Situation Overview

- David Nabarro, UN System Coordinator for the Ebola Response, and other health officials are predicting that the Ebola Outbreak will require a potential 20 fold-increase in humanitarian support.

- It has been reported that the US will begin to scale up its response in the region, by deploying thousands of military personnel to West Africa, including an Africa Command General to Monrovia, Liberia. The US also has plans to establish approximately 17 Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs) in Liberia, and a specialised 25-bed clinic for health workers, in Monrovia. The UK government has announced plans to establish approximately 700 beds for Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs) in Sierra Leone.

- In Sierra Leone, the government imposed a three day sensitisation campaign from 19-21 September otherwise termed a ‘lockdown’, for the entire population; organisations are scaling up in preparation for humanitarian needs during this period.

- The UN Ebola Crisis Centre was launched in New York this week, which will coordinate the system-wide operational response.

- The Logistics Cluster was formally activated in Liberia on September 12th, and will be co-lead with the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). The decision to co-lead is due to the exceptional nature of the Ebola Outbreak response.

- Following government approval, the humanitarian bridge between Dakar, Senegal and the three affected countries is expected to open early next week (week of 22 September), pending the construction of a specialised humanitarian passenger terminal at Dakar Airport.

Logistics Cluster Coordination/Information Management/GIS

- Please find the latest Logistics Cluster Factsheet on the website at the following link: http://www.logcluster.org/document/ebola-response-fact-sheet-september-2014

- Standardised Service Request Form (SRF) procedures have been introduced to partners, and is available online http://www.logcluster.org/document/standard-operating-procedures-sops-logistics-cluster-transport-and-transit-storage-services

- A flight snapshot covering all commercial and humanitarian flights into and between the affected countries is also available on the Logistics Cluster website.

- Logistics information, booking forms, 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.

Logistics Gaps or Bottlenecks

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• Heavy seasonal rains continue to impact logistics operations; weather is already affecting transportation (impacting road and air transport), the offloading of cargo (port and airports) as well as creating difficult working conditions for constructions of sites. Weather conditions have also challenged UNHAS flight operations; there were five occurrences of flight cancellations to Foya, Voinjama, Kissidougo and N’Zerekore due to poor weather and heavy rain.

• Partners have reported serious constraints in accessing the airport and seaport in Liberia due to the entry procedures; the Logistics Cluster Working with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW) and USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to find solutions such as a permanent representative in the airport or the provision of certified Ebola Response passes for the humanitarian community working out of these key locations.

• The Logistics Cluster Special Operation for logistics support to the humanitarian community in the West Africa Ebola Response, has still not received any funding against the USD 7.8 million requirement; logistics, engineering and construction work is able to continue only due to limited amounts of emergency cash advances obtained from the cluster lead agency the World Food Programme (WFP).

• Many roads, especially for secondary/tertiary transport, within the three affected countries are reported to be in very poor condition, requiring specialised trucks (light vehicles, 6X6 or 4X4 trucks).

• Border crossing closures have been reported in Senegal, Cote D’Ivoire, Guinea Bissau and Mali, as well as restrictions between Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, however humanitarian access for transport of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) treatment supplies has been cleared on an individual basis pending government approval.

• The United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) depots in Dubai and Accra are dispatching protective gear, emergency health kits and equipment to the region on behalf of humanitarian partners. UNHRD Accra is offering its facilities to organisations needing an office space or training center, as well as gearing up its capacities to procure, store and transport relief items and support equipment to West Africa.

• As organisations begin to scale up their response, and as the US begins to deploy more human and humanitarian resources, there is an increasing need to manage and coordinate use of the airports and air space.

• There will be increasing need for storage space and pipeline consolidation as part of the Ebola response, however existing capacity and infrastructure is very limited; it is now estimated by
OCHA/WHO that approximately 15,000 m³ of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits will be required in the three countries per month, among many other items including chlorine, medical and laboratory supplies.

**Regional Shipping status:**

- WFP has contracted a time-charter vessel for shunting to three affected Country ports, from Las Palmas, Spain. The Logistics Cluster may utilise the charter vessel for inter-agency supplies, and use Las Palmas as a cargo consolidation hub for Non-Food-Item (NFIs) shipments.
- 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 all three affected country ports. In early September, Maersk announced their West Mediterranean – West Africa Relay Service 7 (WAF7) will be re-instated to provide uninterrupted coverage, despite the Ebola Outbreak, of Monrovia, Conakry, and Freetown as per below schedule:

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<th>Port</th>
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<tr>
<td>Port Tangier</td>
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<td>Algeciras</td>
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<td>Monrovia</td>
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<td>Port Tangier</td>
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- The following shipping routes are confirmed as being open/active:
  - 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.

**Regional Air Transport Status:**

- 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, and cargo capacity of up to 8 MT
per rotation, depending on cargo volume. Partners are advised to contact the Logistics Cluster in Monrovia (contact details below) for more information on bookings.

- The humanitarian bridge between Dakar and affected countries is expected to open early next week (week of 22 September), pending construction works on a specialised passenger terminal at Dakar Airport. UNHAS will fly from Dakar to affected countries three times a week, as well as between Accra, Las Palmas and affected countries. Please see the Flights Snapshot and other UNHAS information on the Logistics Cluster website www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14.

- 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.

- Freight forwarders have increased costs for services to West Africa, in order to take account of extra costs for preventative measures and crew safety.

- In addition to unpredictable flight clearance procedures, some countries’ Civil Aviation Authorities (CAA) have restricted air operators from flying into the affected countries.

- 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 UNHAS WAC fleet has been augmented with a medium-size helicopter (9 Pax / 1.1 MT Capacity) positioned in Monrovia. As of 08 September, the helicopter will serve the following destinations from Monrovia: Foya, Voinjama, N’Zerekore, Bo, Phebe Hospital, Cuttington University, and Kenema. More information about UNHAS schedules and booking forms can be found on the Logistics Cluster website: http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14.

Logistics Cluster Activities

Liberia:

- WFP has finalised an agreement with UNHCR in which six UNHCR trucks (8MT capacity each) will be used, for four months, to augment the Logistics Cluster and WFP operations.

- Over 270 m$^3$ of cargo has been stored on behalf of partners, including Clinton Foundation, the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Liberian Embassy – Ghana, and USAID/OFDA. An additional 3,500 MT capacity store was rented in the Monrovia port, which will also augment the storage capacity available for Logistics Cluster partners.

- Over 510 m$^3$ of Ebola related items, have been transported on behalf of Logistics Cluster partners, including Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), MoH, WHO, Clinton Foundation, JICA, Liberian Embassy – Ghana, USAID/OFDA, MoH, to Voinjoma, Kakata, Nimba, Monrovia, Foya, Monrovia City, and Gbarnga.

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As the humanitarian community continues to scale up their response, more equipment and supplies are needed, which is increasing the complexity of the humanitarian pipeline; Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs) are rapidly being constructed, and it is expected that within coming weeks, centers accommodating up to several thousand patients will require Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) supplies on a daily basis.

Supplies have been transported from at least seven different organisations’ warehouses, and a Common Hub concept has been identified as a potential solution. The Logistics Cluster, in coordination with the WHO and the Ministry of Health and Social Works in Liberia, is establishing the Common Hub in Monrovia, in order to manage, dispatch and track health cargo stock for the Ebola Treatment Units and other Extended Delivery Points (Transit Hubs and NGO warehouses).

A suitable site for the Common Hub has been identified in Monrovia and work on the site for the Common Hub is expected to take approximately one week. Staffing and operating procedures for the common hub are currently under discussion with the government.

The Logistics Cluster continues engineering and construction support for the establishment of Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs) on two sites in Monrovia, which will accommodate at least 500 patient beds. Construction on the first site began on 06 September, and is due to be completed in two weeks. This week, ground leveling works have commenced on the second ETU site.

Through WFP, the Logistics Cluster has loaned over 11 Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) to support MSF and the MOH, for storage and treatment clinics.

**Sierra Leone:**

- The Logistics Cluster, through WFP, has lent one MSU to WHO in Kenema town, in South East Sierra Leone, and has lent WHO another MSU in Freetown.
- The Sierra Leone Logistics Cluster Coordinator has arrived in Freetown this week; contact details are available below.
- The Logistics Cluster is holding coordination meetings with partners including WHO, UNICEF, CRS, CARE, Plan International, US Embassy and MSF.

**Guinea:**

- One Mobile Storage Unit (MSU) has been loaned to MSF in Macenta to be utilised as a transit centre.
- 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.

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In Guinea, 38 motorbikes, 1000 cartons of soap, and 1000 cartons of chlorine, were transported from Conakry to Nzerekore on behalf of the Ebola response cell of the Government of Guinea.

Partners are advised to contact the Logistics Cluster should they have any need for transport or storage. 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:**

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