Situation Overview

- According to the latest WHO Ebola Response Roadmap Situation Report, a total of 7,178 cases have been reported in the current outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in West Africa; WHO has advised that despite the opening of new Ebola Treatment Units, an urgent need for over 2,000 additional beds for treatment remains in the affected countries (Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone).

- Advance teams of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) have deployed to mission headquarters in Accra, Ghana and the affected countries. The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General (SRSG) and head of UNMEER, Anthony Banbury, has deployed to Accra with the advance team. He is scheduled to travel to all three countries, with the WFP Regional Director (3 October Sierra Leone, 7-8 October Guinea).

- WFP is augmenting its capacity to support the humanitarian response and provide support to UNMEER efforts to stop the spread of Ebola. Besides providing Logistics Cluster coordination, information management, and Common Services, as the Cluster lead agency, WFP is also providing procurement, engineering, staging areas and hubs, air transport, supply chain and emergency telecommunications capacity, to enable the health sector to reach affected people across the affected countries.

- On 2 October, the WFP Executive Director approved the Special Operation (SO 200773; Common Logistics Services for the Humanitarian Community’s Response to the Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak in West Africa); required funding for these common services over the next five months, is now estimated at approximately USD 87 million.

- The humanitarian community has been given three months government approval, for a humanitarian corridor between Dakar, Senegal and the three affected countries; the first UNHAS flight took place on 25 September and regular flights will commence on 7 October with flights on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The new regional UNHAS schedule (including flights from Dakar and Accra) is available on the website: www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14.

Logistics Cluster Coordination/Information Management/GIS

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

- The most recent regional UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) flight schedules, operational as of 7 October, and booking forms have been published on the Logistics Cluster website. A flight snapshot, covering all commercial and humanitarian flights into and between the affected countries, is also available on the Logistics Cluster website: www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14.

- Access Constraints maps have also been published as of 26 September

- Logistics information, meeting minutes, booking forms, Situation Updates, UNHAS flight schedules, maps and other information management products are also shared on the Logistics Cluster website.

www.logcluster.org
Logistics Gaps or Bottlenecks

- Heavy seasonal rains continue to impact all humanitarian operations across the region.
- Road Access Constraints, border closures and checkpoints are causing humanitarian trucks to be delayed and detained.
- There have been significant delays in the discharging of airplanes, and damage of humanitarian cargo, due to lack of capacity at the airports (e.g. poor tarmac quality and only two aircraft can be simultaneously unloaded in Monrovia’s Robertsfield International Airport; lack of storage capacity in Sierra Leone). The Logistics Cluster is working with the relevant governments and other humanitarian actors to assess solutions.

Liberia

- 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 Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to find solutions.

Sierra Leone

- In Sierra Leone, the Ministry of Finance has established a hotline (+232 25 260 472) to facilitate tracking of duty waiver letters. The Government will not provide a blanket waiver, however, it is fast-tracking the clearance procedure; fast-track clearance of air cargo is provided through the Ebola Emergency Operations Centre (EOC): Clearance can take up to 24 hours. Airway bill numbers (needed for the clearance letter) should be obtained by agencies before aircraft is fully loaded. 5 copies of the clearance request letter are needed to be given for signature to the EOC.
- In Sierra Leone, transport to Port Loko from the airport is possible only from 9am-5pm because outside these hours the quarantine check-points are closed. For trucks traveling to the airport, trucks passage is facilitated through check points by providing drivers a copy of the cargo clearance request letter, signed by the Ebola Emergency Operations Centre.

Guinea

- OCHA Geneva has shared the following customs information regarding Guinea:
  - A letter signed by the sender of the humanitarian aid (NGOs included) must be sent to the Director General of Customs, Colonel Toumany Sangare; the forwarding agent will deal with the procedures (the Customs Administration can suggest forwarding agents).
  - The following documents should be attached to the letter to the Director General of Customs: AWB, proforma invoice, packing list; it is important to state that the relief items are intended to be used for the Ebola response. Import is not completely tax free; however, should not exceed 100 USD. This procedure can be applied for relief items and medicines.
- Regarding the importation of vehicles and telecommunication equipment, a letter to the Ministry of Budget should be sent to ask for tax exemption and immediate release.

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.
• Bulk vessels that dock in one of the affected countries are often required undergo a 21 day quarantine period before they can dock at a port in other countries in the region. The same quarantine procedure does not apply to break bulk or container shipments.

• 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. Few commercial carriers continue to provide uninterrupted coverage.

• 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:

• From Dakar airport, UNHAS has established air corridors into and between each of the affected countries. As a condition of operation, the Terminal operates from tented temporary facilities, which provides segregated passenger facilities, compliant with international standards but including dedicated medical screening and monitoring facilities in coordination with the Ministry for Health. The construction of more permanent facilities at Dakar is ongoing, and will need to be rolled out in some form across the air corridors, to augment UNHAS capabilities across affected countries. Please see the Flights and UNHAS information on the Logistics Cluster website www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14.

• Discussion with the US and German military is ongoing to discuss possible coordination as they are expected to have additional aircraft based in Dakar.

• 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 any additional incoming aircraft should be positioned in Accra.

• UNMIL is conducting 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.

• 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). A new aircraft (CRJ-200; Pax 50) has been added to the UNHAS fleet, which will perform the new regional schedule (including flights from Accra, Ghana and Dakar, Senegal).

• 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: http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14.
Liberia:

- Cluster meetings are conducted twice a week and are co-chaired by the government, UNMIL and WFP. Cluster participation has been high with around 25 partner organizations joining the meetings on a regular basis.
- This week 295 m³ supplies were transported on behalf of USAID/OFDA, Liberia’s Ministry of Health, Direct Relief International, National Drug Service (NDS), USAID/OFDA, Africare, EU Lab Foya and the WHO, within Monrovia, Gbarnga and Bong County; there has been a cumulative total of over 1305 m³ transported on behalf of partners since the beginning of operations in early September.
- The Logistics Cluster has received approximately 2,200 treatment beds, currently being stored in WFP common warehousing facilities on behalf of USAID, and being supplied to Ebola Treatment Units in Liberia; at present the Logistics Cluster has facilitated the supply of 100 of these beds to Save the Children’s ‘Kakata’ Ebola Treatment Unit, and 130 beds to Ministry of Health run “Island” and “JFK” Ebola Treatment Units.
- The Logistics Cluster has stored a combined volume of 345 m³ of commodities on behalf of Logistics Cluster partners.
- The Logistics Cluster is working with the Ministry of Health and with airport authorities, to assess the possibility of erecting additional storage facilities, rent additional machinery and improve access at Monrovia’s Robertsfield Airport.
- The Logistics Cluster is working with the government to create a dispatch plan including all ETUs, and health facilities nationally, in order to design and streamline the supply chain accordingly. The Logistics Cluster intends to have a dispatch plan on a weekly basis for the Common Logistics Hub.
- The Common logistics hub commenced operations on the 25 September in Monrovia at the SKD stadium site. The hub aims to supply Ebola response relief items to ETUs and to the counties. The hub capacity includes:
  - 10 Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) totaling 2,440 m².
  - A converted basketball court at the hub site the will be used for packaging of goods with a total area of 448 SQM
- The Logistics Cluster intends to offer free-to-user services to partners for the next three months in order to facilitate and hasten the humanitarian response.

Sierra Leone:

- The Logistics Cluster conducted an assessment to investigate the cause of possible congestion of cargo (emergency relief items) at the Lungi airport. Reasons for congestion were identified as the following: trucks not arriving on time to load cargo, insufficient warehouse space, and stretched capacity of cargo handlers due to increasing number of large body aircrafts; some delays were also caused by delayed import and clearance due partners to not following the standard fast-track process.
- The Logistics Cluster, through WFP, is assessing the option of providing MSUs to increase storage capacity at the airport and ease congestion. All partners have been requested to email planned and confirmed aircraft arrival information at Lungi Airport to the Logistics Cluster Coordinator in Sierra Leone.
Ebola Outbreak: Logistics Cluster
Situation Update
03 October 2014

Leone (contacts below) who will forward it to the handling partner to provide quick feedback if there will be a risk of congestion.

- This week, the Logistics Cluster, through WFP, facilitated the storage of 88.5 m$^3$ of Ebola relief supplies donated by Irish Aid for NGOs, Goal and Concern.

- The Logistics Cluster is holding coordination meetings, with partners including WHO, UNICEF, CRS, CARE, Plan International, the US Embassy and MSF. The Logistics Cluster is coordinating regularly with UNICEF as it is currently procuring the majority of Ebola supplies in Sierra Leone and managing the Medical supply chain in country. Thus, the Logistics Cluster has combined coordination meetings with the Pipeline Working Group meeting at UNICEF; Logistics Cluster meetings will be held Mondays at 2:30pm at the UNICEF Office, Freetown.

Guinea:

- The government has requested WFP as lead agency of the Logistics Cluster to construct up to 13 Ebola Treatment Centres across the country.

- Through WFP, the Logistics Cluster is providing support for an MSF transit centre, in Macenta which is due to be upgraded to an Ebola Treatment Unit, by the French government: the Logistics Cluster is supporting the French government, by providing 100 m$^2$ storage space in Conakry for the unit; the Logistics Cluster has already provided one MSU to MSF for the transit centre, and is in the process of providing another MSU for the French government for the expansion to an Ebola Treatment Unit.

- The Logistics Cluster through WFP, has facilitated airport ground operations and customs clearance, and parking space for 6 incoming UNMEER vehicles in Conakry; the same services will be provided for an additional 14 vehicles arriving 02 October, on behalf of the UNMEER mission

- 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 or email the relevant contacts below

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