Situation Overview & Highlights

- According to the latest WHO Ebola Response Roadmap Situation Report, a total over 10,000 cases have been identified in the current outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in West Africa (http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/137185/1/roadmapupdate25Oct14_eng.pdf?ua=1).

- An Air Coordination Cell (ACC) has been established by the Logistics Cluster, in cooperation with UNICEF. The cell serves as a platform to gather and disseminate information about cargo flights to the affected countries, but also shares available cargo space of participating organisations. In order for the cell to serve the humanitarian community, organisations have been asked to fill out a brief survey, published at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ACC_Partner_Survey.

- On 24 October, the first Ebola case was announced in Mali. In response to a request from WHO, 1 MT of personal protective equipment (PPE), was dispatched from the common logistics hub in Monrovia, operated by the Logistics Cluster, and sent via an UNHAS (B1900) from Monrovia, Liberia to Bamako, Mali.

- The medium sized UNHAS helicopter based out of Monrovia, has been repaired and is operational. The UNHAS schedule is currently being revised with inputs from users.

Regional Shipping Update

- Following the contracting by WFP of a time-charter vessel for delivering food to three affected country ports, from Las Palmas, Spain, the vessel is currently operational; 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 a port in other countries in the region. The same 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 the 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

- UNHAS is currently assessing options to augment the WAC fleet in the region. The UNMIL flights can to be accessed under the processes and procedures of UNHAS, through an annex to the current Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), which are currently being finalised.

- 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. Information about flight schedules of UNHAS, UNMIL and commercial carriers are published on the Logistics Cluster website www.logcluster.org/ops/ebola14.
• Since the first UNHAS flight on 16 August through 05 October, UNHAS has transported 655 passengers and 9.2 MT of light cargo for 30 organizations between Conakry, Freetown and Monrovia and from there to various field locations in the affected countries.

• 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. Interested organisations 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.

**Logistics Cluster Common Services**

**Liberia**

• The Logistics Cluster is currently assessing a USAID request to provide logistics and supply chain management to 20 Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs) and approximately 65 Ebola Community Care Centres (CCCs) in Liberia.

• Together with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and the CHAI Foundation, a national dispatch plan was prepared covering all regional health facilities, Ebola treatment units (ETUs) and Community Care Centers (CCCs); the national allocation of humanitarian commodities prepared last week for dispatch to counties and ETUs in Monrovia has started. Over 178 m³ of Ebola related supplies have now been dispatched to various ETUs, ECCs and County Health Teams from the hub.

• The Logistics Cluster is in the process of constructing 5 forward logistics bases throughout Liberia. Engineering assessments have been completed for 3 of the FLB locations and land allocations are still ongoing for the remaining two locations. Last week, 27 MSUs arrived in Monrovia by air from Oslo, to be utilised to provide storage space at the FLBs.

• In coordination with UNMIL, the Logistics Cluster has produced an updated Road Access Constraints map which is now available on the website at the following link: [http://www.logcluster.org/map/liberia-access-constraint-maps-20-october-2014](http://www.logcluster.org/map/liberia-access-constraint-maps-20-october-2014).

• Over 1442 m³ of humanitarian relief commodities were transported for organisations last week. Since the beginning of the operation, the total amount of cargo transported on behalf of participating organisations is over 7,718 m³.

• This week, 2623 m³ of supplies have been stored on behalf of organisations in the common logistics hub operated by the logistics cluster in Monrovia. The total volume of humanitarian commodities stored so far in the Ebola response is 4,468 m³.

• Following the reports of organisations that have been stopped in 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 to all actors.

• The Logistics Cluster is currently assessing options for augmenting transport capacity throughout the country, including the possibility of using commercial transport contracts. Long haul trucks are due to arrive from Guinea office in the coming weeks; trucks are tertiary transport will need to be procured.

[www.logcluster.org](http://www.logcluster.org)
Sierra Leone

- The Logistics Cluster in Sierra Leone has been augmenting transport capacity; there has now been an increase of 70 long haul trucks, and capacity for tertiary transport has been increased by 10 6x6 (10 MT) trucks in order for access to more remote areas.
- The Logistics Cluster is storing hospital beds at the main hub in Port Loko. The beds will be used for their new Ebola Treatment Unit in Kerry Town.
- Following the Logistics Cluster airport assessment, and in order to ease congestion at the airport, the Logistics Cluster through WFP, has established two Mobile Storage Units (MSUs).
- As part of the plan to establish at least three Forward Logistics Hubs in Sierra Leone, works have begun at the following locations: Port Loko, Makeni and Kenema; it is expected that the FLBs will be completed in 2 weeks.

Guinea

- The main Logistics hub in Conakry is currently operational with 2,000m² of storage space available. The extension of the hub is underway and the ground levelling works are expected to be finalised by 2 November.
- Ground works in the Kissidougou Forward Logistics Base (FLB) have also begun within the last week and the equipment (MSUs) will be delivered this week. The site is already operational as the Logistics Cluster is using the WFP hub on a temporary basis, where 500m² of storage space is available.
- In Nzérékoré, the second FLB will operate out of the WFP facilities, following the reinforcement of its capacity by erecting additional MSUs.
- The first chartered aircraft carrying a 121m³ of humanitarian relief items donated to the Guinean Government from Direct Relief and Americares landed in Conakry on 25 October. The Logistics Cluster is currently storing this medical equipment and medicine in the main hub in Conakry and will be providing support for the transport and dispatch of these items.
- Within the last week the Logistics Cluster transported 275m³ of humanitarian commodities on behalf of partners. Since the beginning of the operation, over 400 m³ has been transported, of which approximately 200 m³ for the Pharmacie Centrale de Guinée (Government).
- This week, 441 m³ of supplies have been stored on behalf of partners in the main hub in Conakry. The volume of cargo stored so far for the Ebola response is 532 m³.
- WFP has been requested by the Government to build four ETUs of maximum 100 bed capacity each (MSF design approved) in Coyah, Kérouané, Nzérékoré and Beyla. In Coyah, the land has been contracted and the ground works began on 24 October.
- In Nzérékoré, the land was identified and approved by the Government as well as local authorities. The ground works are expected to begin by 02 November.

Logistics Gaps or Bottlenecks

- Seasonal rains, road access constraints, border closures and checkpoints continue to impact humanitarian operations across the region.
- Humanitarian cargo may be transported cross-border on an ad hoc basis, through clearance by national authorities. The humanitarian community has faced difficulties with cross-border transport; a convoy of equipment to be utilised for the establishment of FLBs in Liberia has been delayed at the border with the Ivory Coast for almost one month; discussions are ongoing.
- 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

- Organisations 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; organisations have been kindly requested to inform the Logistics Cluster of any known or planned cargo flights into Monrovia airport.

- There are two routes in the clearing of consignment for Humanitarian Community responding to the Ebola Outbreak:
  
  o The first option is to request clearance through the Government of Liberia designated Crisis Management Team. Through this process, the entire clearing procedure is handled by this team and the organization will only have to organise transport and storage for the consignment. The clearing process takes approximately 24 - 48 hours to complete. An official request for this service should be made directly to the team with the supporting documents. The humanitarian community has been advised to contact the Logistics Cluster for contact details.

  o The second option is through a clearing agent, and to prepare an Official Letter/Request to the Customs Commission for Special Release of Ebola Materials. This document is usually signed by the Head of the Humanitarian organization and provided to the clearing agent along with other documents including packing list, Invoice, and Bill of Lading, Airwaybill or waybill for overland transport. These documents are critical for clearing process, and the clearing agent will prepare the documents and submit to the Customs Commissioner to authorize the special release. Depending on the port of entry (Airport, Seaport or Border) the charges to be levied will vary. Due the Ebola outbreak, the custom office has shortened it response time, taking between 24 – 72 hours.

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.

- 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, prorforma 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:

Regional
Aviation UNHAS team mailbox unhas.wac@wfp.org

Liberia (Monrovia)
Franck Aynes Liberia Logistics Cluster Coordinator Franck.Aynes@wfp.org
Brittney Titus Liberia/Regional Information Management Officer brittney.titus@wfp.org

Guinea (Conakry)
Patrick Baudry Guinea Cluster Coordination patrick.baudry@wfp.org
Elise Gibergues Regional Information Management Officer elise.gibergues@wfp.org

Sierra Leone (Freetown)
Jurgen Hulst Logistics Cluster Coordinator Jurgen.hulst@wfp.org
Katherine Ely Information Management Officer Katherine.ely@wfp.org