



# UNHAS

Humanitarian Air Service

wfp.org

## UNHAS

# in West African Countries

### Project Overview

In response to the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak, the World Food Programme (WFP) launched a United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) operation to support the humanitarian response in the worst affected countries in West Africa. This UNHAS operation is part of WFP's global logistics response under Special Operation 200773, which has been established to augment the capacity of humanitarian efforts under the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) umbrella. UNHAS coordinates with UNMEER and UNMIL to optimize the use of resources and ensure greater operational efficiency.

### UNHAS WAC

UNHAS in West African Countries (UNHAS WAC) became operational in mid-August with the deployment of a Beechcraft 1900 to Conakry. The operation has since been expanded to include one Bombardier CRJ-200 jet, two Bell 412 helicopters, one Bell 205 helicopter, and one ad-hoc Beechcraft 1900 as humanitarian assistance continues to scale up. Two of the helicopters are specially equipped to conduct medical evacuations of EVD symptomatic humanitarian personnel. Except for these two helicopters, the regular UNHAS fleet does not cater for the transportation of EVD patients.

UNHAS WAC mainly provides access to facilitate the movement of health workers and other humanitarian

staff through a passenger and light cargo service to the three capitals—Conakry, Freetown and Monrovia—and other key locations in the worst affected countries.

### Ensuring connections with regional hubs

As increasing numbers of commercial airlines have discontinued flights to target countries, there was a need to establish regional hubs to ensure a reliable link to functioning commercial airlines for the movement in and out of the region. The "Dakar Humanitarian Corridor" was opened on 25 September 2014 and flights to Accra commenced on 15 October 2014.

As of the end of January 2015, the operation has transported more than 6,300 passengers and approximately 55 metric tonnes of light cargo for 90 user organizations comprising of NGOs, UN agencies, donors, the diplomatic community, and host government partners.

*'We are glad for the return of the operation to Liberia and can assure you that we will be a user.'* - Napoleon N. Cooper, Liaison Officer, Caritas

Consultations with users and other key stakeholders take place on a regular basis to ensure that destinations, frequency of flights, and other operational components are tailored to meet users' demands. In addition to regular passenger service, UNHAS WAC is providing special flights upon request.

### For more information:

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