

*Fighting Hunger  
Worldwide*

# **Ebola Response from crisis to recovery**

July 2015



**World Food Programme**

# Ebola Response

## from crisis to recovery

### Overview

The outbreak of the Ebola virus in West Africa has become one of the largest global public health crises in recent history, with over 27,000 cases and 11,000 lives lost in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone with a devastating impact on individuals, families and communities.

WFP has worked on the frontline since the beginning of the outbreak, providing food to patients and survivors, and vital logistics support to the humanitarian community.

Although this unprecedented Ebola epidemic has slowed down, it is not over, and its effect continues to be felt not only on public health but also as a major social and economic crisis.

WFP and its partners continue to support health efforts to reach zero Ebola cases across all affected countries, while also supporting recovery efforts.

Under government leadership, WFP's recovery initiatives will centre on human development, livelihoods and preparedness. This includes investing in education and nutrition; supporting recovery of local economies; and building governments and partners' capacity in emergency preparedness and response.



All photos WFP/Rein Skullerud



## Working towards recovery and beyond

WFP had supported vulnerable communities in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone before the crisis, and it is now gradually redesigning its programmes to support the increased requirements because of the Ebola outbreak by:

- expanding school meals to reach all children in need and partnering with farmers to procure locally produced food;
- resuming treatment of children suffering from malnutrition in health centres;
- providing food to people living in former Ebola hotspots;
- supporting local community development through food-for-assets initiatives;
- supporting local economies by partnering with financial institutions to scale up cash- and voucher-based operations;
- investing in future emergency preparedness and response by building governments' technical capacities, and partnering with the private sector and other UN agencies to develop a *virtual* supply chain ready to transform into real supplies in the event of a pandemic.

## Supporting vulnerable rural communities

The majority of Ebola victims are between the ages of 15 and 45, and so hundreds of households have lost one or more members of working age.

Small-scale farmers were particularly affected as movement restrictions to curb the spread of the virus prevented them from fully accessing their fields to plant or harvest, or from accessing markets to sell their products.

By buying locally produced food from farmers' organizations, WFP is helping them rebuild their livelihoods while stimulating the recovery of local economies and markets. WFP has bought food produced across the three countries worth over US\$2 million for distribution to people affected by the virus and for its school meals programme.



During the current planting season, WFP is coordinating food deliveries alongside seed distribution by governments and FAO in an effort to prevent a poor harvest in Ebola-affected areas. To help vulnerable communities to get through times when food stocks are particularly low, WFP is also providing food or cash to more than 800,000 people living in former Ebola hotspots.

**“Ebola hit us hard. Some of our members died from the virus. Although our production decreased compared to last year, we have still been able to produce rice for sale, and we are counting on selling at least five metric tons of rice to WFP.”**

Marie Kargbo, Chairwoman of Sabenty Farmers' Association, Sierra Leone

**“Because of Ebola, we thought our production would not be attractive to sellers but WFP is supporting us by buying our rice and distributing it to the Ebola-affected population. We are glad to contribute to feeding the country, and vulnerable communities that are still in need, including the patients in the Ebola treatment centres.”**

Fatmata Fofana, Chairwoman Lenh-Kuru Rice Farmers' Cooperative, Port Loko district, Woreh Village, Sierra Leone

# Ebola Response

## Our work at a glance

July

WFP starts supplying patients in Ebola treatment centres in Sierra Leone with hot nutritious meals.

WFP/Rein Skullerud



September

WFP launches mobile food security assessments across the Ebola-affected countries. The Security Council declares the crisis a "threat to global peace and security". *By the end of the month WFP has provided nearly 6 million tons of food assistance to nearly 450,000 people in the three countries.*

WFP/Rein Skullerud



December

In Guinea, WFP moves from food to cash vouchers, working with local caterers so that recovering patients benefit from local, fresh food. Food assistance to orphaned children begins in Liberia. *WFP has now reached more than 15,000 orphans and their foster families in the three countries.*

WFP/Rein Skullerud



March



The first Ebola cases are confirmed in Guinea. WFP is on the ground providing food assistance to Ebola-affected communities within eight days, supporting the health response from the onset of the outbreak.

WFP/Merel van Egdom

August



WHO declares an international public health emergency. WFP launches a US\$70 million emergency food assistance operation to 1.3 million people, mostly living in the restricted access areas in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. *As the borders close, WFP provides regional transport, flying workers and light cargo between restricted areas in the three countries.*

WFP/Victoria Cavanagh

October



WFP completes its first Ebola Treatment Centre, and starts to provide logistical support to the entire humanitarian community. *WFP has deployed over 1,000 staff across the region to respond to food insecurity caused by the health crisis.*

WFP/Rein Skullerud

January



WFP extends the duration of its food assistance to survivors, ensuring that they have the nutritional support to stay healthy. WFP applies its logistics prowess to support WHO teams in the most remote places. *WFP has helped over 22,000 survivors and their families to get back on their feet.*

WFP/Rachel Wilson

February



The Humanitarian Terminal in Senegal is completed. The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) has carried more than 19,000 humanitarian responders and 140 metric tons of light cargo through the Ebola-affected region. Airlifts via the centralized depot in Cologne, functional since September 2014, have played a crucial role.

WFP/Rein Skullerud

March



Number of Ebola cases reaches 25,000. Schools reopen between January and April, and WFP resumes its school meals programmes in Guinea and Liberia.

WFP/Rein Skullerud

April



WFP shifts from food to mobile cash transfers for survivors in Liberia, enabling them to buy the food that they need. *Across the region, WFP prepares for the rainy season—pre-positioning food, reinforcing drainage systems, and ensuring that supplies and cargo are in place to respond when needed.*

WFP/Rein Skullerud

May



Liberia reaches zero Ebola cases. *WFP food distribution surveys show that 97 percent of the people who received WFP food assistance during periods of high transmission restricted their movements to their area, which helped to curb the spread of the virus.*

WFP/Rein Skullerud

June



WFP reaches 3 million people across the three countries with food and cash assistance, and has distributed food worth US\$37 million, including food worth US\$2 million produced in the affected countries.

WFP/Rein Skullerud

2015



day. By the end of 2015, it aims to reach 127,000 children from 720 schools. WFP also plans to provide take-home food rations to 5,000 schoolgirls.

In Sierra Leone, schools reopened in April 2015. Through its food-for-work programme (FFW), WFP helped to ensure that schools previously used as centres for Ebola patients were cleaned and decontaminated, ready and safe for children. In partnership with the government, WFP supported the cleaning of 8,000 schools across the country. Participants in the FFW programme received food rations in exchange for their work.

WFP school meals act as a magnet to get children into the classroom and help to keep them there through the day. The benefits extend beyond the classroom: school meals help to protect families' food security in times of crisis, offering a safety net as school meals are often the only regular meal a child receives a day.

School meals allow children to focus on their studies, increase school attendance and active participation, and decrease drop-out rates. In communities where there is a gender gap, WFP provides take-home rations for girls as an incentive to come to school and encourage girls' education.

Where possible, WFP procures food locally, which benefits local farmers and economies while enhancing the programme's sustainability.

### Our donors and the requirements

WFP's Ebola response would not be possible without the support of its donors. These are: African Development Bank, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Holy See, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Multilateral donors, Netherlands, Norway, Private Donors, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UN CERF, United Kingdom, UN Other Funds and Agencies, USA.

To continue providing food and logistical services to the wider humanitarian community to reach zero Ebola cases, WFP requires US\$56 million by the end of 2015. So far, WFP has received US\$329 million for its Ebola response.

### Supporting education and human development

Due to the Ebola outbreak, public schools in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone remained closed after the July-August 2014 break, depriving 5 million children of their education. As schools started to reopen between January and April this year, WFP resumed its school meal programme, reviewing growing needs and planning an appropriate response.

Supporting education is critical, especially given that the affected countries are still suffering from a social and economic crisis that has left its mark on the countries' most vulnerable assets – its children.

In Guinea, schools reopened in January 2015 and WFP gradually resumed providing school meals to more than 120,000 students in 841 schools. WFP is now scaling up to expand the programme to areas hardest hit by the outbreak, reaching over 110,000 additional students with hot meals.

In Liberia, WFP resumed its school meals programme in April 2015, reaching more than 100,000 schoolchildren with a nutritious meal each

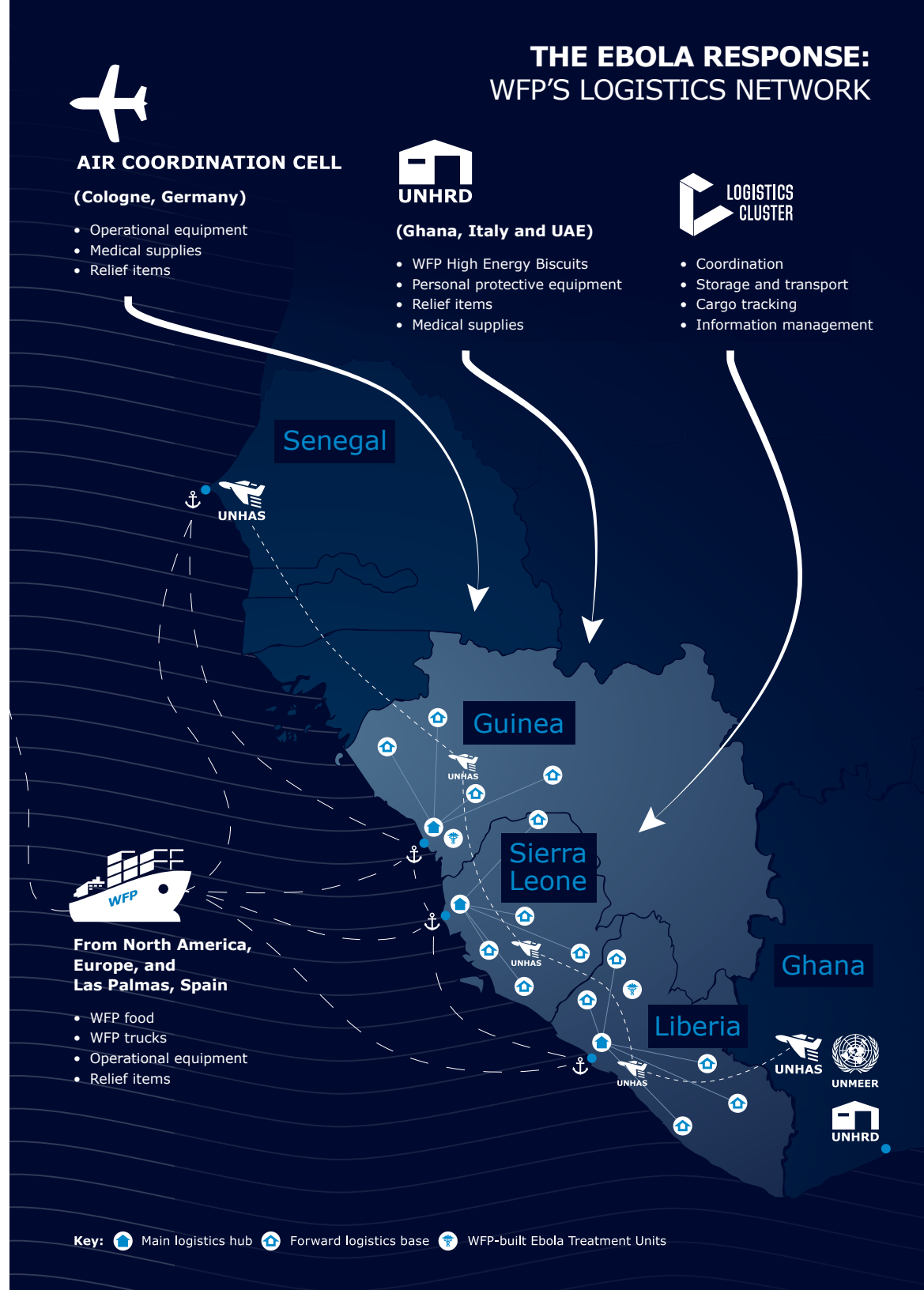
## Transport and Logistics

In the Ebola response, WFP supplies its logistics expertise to the wider humanitarian community, including logistics, storage, procurement and transport, and main logistics hubs in or near the capitals. In addition, 11 Forward Logistics Bases were established across the three countries.

WFP manages the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) operating within and between the affected countries and regional hubs.

Through the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster, WFP and its partners provided internet and radio connectivity in 115 locations, giving reliable internet access to over 3,300 humanitarian staff.

WFP has also built over 30,000 square metres of facilities to house critical medical supplies and protection gear.





Front and back cover photos: WFP/Rein Skallerud

To view WFP stories on the Ebola outbreak see: [wfp.org/EbolaYear](http://wfp.org/EbolaYear)

For more information, please visit: [wfp.org/emergencies/ebola](http://wfp.org/emergencies/ebola)



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