Ebola Outbreak: Logistics Cluster

Situation Update
26 September 2014

Situation Overview

- The latest WHO Ebola Response Roadmap Update reports 6,263 EVD cases in West Africa; WHO has advised that despite the opening of new Ebola Treatment Units, there is still not enough capacity of beds to meet demand in Sierra Leone and Liberia. The Roadmap is available here: [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/134771/1/roadmapsitrep_24Sept2014_eng.pdf?ua=1](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/134771/1/roadmapsitrep_24Sept2014_eng.pdf?ua=1).
- The United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) advance teams have deployed to mission headquarters in Accra, Ghana and the affected countries (Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone).
- UNMEER is expected to provide the operational framework and unity of purpose to ensure the rapid, effective and coherent action necessary to stop the Ebola outbreak, to treat the infected, to ensure essential services, to preserve stability and to prevent the spread to countries currently not affected. Once operational, the mission headquarters will be located in Accra, Ghana with some coordination functions remaining in New York.
- Two major security incidents have been reported in Guinea involving the local population, with both situations leading to casualties and deaths of humanitarian workers responding the Ebola Outbreak.
- The humanitarian community has now been given three months government approval for the humanitarian air-bridge between Dakar, Senegal and the three affected countries; construction of the specialised humanitarian passenger terminal at Dakar Airport was completed and the first UNHAS flight took place on 25 September. More information on a regular UNHAS schedule will be available soon.

Logistics Cluster Coordination/Information Management/GIS

- Standardised Service Request Form (SRF) procedures have been introduced to partners, and are available online: [http://www.logcluster.org/document/standard-operating-procedures-sops-logistics-cluster-transport-and-transit-storage-services](http://www.logcluster.org/document/standard-operating-procedures-sops-logistics-cluster-transport-and-transit-storage-services).
- Access Constraints maps have been made available on the website (as of 26 September).
- 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](http://logcluster.org/ops/ebola14).

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Logistics Gaps or Bottlenecks

- There is an increasing need for more treatment beds across Sierra Leone and Liberia. Work on the establishment of two new Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs) continues in Monrovia.
- Construction at the Ministry of Defence (MoD) site in Liberia (about 200 bed capacity), began on 06 September and all ground works are finalized. Work has commenced on structural elements, and the estimated time for finishing all construction is 10 days/4 October 2014. Construction works are continuing on the second Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) site “SKD Stadium” (about 300 bed capacity); the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) is providing support to the project with earth-moving machinery.
- 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 delaying urgent work on constructions of ETU sites. Weather conditions have also lead to cancellation of numerous UNHAS flights.
- Road Access Constraints, border closures and checkpoints are causing humanitarian trucks to be delayed and detained; please see Access Constraints Maps for Sierra Leone and Liberia as per the links above and updated on the Logistics Cluster website (www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14).
- There have been significant delays in the discharging of airplanes due to lack of capacity at the airports (for example, the airport in Monrovia cannot unload two aircraft simultaneously). The Logistics Cluster is working with the government and other humanitarian actors to find solutions.
- Partners are continuing to report serious constraints in accessing the airport and seaport in Liberia due to the entry procedures (access must be requested up to 36 hours in advance); the Logistics Cluster is working with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW) and USAID DART to find solutions such as a permanent representative at the airport or the provision of certified Ebola Response passes for the humanitarian community that are 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 11.3 million requirement; work is able to continue only due to limited amounts of emergency cash advances obtained from lead agency WFP.
- 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 has been cleared on an individual basis, pending government approval (please see Access Constrains Maps for more information).
- UN Humanitarian Response Depots (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 organizations needing 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 organizations begin to scale up their response, and as the UNMEER mission and the United States (US) begin 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 an 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 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 intend to 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 the 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.

• The following shipping routes are confirmed as being open/ active:
  o Load Ports: Las Palmas (ESP), Abidjan (CIV), Accra (GHA), Lome (TGO), Cotonou (BEN),
  o 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:

• The humanitarian air-bridge between Dakar and affected countries opened this week. However capacity at the airport in Dakar has become strained due to high number of aircraft and flights; it has been advised international cargo flights should be sent to UNHRD hubs in Accra or Las Palmas as to not cause more congestion in Dakar; it is also advised that incoming aircraft should be positioned in Accra.

• Please see the flights and UNHAS information on the Logistics Cluster website in the dedicated UNHAS section, at: www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14.

• It is expected that UNMEER will bring more than a dozen helicopters to the three affected countries (Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone) and may also have a fixed wing aircraft, but planning is currently still ongoing. The Logistics Cluster is conducting a needs assessment for a potential airbridge service between Europe, Accra, and the three affected countries; partners are kindly requested to contact the Logistics Cluster with any identified needs for this possible service by Friday 26 September (contact details below).
UNMIL has begun passenger flights using a Boeing 737 between Accra (Ghana) and Monrovia, on Sundays and Fridays. The aircraft has a 110 passenger capacity (PAX), 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.

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 WEast Africa (WAC) links the three capitals – Conakry, Freetown and Monrovia - and serves field locations in Guinea (Kissidougou and Nzerekore) and Liberia (Foya). A new aircraft (CRJ-200; Pax 50) has been added to the UNHAS fleet, which will perform the same schedule.

The UNHAS WAC medium-size helicopter (9 Pax / 1.1 MT Capacity) serves 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, at: [http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14](http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14).

**Logistics Cluster Activities**

**Liberia:**

The Logistics Cluster is co-led with the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). It has moved into the new National Ebola Command Centre (NECC), a central location in which all major humanitarian actors will be present, including UNMIL, the US Military, the Liberian government and other humanitarian actors’ representatives.

The Logistics Cluster will now coordinate with the USAID/DoD CivMil team in Monrovia regarding inter-agency transport, to streamline all humanitarian requests through the Logistics Cluster service request system, and to utilise some USAID/DoD CivMil assets for transport.

The first official Logistics Cluster Meeting was held this week in Monrovia with partners in attendance including USAID, UNDAC UNOPS, Samaritan’s Purse, UNMIL, OXFAM, WHO, the Clinton Initiative, and the Ministry of Health, among others.

Over the last week, 400 m³ of Ebola relief supplies have been transported, on behalf of USAID/OFDA, JICA, Save the Children Fund, the Clinton Foundation, Ministry of Health and WHO, within Monrovia and to Kakata, Liberia. Since the beginning of the operation, the total amount of cargo transported on behalf of partners is over 910 m³.

This week, 345m³ of supplies have been stored on behalf of Clinton Foundation, JICA, USAID/OFDA, bringing the total amount of cargo stored in Liberia to 615 m³.

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This week, the Logistics Cluster provided four Mobile Storage Units for the Save the Children’s new Ebola Treatment Unit in Kakata (One 32X10 MSU and three 6X8 MSUs); a total of 15 MSUs have now been provided on behalf of Logistics Cluster partners.

The Logistics Cluster, in coordination with the WHO and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in Liberia, has established a centralised logistics Hub in Monrovia, in order to manage, dispatch and track health stock required for the Ebola Treatment Units and other delivery points; the Common Hub will be have over 700 m² storage capacity and became operational as of 25 September, with first USAID and Ministry of Health (MoHSW) stock.

**Sierra Leone:**

- It was advised that due to a lack of capacity at the airport, difficulties exist regarding the unloading of cargo from aircraft and subsequent transport to storage, and this leads to damage of cargo due to heavy rains. The Logistics Cluster is therefore conducting an assessment to potentially provide additional storage and equipment at the airport.
- 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 Logistic Cluster is holding coordination meetings, with partners including WHO, UNICEF, CRS, CARE, Plan International, US Embassy and MSF.

**Guinea:**

- WFP transported two truckloads (80 MT) of Ebola related items (chlorine, soap, motorbikes) from Conakry to Nzerekore on behalf of the Government of Guinea’s Ebola response cell.
- One Mobile Storage Unit (MSU) has been loaned to MSF in Macenta to be utilised as a transit centre.
- The Logistics Cluster, through WFP, is continuing to provide WHO with a warehouse in Tombo, at the port, which can accommodate up to 500 MT of medical items.

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.

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