



WFP/Frances Kennedy



World Food Programme

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Ebola Outbreak in West Africa



Pillars of Support

In line with the WHO Ebola Response Roadmap, WFP has three pillars of support: 1) Delivery of food alongside the health response to Ebola affected people and communities; 2) Ensuring the movement of partner staff and materials, mainly through the Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) and the Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD); and 3) Providing logistics services for health partners by prepositioning supplies and supporting the construction of facilities, such as the urgently required treatment centre in Monrovia.

Funding Update

There are substantial funding shortfalls for WFP's Ebola operations in West Africa. So far, the intervention has relied entirely on borrowing from already depleted stocks in the countries.

Without urgent funds, a full pipeline break across the three countries is imminent in October. Some limited internal advanced resources will allow the organization to mitigate a portion of the shortfall for October. Urgent funds are required to maximize the window for timely procurement and delivery.



WFP Response

WFP continues to scale-up its Ebola response through the provision of food, common services and logistical assistance alongside national governments, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners to support the treatment of Ebola patients and mitigate the risk of the virus moving into new areas. WFP's response is targeting up to 1.3 million people in the most affected countries.

UNHAS, which is managed by WFP, has deployed a 19-seat airplane which has been shuttling since 16 August between Conakry, Freetown and Monrovia to allow vital access for humanitarian personnel and the delivery of live-saving cargo. A helicopter, stationed in Monrovia, was recently added to the fleet and will be used for internal flights, primarily within Liberia, to reach remote treatment centres and areas of widespread and intense transmission. A significant budget revision extending the duration of the UNHAS opera-

Spotlight: Adapting & Innovating

Along with WHO, WFP has developed guidelines for WFP and partner staff to mitigate the risk of exposure for personnel and beneficiaries. These guidelines include, among other things, measures to reduce crowds and shorten the wait time before and during distributions and the rotation of staff to minimize physical and mental fatigue. Additionally, a WFP-recruited Public Health Specialist is in the region meeting with staff and partners to assist with the roll-out of the guidelines and train staff in proper mitigation measures. Refresher trainings will be carried out systematically and frequently.

WFP is adapting its innovative tools to better respond in the complex operating environment. For instance, at the request of the Government of Sierra Leone and health partners, WFP is working with Splash, a private company, to adapt WFP's mobile voucher technology for the payment of health workers.

In addition, WFP's mVAM (mobile Vulnerability Assessment Mapping) technology is being introduced to West Africa for the Ebola response. Survey respondents will be asked about markets and food prices, livelihoods and household food security indicators via a telephone operator or SMS, to help track the impact of the crisis on community food security.

tion in support of the Ebola response and augmenting the fleet is underway.

To date, UNHAS has transported over 200 passengers and 2.7 mt of light cargo for 16 organizations, such as: CDC, IFRC, MSF, OCHA, WFP, WHO and UNICEF, between Conakry, Freetown and Monrovia and from there to various field locations in the affected countries.

The UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) continues to support the response efforts of WHO, WFP and JICA. UNHRD depots in Dubai (UAE) and Accra (Ghana) have so far dispatched 43 metric tons worth USD 530,000 of protective gear, emergency health kits and equipment to the region.

WFP is deploying 50 additional staff across the three most affected countries in connection with its Ebola response.

Guinea

WFP distributed 1,276 metric tons of food to 39,584 people affected by the outbreak between the months of April and August 2014. WFP reached beneficiaries in the prefectures of Boffa, Fria, Télémélé, N'Zérékoré, Macenta and Guékédou through General Food Distributions in partnership with the Guinea Red Cross.

Preparations are ongoing for the scale-up of distributions to 464,000 beneficiaries over a period of three months under the Regional EMOP. First distributions took place in Conakry on 4 September targeting families of hospitalized, diseased and cured Ebola victims. The assistance will be scaled-up to also include directly affected families in Forest Guinea and to provide General Food Distributions to food insecure families in areas affected by the Ebola outbreak.

Liberia

WFP continues to scale-up the distribution of food to areas of widespread and intense transmission in nine counties.

After the Government lifted restrictions on the West Point area of the capital, food distributions continue there for around 50,000 people. The largest quarantined community is now Dolo Town (Margibi) where food is being provided to around 17,000 people.

Logistics has managed to boost the existing 9.500 metric tons of storage capacity in Monrovia by more

than a third, and has secured new warehousing in Voinjama for prepositioning food in the North.

A rapid market assessment showed a 30 percent rise in basic commodities compared to average prices. This snapshot indicates the potential impact of the disruptive effect the quarantine and restrictions are having on farming and the movement of goods to market.

WFP plans to assist up to 449,000 people in Liberia over the next three months.

Sierra Leone

Since the beginning of the response, WFP in Sierra Leone has provided some 500 metric tons of food to over 25,000 individuals, including Ebola patients in treatment centres and affected households in the epicentres of Kenema and Kailahun districts, as well as targeted houses in areas of widespread and intense transmission in 12 out of 13 districts in Sierra Leone.

The welfare of staff is central to continued WFP operations. The WFP Staff Counsellor who is normally based in Dakar, Senegal is conducting field missions to affected countries and was recently in Sierra Leone to offer psychosocial support to WFP staff.

Up to 400,000 people are targeted in Sierra Leone under the Regional EMOP.

WFP Operations					
	Project Duration	Planned number of people	Total requirements (in US\$)	Total received (in US\$)	Shortfall (%)
Regional EMOP200761	25.08.2014-24.11.2014	1,313,000	\$ 69,810,405	\$8,819,205	87%
UNHAS Special Operation 200760	14.08.2014 - 13.10.2014	n/a	\$7,328,765	\$4,068,133	44%
Logistics Special Operation 200767	05.09.2014-04.03.2015	n/a	\$7,848,065	--	100%

Contacts

Denise Brown, Emergency Coordinator
WFP Regional Bureau, Dakar, Senegal

For media inquiries:

Fabienne Pompey, Regional Communication Officer

Fabienne.Pompey@wfp.org