Situation Overview

- Since the Ebola outbreak began, over 3,000 people have been suspected to have contracted the Ebola disease. The Ministries of Health in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone continue to report new cases and deaths attributable to Ebola Virus Disease. Ebola patients have also been identified in Nigeria and Senegal.

- The virus concerns not only the health of the population being affected, but local markets are also severely distorted; prices of food, and other basic commodities have risen dramatically, which has exacerbated the humanitarian emergency.

- Governments have begun to respond by imposing movement restrictions, and implementing screening and quarantining procedures; in Liberia, the area of West Point Monrovia has been completely quarantined, which has worsened existing shortages in basic supplies.

- The situation in the affected countries continues to remain volatile, and thus the identified humanitarian needs and response are changing rapidly.

Logistics Cluster Coordination/Information Management/GIS

- Discussions with World Health Organization officials, MSF, IFRC, and other partners at the global, regional, and country levels have highlighted the need for logistics support for a broad range of humanitarian actors.

- The Logistics Cluster is currently supporting and coordinating with various organisations on the ground, including WHO, UNICEF, MSF CH, MSF Belgium, Save the Children, USAID/DART, WFP, ICRC, UNMIL, CHAI, NDS, IMC, ACF, MDM, Ebola Outbreak Centre (EOC), and the relevant Ministries of Health (MOH).

- WFP and the humanitarian community have begun to scale-up the relief response, requiring the movement of necessary relief items, coordination amongst humanitarian and government actors, and a high volume of rapid information sharing.

- The Logistics Cluster, through WFP as the lead agency, has offered logistics support to the humanitarian community responding to the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak, through logistics support, coordination and information management in order to enhance predictability, timeliness and the efficiency of the emergency response.

- At this stage, logistics support has mainly been offered to the health sector in its direct response to the population within the affected countries, however as and when it is needed, logistics support, such as transport and storage services, may be offered to other humanitarian sectors.

- Since the 17th of August, a Logistics Cluster Coordinator and Logistics Officers have been deployed to the affected areas in West Africa, in order to identify logistics gaps and needs affecting the humanitarian supply.
chain, and to coordinate with WHO and other relevant actors on the ground. To complement existing logistics support, Logistics Cluster Information Management staff has also been deployed to the region.

- In order to promote coordination and information sharing amongst humanitarian actors, the Logistics Cluster is holding Teleconference for the Ebola Outbreak on the 01 September in order to discuss Logistics coordination amongst partners, and discuss existing needs and gaps. More information is available upon request.
- Logistics information and GIS maps are currently being shared on the Logistics Cluster website at [http://logcluster.org/ops/ebola14](http://logcluster.org/ops/ebola14).
- The latest Access Constraints Map of the three affected countries is available at the following link: [http://logcluster.org/map/guinea-liberia-sierra-leone-access-constraints-27-august-14](http://logcluster.org/map/guinea-liberia-sierra-leone-access-constraints-27-august-14).
- UNHAS has commenced operations throughout Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Monrovia; please see the Logistics Cluster website for current UNHAS schedules, booking forms and UNHAS flights guidance [http://logcluster.org/ops/ebola14](http://logcluster.org/ops/ebola14).

### Logistics Cluster Activities

**Liberia:**
- The Logistics Cluster is establishing a logistics hub in Monrovia in order to manage, dispatch and track health cargo stock, and to assist in assembling kit sites based on partner requirements. MSUs have been transported to designated sites in Monrovia and to Foya in the North.
- On behalf of USAID, the Logistics Cluster has facilitated the transport and stored over 15 MT of health cargo. The Logistics Cluster has also facilitated the transport of over 100 MT of donated health cargo, on behalf of the MOH.
- Through WFP, the Logistics Cluster has loaned over 10 Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) to support MSF and the MOH.

**Sierra Leone:**
- The Logistics Cluster has also begun to respond to storage requests for medical items on behalf of partners. Through WFP, the Logistics Cluster has loaned one MSU to WHO in Kenema.

**Guinea:**
- The Logistics Cluster is currently responding to WHO requests to move medical items from Conakry to Freetown (Sierra Leone); the Logistics Cluster has already stored approximately 6m³ of WHO’s EVD items in the WFP Conakry warehouse.

[www.logcluster.org](http://www.logcluster.org)
Existing Logistics Gaps or Bottlenecks

- The weather will likely have an impact on logistics operations as due to the current season, there are heavy rains, which are expected to continue for the next two months. It will likely affect transportation (impacting road transport), the offloading of cargo (port and airports) as well as creating difficult working conditions for constructions of sites.

Shipping:

- Whilst the situation is changing rapidly, some ports have already imposed restrictive measures or even bans for vessels that have first stopped in an affected country port.
- 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. With the risk of the vessel/crew having to go into quarantine, the charter market to the Ebola region, including Monrovia, has become distorted.
- There have been no reports so far of any of the international container lines suspending their services.
- Currently Conakry, Freetown and Monrovia ports are operating normally with no congestion reported.

Air Transport:

- 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 Civil Aviation Authorities (CAA) have restricted air operators from flying into the affected countries. As a result, the number commercial air operators is decreasing. Furthermore, rates have increased due to unexpected delays. WFP is working closely with operators regarding these issues.
- Commercial passenger airlines have also begun suspending some passenger and cargo flights into the affected countries.
- To respond to the needs of humanitarian workers traveling within the three Ebola affected countries, UNHAS is operating one fixed wing aircraft based in Conakry, Guinea and one helicopter based in Monrovia, Liberia. The fixed wing operates daily between the three capital cities and from capital cities to affected locations.
- An UNHAS helicopter has arrived in Monrovia, which should be operational early this week to serve areas which are inaccessible by fixed wings.
- Since 18 of August, the aircraft has transported 147 passengers and 1 MT of cargo; currently the majority of passengers are from MSF-B, WHO and WFP.
Discussions are on-going with various national neighbouring authorities to position further air assets.

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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