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WFP West Africa Ebola Response

4 pillars of WFP support:

1. Delivering food and nutrition support alongside the health response;
2. Mitigating the impact of the health emergency on food security;
3. Ensuring the movement of partner staff and materials; and
4. Providing common services and infrastructure support for health partners.

In numbers

To date, in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone:

- **More than 3 million people reached** since the end of August 2014;
- **6,590 responders transported** by UNHAS, with four planes and two helicopters in operation; and
- **39,000 m³ of cargo** transported since September 2014.

Highlight — Containing the spread of the virus in Sierra Leone and Guinea

WFP continues its efforts to help contain the spread of the virus in Sierra Leone, where the majority of ebola cases are currently located. Last week, WFP reached quarantined households and communities in Port Loko District, and hotspots in Kono District. In addition, WFP provided one-month rations in Kenema township, where some 30 new households were recently quarantined. To support micronutrient intake of households during this period, the food basket provided by WFP includes the highly nutritious Super Cereal.

In Guinea, the Mali prefecture on the border with Senegal registered its first case of ebola: one death was reported and more than 40 contact cases were immediately identified and followed by the local Health Department. WFP organized a door-to-door distribution to assist the contact cases with 21-day food rations.

In focus group discussions in Macenta and Guéckédou, communities reported that WFP's food allowed them to limit unnecessary movements during the period of intense transmission.

WFP Response

WFP's priority is to support the evolving health response to *care* for the infected (food rations and nutrition support to patients and survivors) and *contain* the spread of the virus (food distribution to isolated households and quarantined communities). Recognizing that the impact of the virus goes beyond the immediate containment or treatment period, WFP introduced a *transition* phase to provide an initial kick-start of economic and livelihood activities as ebola-affected areas are declared free of the virus, and to ensure support to orphans.

In areas of intense transmission, assistance is provided at the request of health authorities and partners for an initial period of one month.

People reached by WFP in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone since August

CARE	*Treatment*	11,500
	Survivors	13,400
CONTAIN	*Isolated persons*	140,700
	Quarantined communities	2.86 million
TRANSITION	*Orphans*	3,000

In Guinea, more than 8,800 schools across the country have re-opened, while in Liberia the re-opening of schools has been postponed to allow for continued preparation for their safe re-opening. WFP is coordinating with the government, UNMEER and UNICEF to provide logistics support to transport Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) supplies. In Sierra Leone, discussions are ongoing on the plans for school re-opening, which is expected at the end of March.

Guinea

Last week, under the *contain* aspect of the response, WFP reached more than 200 contact cases and over 8,800 people in quarantined communities. In addition, WFP is providing nutritious foods through an electronic voucher system to patients in five Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs): 52 patients and their caretakers received WFP assistance last week, as well as 38 survivors discharged from Nzérékoré ETU and their families. WFP and partners are working to start distributions to survivors discharged from the ETUs in Macenta, Beyla and Coyah.

Works have started to increase storage capacity of the warehouses at the main hub in Conakry.

Liberia

Last week, WFP reached almost 100,000 people across the country: more than 200 patients and their caretakers in Community Care Centres; over 500 survivors and their families; some 98,700 people in areas of intense transmission; and 50 orphaned children.

To further enhance assistance to survivors, WFP signed a contract with Lonestar to implement Mobile Money transfers to survivors. WFP procured some 2,000 mobile phones from Lonestar, which will also monitor survivors' conditions and challenges. Survivors will receive US$85 per month for three months using mobile transfers.

WFP has augmented its storage capacity at the Main Logistics Hub at Roberts International Airport, Monrovia, from four to six Mobile Storage Units (MSUs), in response to an increasingly high volume of supplies coming into Liberia via air transport. Plans to set up an additional MSU are currently underway to protect the excess cargo awaiting customs clearance. At SKD main hub, 10 percent storage capacity is available.

Sierra Leone

In addition to food distribution to quarantined communities and families, WFP and its cooperating partner CIDO have distributed food assistance to over 40,000 households in Waterloo (Western Area) since mid-December.

WFP continues to partner with UNICEF to jointly deliver WFP food assistance and UNICEF Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) kits to affected people. In Makeni District, WFP dispatched non-food items to an observational interim care centre (OICC) to support the needs of children in this centre.

Common Services

In addition to the provision of common logistics services, WFP will align its strategy with those of key health partners, to support their ability to intensify the implementation of contact tracing and surveillance, as part of the district-by-district approach.

UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

Last week, UNHAS transported 475 passengers and 3 mt of cargo, while UNMEER air assets transported 554 passengers and 4.2 mt of light cargo.

The Bell 412 helicopter, equipped for MedEvac of aid workers, performed assessment flights and transported blood samples within the country. WFP, in coordination with UNMEER, is preparing the Standard Operating Procedures for this service, which will be operational from 7 February.

UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD)

Last week, UNHRD dispatched more than US$300,000 (15 mt) of support equipment to Sierra Leone on behalf of WFP. In addition, sterilization units worth almost US$80,000 were sent to Liberia on behalf of UNDP.

Logistics Cluster

Last week, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the transport of 2,375 m^3 of humanitarian cargo and storage of 785 m^3 of humanitarian cargo across Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The Logistics Cluster has been coordinating free-to-user inter-agency flights from the Europe Staging Area at Cologne Bonn Airport. A double-drop flight is scheduled for 9 February for Freetown and Monrovia. A further flight is being made available for Conakry and Freetown. The Logistics Cluster will continue to coordinate inter-agency flights to the region, but on a cost-recovery basis.

Emergency Telecommunications (ET)

The ET Cluster is providing internet connectivity in 59 locations across the three affected countries, ensuring reliable internet access for more than 1,100 inter-agency and humanitarian staff.

In Guinea, the ET Cluster has installed internet in five ETUs (Macenta, Nzérékoré, Beyla, Coyah and Kéraouné). In Sierra Leone, the ET Cluster installed internet in several locations for humanitarian workers involved in the response, including the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine for the ebola vaccine clinical trial in Bathurst.

Contacts

Denise Brown, Corporate Response Director
WFP Regional Bureau, Dakar, Senegal

WFP Operations

	Project Duration	Planned number of people	Total requirements (in US$)	Total received * (in US$)	Shortfall (%)
Regional EMOP200761	25.08.2014–31.05.2015	2,958,160	$ 189,132,000	$ 138,764,845	27 %
Regional SO200773	15.10.2014 - 31.05.2015	--	$ 178,533,000	$ 135,041,034	24 %

* At the onset of the crisis, WFP advanced significant internal funds to allow for the rapid response and scale-up required: US$3 million under the EMOP and US$3 million under the SO are yet to be repaid.