Situation Overview & Highlights

- According to the latest WHO Ebola Response Roadmap Situation Report of 17 October, a total of over 9,191 cases have been reported in the current outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in West Africa: http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/136645/1/roadmapupdate17Oct14_eng.pdf?ua=1.

- UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) SRSG Banbury has highlighted the priority of achieving 70% of cases in treatment, and 70% burials occurring safely, by December in order to control the spread of the outbreak: http://www.un.org/ebolaresponse/pdf/Situation_Report-Ebola-15Oct14.pdf.

- A UN Ebola Response Operational Planning Conference in Accra was held from 15 to 18 October in order to finalize the Ebola emergency response operational plan.

- The WFP Common Services plan to establish one main logistics hub per country and at least 11 Forward Logistics Bases (FLBs) across the three countries is being operationalised through the Logistics Cluster and WFP; the FLBs will be operational in the next four weeks.

- A Logistics Cluster Air Coordination Cell (ACC) has been established at UNICEF HQ in Copenhagen, Denmark; in coordination with WFP Aviation, the cell will provide visibility on incoming charter flights, coordinate amongst air space users, and maximize flight capacities; the cell will provide the option for coordinated air charters from Europe to affected countries, provide daily publishing of available slots, weekly schedules, and report on pipeline visibility to avoid congestion.

  → Partners have been asked to share information on upcoming air transport to Ebola affected countries, available space on chartered aircraft and space requirements to: Ebola.acc@logcluster.org.

- The Terms of Reference and Standard Operating Procedures were shared with partners on 11 October and 16 October. Feedback by partners both on the procedures as well as on their interest to share information and use the cell’s services was requested by COB, Thursday 16 October.

Regional Shipping Update

- WFP contracted a time-charter vessel for delivering food to the three affected country ports, from Las Palmas, Spain. The vessel is currently operational and depending on users’ demand, 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.

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

- So far there have been no reports 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. However, extensive delays in estimated arrival dates and interrupted coverage by container lines have been posing a downstream delivery challenge.

- 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 Update

• The UN Humanitarian Air Service West Africa (UNHAS WAC) medium-size helicopter (9 Pax / 1.1MT Capacity) operating out of Monrovia is currently out of service. UNHAS and the Logistics Cluster are working together in order to investigate potential solutions for temporary aircraft. Partners are requested to contact the Logistics Cluster for more information on alternative solutions.

• UNHAS is currently assessing options to augment the WAC fleet in the region.

• From Dakar airport, Senegal, 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 to augment UNHAS capabilities across affected countries. Please see the Flights and UNHAS information on the Logistics Cluster website www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14.

• Since the first UNHAS flight on 16 August through to 5 October, UNHAS has transported 655 passengers and 9.2MT of light cargo for 30 organizations between Conakry, Freetown and Monrovia and from there to various field locations in the affected countries.

• The UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) is conducting flights using a Boeing 737 between Accra, Ghana and Monrovia, Liberia, on Sundays and Fridays. The aircraft has a 110 passenger capacity (PAX), and cargo capacity of up to 8MT per rotation, depending on cargo volume. Partners are advised to contact the Logistics Cluster in Liberia (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 the surrounding countries.

• In addition to uncertainties regarding 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 (Kissydougou and Nzerekore) and Liberia (Foya). A new aircraft (CRJ-200; Pax 50) has been added to the UNHAS fleet, which is operating on the new regional schedule since 7 October (including flights from Accra, Ghana and Dakar, Senegal).

Logistics Cluster Common Services

Liberia

• This week 227m³ supplies were transported on behalf of USAID/OFDA, Liberia’s Ministry of Health (MoH), World Health Organization, Samaritan’s Purse, to different locations in and around Monrovia. Since the beginning of operations in early September, there has been a cumulative total of over 6,277m³ transported on behalf of partners.

• The Logistics Cluster has facilitated the storage of 216m³ of cargo for USAID/OFDA, MoHSW and WHO, UNICEF, IMC, and Samaritan Purse in the week of 13 October. The total volume of humanitarian commodities stored so far in the Ebola response is 1,845m³.

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• Work has commenced on the establishment of 5 Forward Logistics Bases (FLBs) throughout the country; engineering assessments have been completed at locations of Gbarnga, Voinjama, and Zwedru. The land allocations of Buchanan and Harper are still being finalised with the government. Construction works will be provided by private contractors and will commence this week.

• During the week of 13 October, 27 MSUs arrived in Monrovia by air from Oslo, Norway, to be utilised to provide storage space at the FLBs.

• The Logistics Cluster, through WFP, continues to receive requests for loan of equipment such as Mobile Storage Units (MSUs); a loan request form is available at request from the Logistics Cluster in Liberia.

• Following complaints of partners that being stopped at checkpoints throughout the country for lengthy periods of time, discussions are being held with Liberian police to ensure that sticker passes are recognized and that lists of humanitarian agencies are provided to all checkpoints to enable quick and safe passage.

• The Logistics Cluster is currently assessing options for augmenting transport capacity throughout the country, including the possibility of using commercial transport contracts.

Sierra Leone

• As part of the plan to increase transport capacity, the Logistics Cluster has augmented its transport capacity to 70 long haul trucks countrywide; tertiary transport will also be increased in the next week, allowing delivery to the remote areas of the country.

• Through WFP, the Logistics Cluster has provided storage space for ETC beds and mattresses in Port Loko for the UK’s Department for International Development Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department (DFID CHASE).

• To ease congestion at Lungi airport, DFID is donating 3 forklift trucks which arrived by air this week. The Logistics Cluster, through WFP, is also working to set up two Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) at the airport.

• WFP and the Logistics Cluster are in the process of establishing three FLBs at Port Loko, Makeni, and Kenema, where ground works will begin next week.

• A central logistics hub has been set up in Freetown, utilising the existing WFP premises; the existing site has also been augmented with two MSUs this week.

Guinea

• The Logistics Cluster is working to establish a central Logistics Hub in the capital of Conakry. It will be fully operational by Monday 20 October, with a capacity of 3,000m². Work is ongoing to augment the capacity with additional MSUs.

• Forward Logistics Bases are to be established in Kissidougou and Nzerekore; equipment for their construction has begun arriving in country this week, with more shipments expected.

• The Logistics Cluster in Guinea is coordinating with approximately 20 organisations on the ground.

• The Logistics Cluster has provided one MSU to the French government to help transform the Transit Centre in Macenta to an Ebola Treatment Unit.
Logistics Gaps or Bottlenecks

- Seasonal rains, road access constraints, border closures and checkpoints continue to impact humanitarian operations across the region. With the change in season, the regional weather is likely to become increasingly drier.

- There have been significant delays in the discharging of airplanes, and damage of humanitarian cargo, due to lack of capacity at the airports. The Logistics Cluster is working with the relevant governments and other humanitarian actors to assess solutions.

Liberia

- Partners are reporting delays at various checkpoints around the country. Stickers are being provided by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW) which should enable safe passage through the checkpoints.

- The airport can only handle one aircraft at any given time, creating delays and overloading of limited capacity; partners have been kindly requested to inform the Logistics Cluster of any known or planned cargo flights into Monrovia airport.

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 EOC.

- The Logistics Cluster is working with UNMEER and the government in order to assess options of facilitating the customs procedures for humanitarian cargo related to the Ebola response.

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.
## Contacts:

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