Situation Overview

- Cases of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) continue to be reported in all three countries, with the most concerning rate of infection occurring in Liberia, especially within the capital of Monrovia. Alongside the Ministries of Health (MoH) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), the humanitarian community continues to scale-up its response to the Ebola outbreak.

- In Liberia, the government has lifted its quarantine of West Point, however, governments of the affected countries are continuing to implement measures restricting the movement of people. In Sierra Leone, the government will impose a three day ‘lockdown’ (19-21 September) for the entire population. In Guinea, the government has postponed the opening of schools. The African Union has called for member states to lift travel bans for humanitarian workers and instead implement screening procedures at the borders to allow for a humanitarian corridor. However, no further information on lifted bans is available at this time.

- Since the Ebola outbreak began, more than 3,600 people have been suspected to have contracted the Ebola disease. The Ministries of Health (MoH) in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone continue to report new cases and deaths attributable to Ebola Virus Disease, and health officials warn that this number will likely continue to increase. Ebola patients have also been identified in Nigeria, D.R.C, and Senegal.

- EVD concerns not only the health of the population affected, but local markets continue to be severely distorted; there are increasing labour shortages, and the prices of food, and other basic commodities have risen dramatically, which has further exacerbated the humanitarian emergency. Market disruptions are expected to have the most impact on market-dependent urban populations.

Logistics Cluster Coordination/Information Management/GIS

- The Logistics Cluster is currently supporting, and coordinating with, various organisations on the ground, including WHO, UNICEF, Médecins Sans Frontières (Switzerland, Belgium), Save the Children, USAID/DART, the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), NDS, International Medical Corps (IMC), Action Against Hunger (ACF), Médecins du Monde (MDM), Ebola Outbreak Centre (EOC), and the relevant Ministries of Health (MOH), as well as providing transport, storage, logistics and engineering support, and the provision of equipment/mobile storage units (MSUs).

- Approximately 7.8 USD million is immediately required for logistics support to the humanitarian community’s Ebola response.
Since the 17th of August, a regional Cluster Coordinator, two Logistics Cluster Coordinators, several Logistics Officers, and engineering specialists have been deployed to the affected areas in West Africa. To complement existing Logistics sector support, two Information Management Officers have been deployed to the region.

Logistics information, situation updates, UNHAS flight schedules, maps and other information management products are currently being shared on the Logistics Cluster website at http://logcluster.org/ops/ebola14.

**Existing Logistics Gaps or Bottlenecks**

- The weather will continue to have an impact on logistics operations as due to the current season heavy rains are expected to increase over the next two months. Road transport and offloading cargo at ports and airports is already affected by the rains and makes constructing temporary Ebola Treatment Centres more difficult.

- Many roads, especially for secondary/tertiary transport, within the three affected countries are reported to be in very poor condition allowing transport in many instances only with specialised off-road trucks.

- The Logistics Cluster is currently in discussions with relevant parties, regarding the issue of consolidating cargo, coming via air, from outside the affected countries; utilising an air-bridge hub for consolidation in a neighbouring country, has been identified as a possible solution.

- Border crossing closures have been reported in Senegal, Cote D’Ivoire, and Mali, as well as restrictions between Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. However humanitarian access has been cleared on individual basis pending government approval.

- The Logistics Cluster is working with partners and the relevant authorities, to resolve constraints faced by partners regarding access to cargo in the port and airport in Monrovia; delays and challenges have been reported, due to a lack of clarity surrounding procedures required for entry.

**Sea transport**

- Whilst the situation is changing rapidly, some ports have already imposed restrictive measures or even bans for vessels that have first stopped in an affected country port.

- Regional ports (such as Dakar – Senegal; Banjul – Gambia; Bissau – Guinea-Bissau; Douala – Cameroon; Pointe-Noire – Republic of Congo) are implementing protective measures or may even refuse entry to vessels and/or crews in the case that they have called at one of the three affected countries’ ports.

- There have been no reports so far of any of the international container lines suspending their services; some liners have altered schedules, but are continuing to call at the all three affected country ports.
The following shipping routes are confirmed as being open/active (as of 08 September):
- Load Ports: Las Palmas (ESP), Abidjan (CIV), Accra (GHA), Lome (TGO), Cotonou (BEN)
- Discharge Ports: Conakry (GIN), Freetown (SLE), Monrovia (LBR)

Currently Conakry, Freetown and Monrovia ports are operating normally with no congestion reported.

Air Transport

Increasing challenges are being experienced in the chartering and positioning of aircraft for cargo and passenger movement into Ebola affected countries from one of the surrounding countries.

As of 11 September the following affected countries are being served by the following commercial passenger airlines:
- **Guinea**: Air France, Brussels Airlines, Royal Air Maroc
- **Liberia**: Brussels Airlines, Royal Air Maroc
- **Sierra Leone**: Brussels Airlines, Royal Air Maroc

In addition to unpredictable flight clearance procedures, some Civil Aviation Authorities (CAA) have restricted air operators from flying into the affected countries. Discussions are ongoing with Senegalese authorities regarding the establishment of a humanitarian corridor, allowing humanitarian workers to travel between Dakar and the three affected countries.

As of 09 September a total of almost 200 passengers and over 2.7 MT of light cargo have been transported by the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) for the West African Countries (WAC). With a 19-seat fixed-wing aircraft, UNHAS WAC links the three capitals – Conakry, Freetown and Monrovia and serves field locations in Guinea (Kissidougou and Nzerekore) and Liberia (Foya).

The UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) has commenced passenger flights utilising a Boeing 737 between Accra (Ghana) and Monrovia, on Sundays and Fridays. The aircraft has a 110 passenger capacity (PAX)/8 MT cargo per rotation.

The UNHAS WAC fleet has been augmented with a medium-size helicopter (9 Pax / 1.1 MT Capacity) positioned in Monrovia. It will be used for internal flights, primarily within Liberia, to reach remote treatment centres and quarantine areas. The helicopter has commenced serving the following destinations from Monrovia: Foya, Voinjama, Zwedru, Harper, Kissidougo, N’Zerekore, Bong, Kenema, Kailahun, Koidy. More information about UNHAS schedules and booking forms can be found on the Logistics Cluster website: [http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14](http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14).

The UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) in Dubai (UAE) and Accra (Ghana) have dispatched over 44 MT worth of protective gear, emergency health kits and equipment to the region to support the response of WHO, WFP and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
Logistics Cluster Activities

**Liberia**

- In coordination with the Liberian MoH and WHO, the Logistics Cluster is establishing a common logistics hub in order to manage, dispatch and track health cargo stock for the Ebola Treatment Centres, and to assist in assembling kit sites based on partner requirements. A suitable site has now been located in Monrovia. The Logistics Cluster intends to use its logistics capacity to provide necessary downstream management of the hub.
- The Logistics Cluster, is currently providing engineering and logistics support to WHO in the construction of four new Ebola Treatment Centres (ETCs), across three different locations, in Monrovia. Construction of the ETCs began on 06 September.
- The Logistics Cluster will receive at least 10 (4x4) trucks with 7MT capacity from UNHCR, which will be available for transport within Monrovia on behalf of partners as needed.
- The Logistics Cluster has facilitated transport of approximately 144.4 MT (almost 400m$^3$) of Non-Food Items (NFIs) on behalf of partners in Liberia to Voinjoma, Kakata, Nimba, Monrovia, Foya; transport requests were fulfilled on behalf of partners including MoH, MSF Swiss, MSF Belgium, and WHO.
  - On behalf of USAID, cargo items transported and stored have included 10,000 Personal Protection kits (PPE), 400 thermometers, 2 water treatment units, and 100 roles of plastic sheeting for Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) construction.
- Approximately 120 m$^3$ of items have been stored in WFP warehouses on behalf of Logistics Cluster partners.
- A standardised Service Request Form (SRF) has been introduced to partners, and is available online.
- Through WFP, the Logistics Cluster has loaned over 11 Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) to support MSF and the MOH, for treatment clinics.

**Sierra Leone**

- The Logistics Cluster, through WFP, has lent one MSU to WHO in Kenema town, in South East Sierra Leone, to be used utilised as part of an Ebola health clinic.
- The Logistics Cluster in Sierra Leone is ready to provide warehousing and storage space to partners across the country, and transport, when and if requested.
- The Sierra Leone Logistics Cluster Coordinator is due to arrive in country this week, followed by a Stand-By Partner Logistics Officer, from the Danish Refugee Council.
- The Logistic Cluster is holding coordination meetings, with partners including WHO, UNICEF, CRS, CARE, Plan International, US Embassy and MSF.

www.logcluster.org
Guinea

- The Logistics Cluster, through WFP, has provided WHO with a warehouse in Tombo, at the port, which can accommodate up to 500 MT of medical items.
- Currently, storage capacity in Guinea is limited, however WFP has ordered an additional 10 Wiikhalls, with 500MT capacity each; some of this capacity may become available to Logistics Cluster partners, however more information will be provided once available.
- The Logistics Cluster in Guinea continues to coordinate with WHO, and is assessing options to provide further logistics, equipment and engineering support WHO’s medical response to the Ebola outbreak.
- Should the need arise, transport could be facilitated through WFP from the capital of Conakry to main cities in the forest area (i.e Macenta, Guekedou, Nzerekore, Yomou, Kissidougou) and onto other villages. Partners should contact the Logistics Cluster in Conakry for further information about Logistics Cluster services.

For more information about the logistics situation and operational constraints or for usage of common logistics services, please visit the Logistics Cluster website: [http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14](http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14) or email the relevant contacts below:

**Contacts:**

**Regional (Dakar and roving)**

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**Liberia (Monrovia)**

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**Guinea (Conakry)**

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**Sierra Leone (Freetown)**

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