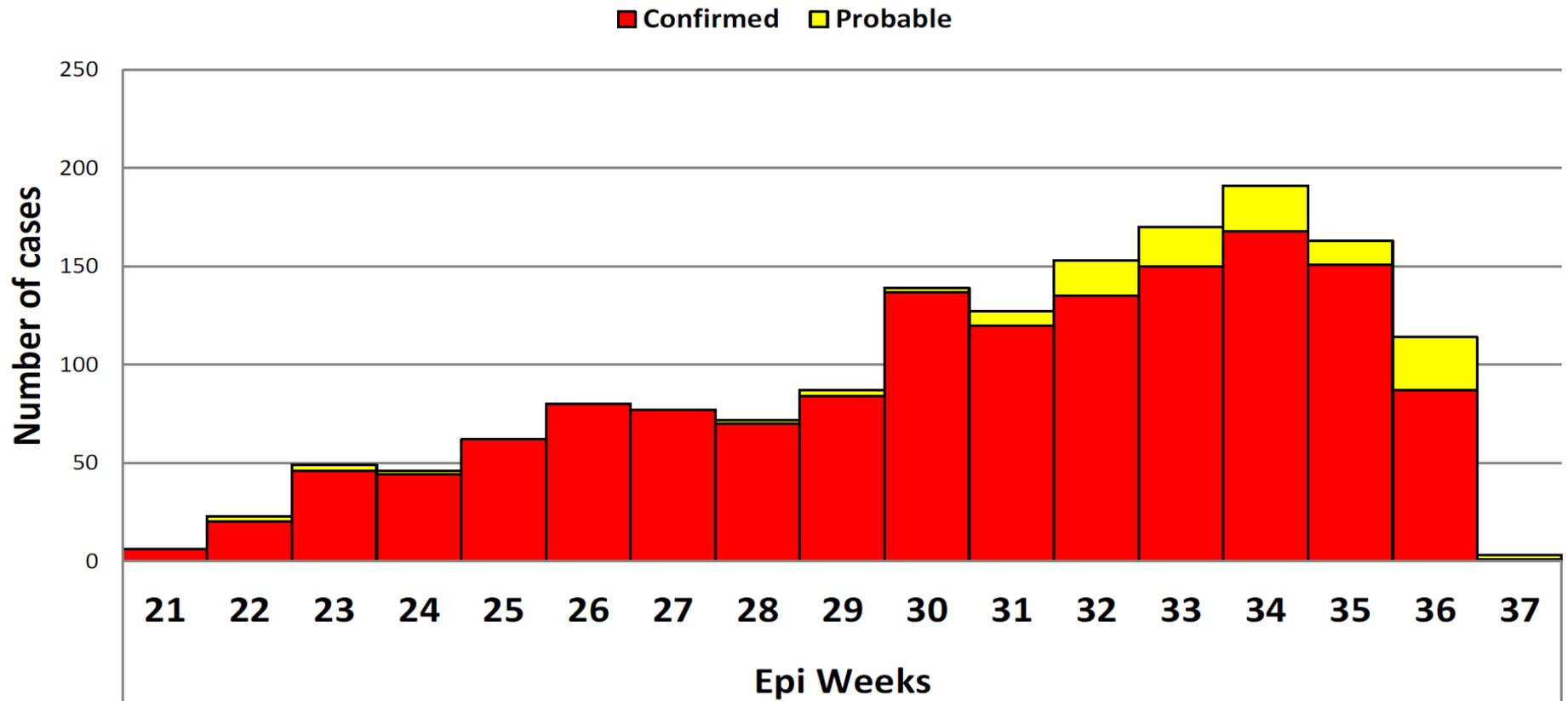
NATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF CONFIRMED EBOLA CASES BY CHIEFDOMS (As of the 19th September)



NATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF CONFIRMED EBOLA CASES BY DISTRICTS (As of the 19th September)



NATIONAL Epi CURVE – MAY 23 to 19 SEPTEMBER 2014, (n=1619)



Data source EVD data base

Confirmed cases for last five weeks:-157, 185 195, 230, 245.
Most worrying is Freetown. Cumulative cases now 178. WR - 103

Epidemiology, geography, politics, sociology, culture and economy:

- Transmission channels; mainly human - little evidence of animals (NEJM 23 Sept 2014).
- Geography and climate. Inaccessible and border regions, Location – forest region, border area. Note similarity with Uganda and DRC
- Stronghold of political opposition – trust issues normal,
- Small holders/ cash crops, inaccessible region and rainy season.
- Sociology and culture - interrelationships of people along, border markets /traditions burial rites/ alternative medicine approach is universal

Current Situation.

All three countries in midst of complex crises.

- Health (rate of infection on the increase, inadequate and insufficient treatment facilities
- non-ebola ailments not always treated,
- logistics and food supply challenges);
- Social (isolated skirmishes but slum areas potential hotspots especially in capital):
- Economic (disruptions in production, distribution and consumption).
- General slow-down in businesses and public service.
All above being handled within national boundaries

Current situation (cont);

- Cross – border issues: Trade disruptions due to border closure – no firm estimates available. Sub-regional markets closed. MRU activities mostly frozen. The behavior of Cote d'Ivoire could threaten continuity of 4 MRU states.
- Reactions of African states. Virtual blockade by many member states of the AU, to nationals from the Ebola-hit countries.
- Slow down in trade and investment deals; Cancellations of meetings and workshops or of invitations to Ebola-hit nationals. AU reactions still in planning stage – as of Friday last week.

Where did we go wrong?

- initial messages, when Guinea reports filtered in, were about bushmeat and absence of cure. Early reports were thought to be isolated cases of bushmeat eaters. (search for alternative cure a normal reaction world wide).
- Only treatment centre, was several hours through bad roads. Each case produced direct transmission to conductor(s)
- Considered a health prob and left with Min of H. The institution itself had management problems
- WHO local leadership had little experience in handling epidemics. Was only changed in Sept.

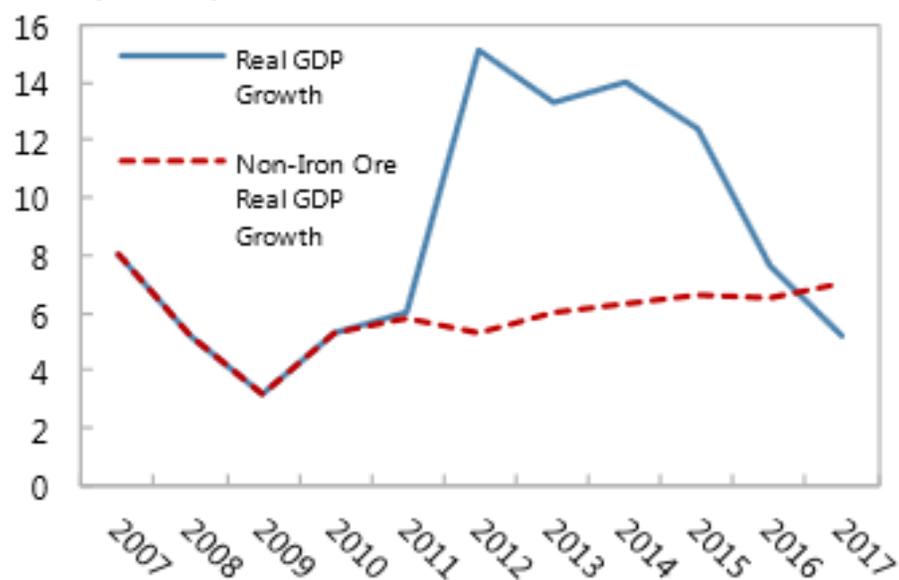


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Where did we go wrong;

- Failure by both to recognize this as a complex emergency. Containment measures were applied only in August.
- Request by MSF were unheeded – NGOs reputation of being alarmist.
- Failure to make leadership changes early is primary explanation for spread of epidemic; and this is directly a result of governance flaws (fault lines masked by politics).
- .Weak health systems can also be found in DRC.

Gross Domestic Product Growth
(Percent)



Percentage of GDP by sector (2007)^[20]

Rank	Sector	Percentage of GDP
1	Agriculture	58.5
2	Other Services	10.4
3	Trade and tourism	9.5
4	Wholesale and retail trade	9.0
5	Mining and quarrying	4.5
6	Government Services	4.0
7	Manufacturing and handicrafts	2.0
8	Construction	1.7
9	Electricity and water	0.4

Source: IMF, 2013

Source: ADB, OECD 2009

Social and Economic impact.

At this stage in the epidemic's expansion, when new infections are still on the rise, with the exception of specific and observable effects such as closure of firms and temporary loss of jobs and reductions in public revenues, it is difficult if not impossible to give realistic estimates of the impact on all sectors of the economy. It may even be counter productive.

The observed price effects will be presented later. Following are based on observations and knowledge of the economy.

Social and economic impact;

Macro economic indicators - inflation levels rising, interest rates on the upwards swing, revenue shortfalls etc.

- **Agriculture** – Premature to estimate food production (for example four weeks ago, the rice growing areas where hardly touched. Now epicenter moving towards the north and west - heavy rice growing areas); have fields been abandoned temporarily and affect harvest? Widespread crop failure will have severe consequences on poverty levels and capacity for next year's planting.
- Better estimate possible in about a month when harvesting would have started



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Social and Economic Impact;

- Tourism and services. The impact on tourism is significant. All hotels, bars, and premier league matches, were virtually closed although the influx of aid workers is leading to a reopening of hotels.
- Mining. Production remains same for this year. Changes in artisanal and SS unrelated to Ebola.
- Fishing – effects can be positive as local sales rise, and coastal communities not specially hit. No data.
- Trade – external trade for agricultural products still early as harvests not yet in.
- Infrastructure. No new expenditures on infrastructure and some activities suspended



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Social and Economic impact;

- Macro economic. Revenue losses, interest rate increases, pressures on the value of the currency (already at 1e5,100 compared to LE 4,300 to the dollar, six months ago), budget pressures (unexpected expenditures, postponement of new projects),

Social and Economic impact;

- Services – worst hit. Due to necessary containment measures. Transport, informal businesses; hairdressing, tailoring etc
- All affected the economic slow down.
- Manufacturing – very small and effects already being felt (brewery, cement, plastics etc)

Confidence. Worst case scenario and doomsday reporting not helpful in this type of humanitarian crises. Investors need confidence, citizens need hope, health workers belief in success need to be nurtured and international community need assurances that it is being contained.

Going forward;

To deal with the social and economic impact:

- we need accurate data, not mere speculation. Customised monitoring systems must be activated or set up now for this purpose.
- Timely response not knee jerk or belated reactions.
- A comprehensive rescue package should contain elements for improving health systems, targeted and direct budget support, not be considered only in terms of what the public service can deliver, nor should it be conceived only in terms of financial resources.

Going forward (cont):

What should be the ingredients of the rescue package ?

when should it be delivered?

what should be the scope.

A package based as much on regional data as on national estimates, and as far as possible seeking sub-regional solutions.

Opportunity to press for governance reforms that would directly and indirectly seal the fault lines – apply freedom of information Act; promote decentralisation, and **above all enforce political and administrative accountability**



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Thank you.

**Herbert M'cleod
Country Director
Sierra Leone**



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EBOLA – Sierra Leone; the chronology of significant events.

December 2013

Initial reports originated in Gueckedou, Macenta, and Kissidougou

March 2014.

Guinea formally notified WHO

End March 2014.

Liberia announced cases

25 May 2014

Sierra Leone official reports started

2- 3 July.

WHO calls special Ministerial meeting on Ebola

31 July 2013.

Health Ministers of the MRU met

1 August MRU meeting of the Heads of States in Conakry



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EBOLA – Sierra Leone; the chronology of significant events.

31 July 2014

Sierra Leone announces Public Health Emergency

8 August 2014

WHO announces Public Health Emergency and reported that Nairobi is threatened because it's airport is a hub.

19 August

Kenya Airways the major carrier between MRU and the rest of Africa suspended flights to the region

Mid August, UN announces appoints Senior UN System Coordinator

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