**Highlight — Medical evacuation training in Guéckédou, Guinea**

WFP organized a MedEvac simulation exercise in Guéckédou in partnership with MSF Belgium, using a UNHAS Bell 205 helicopter equipped for the in-country movement of symptomatic humanitarian and aid workers. This is the second exercise conducted by WFP in Guinea, following the one organized in Macenta in partnership with ALIMA.

The purpose is to train staff of WFP, its partners and the helicopter crew on the Standard Operating Procedures required to correctly perform to this specific kind of MedEvac. WFP will continue to organize similar trainings in the future with its partners to increase the preparedness of all the actors involved in the humanitarian response and to ensure an efficient execution of the procedures in the event that a real MedEvac is needed. A second helicopter (Bell 412) for MedEvac of symptomatic aid workers will be based in Freetown, Sierra Leone, and is expected to arrive in the country next week.

*The photo shows the MedEvac simulation exercise in Guinea.*

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**WFP Response**

WFP’s primary focus is to support the evolving medical 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 in areas of intense and widespread transmission). In addition, recognizing that the impact of the virus goes beyond the immediate containment or treatment period, WFP has 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.

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**Guinea**

WFP provided vouchers and nutritious foods to 70 persons in treatment centres and 130 contact cases. Previous areas of widespread and intense transmission have already received one month rations. For the new hotspots identified last week, Dubreka and Kindia, WFP is preparing for distribution to over 43,000 people — to begin next week.

In December, WFP began working with its partners and local caterers at Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs) across the country to provide cooked meals through an electronic voucher system; so far, 525 cooked meals were provided at the ETU in N’zérékoré with food from the local market. The electronic system is also in place in Macenta and will be rolled-out in the treatment units in Guéckédou and Coyah.

Through Mobile Storage Units (MSUs), WFP has increased the available covered storage capacity to nearly 1,500 m² in Kissidougou and to over 2,000 m² Nzérékoré Forward Logistics Bases (FLBs), for the international response.

**Liberia**

Last week, WFP reached more than 7,000 people in areas of widespread transmission in Bong County. Partners...
are meeting with the government to discuss the safe re-opening of schools in Liberia, announced for as early as next month. Four Rapid Isolation Treatment Ebola (RITE) kits were assembled and dispatched by WFP from Monrovia Main Hub and the relevant FLBs to respond to hotspots in Greenville, Nimba county, and Grand Cape Mount county. WFP will soon preposition 16 more RITE kits across the country.

Procedures are now in place, with a certified Dangerous Goods Officer in Monrovia, for the air transport of blood samples from outbreaks to labs through WFP coordination and UNMEER/UNMIL assets. WFP, in coordination with CDC and UNMEER, are planning to conduct a mock exercise flight for the air transport of blood samples and RITE teams.

Sierra Leone

Last week, nearly 9,000 people throughout Bombali, Kambia, Koinadugu and Tonkolili received WFP food assistance. WFP deliveries follow the virus, prioritizing the main hotspots in the country for food distributions: Western Area, Port Loko and the Kofu Bollum Chiefdom, where the Lungi International airport is located and where food was provided last week, including Super Cereal, to 66 households undergoing a 21-day quarantine. In addition, WFP reached 560 beneficiaries in Menika village (hotspot of Port Loko) and more than 6,000 people in eight hotspots in Kono district. Preparations are ongoing to provide food and nutritional support to children in Observational Interim Care Centres (OICCs): WFP plans to provide children and care givers in OICCs with assorted food commodities, including nutritious food such as Super Cereal, High Energy Biscuits and Plumpy’Sup.

Distributions in Waterloo resumed last week after the reconciliation of ration cards was completed: over 28,000 households have so far received one month rations, which include Super Cereal.

WFP completed the rehabilitation of the Kambia holding centre, which will be managed by Partners in Health (PiH): it has a capacity of 40 beds and it could be extended to become an ETU with a capacity of up to 100 beds, if required.

A challenge to the implementation of the project activities has been the availability of heavy equipment to lift 20 and 40ft containers from entry ports, as well as offloading in deep field locations.

### Common Services

- **UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)**

  Last week, UNHAS transported 436 passengers and 1.9 mt of cargo, while UNMEER air assets transported 472 passengers and 2.2 mt of light cargo.

- **UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD)**

  Last week, UNHRD dispatched US$260,000 worth of support equipment to the three affected countries on behalf of WFP.

### Logistics Cluster

Last week, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the transport of 730 m³ of medical and humanitarian cargo and the storage of 1,500 m³ across Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The Logistics Cluster, via the Air Coordination Cell (ACC), is providing free-to-user flights from Cologne-Bonn Airport to the three countries. The most recent flight departed on 09 January to Monrovia and Conakry, transporting medical supplies, protective gear and operational support equipment on behalf of 10 organizations.

In Guinea, the Logistics Cluster through WFP is setting up a satellite hub in Kankan for inter-agency storage and to support MSF France with the construction of an ETU. In addition, the Cluster is reinforcing contingency stock solutions and fuel reserves for the Ebola response due to fuel shortages in the country.

### Emergency Telecommunications (ET)

The ET Cluster is providing internet connectivity in 25 locations across the three affected countries, ensuring reliable internet access for 559 inter-agency and humanitarian staff.

In Guinea, so far 85 per cent of internet and radio communications needs have been met. In Liberia, radio communications were installed at the FLB in Buchanan to allow all staff with handheld radios to easily communicate over long distances. In Sierra Leone, internet connectivity was installed at four inter-agency offices in Kambia where connection was not available.

### Contacts

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

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### WFP Operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Project Duration</th>
<th>Planned number of people</th>
<th>Total requirements (in US$)</th>
<th>Total received * (in US$)</th>
<th>Shortfall (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional EMOP200761</td>
<td>25.08.2014–31.05.2015</td>
<td>2,958,160</td>
<td>$189,132,000</td>
<td>$127,061,975</td>
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<td>Regional SO200773</td>
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<td>$178,533,000</td>
<td>$127,132,754</td>
<td>29 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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 as of 29 December 2014.