

WFP NEWS VIDEO

Ebola:WFP Delivering Food in Quarantine Areas in Liberia

LOCATION: Dolo's town, Margibi County Liberia

Shot: 3 September 2014

TRT 01:32

WFP is providing food assistance to quarantined areas and hot spots in Liberia. These include the West Point slum in Monrovia where it is providing food assistance to around 50,000 people, Dolo's Town (Margibi) where food is being provided to around 17,000 people and rural communities in the north towards the epicenter of the Ebola epidemic.

WFP is also providing food supplies for the health authorities for holding centres where there are people who are suspected of having been in contact with the virus.

People in Dolo's town are receiving rations for a month – based on a family of five they receive 50kg rice, 9 kg split peas, and 4 litres of cooking oil. People are unable to move beyond the controlled areas and no traders or food are allowed in. Apart from what people may have in their cupboards or gardens, they depend on the food provided by WFP.

The Liberian Red Cross is WFP's partner in the distribution.

00:00-00:05

Entrance to the quarantined area of Dolo's Town guarded by police and the military

00:05-00:30

People entering the restricted area being checked for body temperature
People gathered in the school yard waiting to receive WFP food.

00:30-00:40

SOT Elizabeth Frank-Neufville WFP Liberia

"They are finding it difficult to get food because they are not allowed to get out, so as a result, we are providing food to them."

00:40-00:45

People queuing at WFP food distribution

00:45-01:05

SOT Jerry Peabody, airport worker, father of six children, queuing to get WFP food

"Our main worry is when are they going to lift the ban on us and the quarantine and when are we going to get back to work, we have been quarantined and we cannot work, we don't have any money for ourselves now."

01:05-01:32

Cisterns of chlorinated water for hand washing before the food distribution

People queuing to get their food ration

Wide of the village

END

As the number of confirmed cases continues to grow, WFP is currently scaling up its response to the Ebola virus to provide assistance to more than one million people affected by the outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

WFP provides food and logistical assistance to people alongside national government, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and others partners to support the treatment of Ebola patients and mitigate the risk of the virus moving into new areas.

So far, more than 140,000 people have received food assistance in the three countries. Common challenges in all three Ebola affected countries include transport and logistics; identifying the communities in need, reaching communities distant from the capital and main port, during the rainy season, with poor roads. WFP is having to adapt the way it works; because large gatherings are discouraged as the authorities work to contain the spread of the virus, WFP is distributing to smaller groups at a time.

How WFP is responding varies slightly from country to country:

Guinea: Providing food assistance through partners and health authorities to families of people infected, ill and recovered Ebola victims, and families and communities in food insecure “hot zones” within the affected prefectures including Gueckoudou, Macenta, Youmou, N’zerekoré, Kissidougou and Conakry.

Sierra Leone: Providing food to Ebola treatment centres in Kenema, Daru, Kailahun, and Koindu; isolated communities in border areas and other “hot zones” within the affected districts of Kenema, Kailahun, Bombali, PortLoko, Moyamba, Kambia, Tonkolil, Pujehun, Bo, Bonthe, Koinadgu and Western area; and

Liberia: Providing food to holding centres for people suspected of having the disease, through government for other related medical structures and to isolated communities in border areas, and to quarantined areas and other “hot zones” within the counties Montserrado, Lofa, Bong, Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, Margibi, Nimba, Grand Bassa, and Rivercess.

WFP is also concerned about the knock-on effect of the restrictions on movement on trade, farming, harvesting of crops and the transfer of food from farms to markets. Recent assessments indicate staple food prices are on the rise.

WFP urgently needs US\$70 million to continue its response to the Ebola emergency.

For more information please contact (email address: firstname.lastname@wfp.org):

Fabienne Pompey, WFP/Dakar, Mob. +221 77 637 59 64

Frances Kennedy, WFP/Liberia Mob. +231 776500242, Italy Mob. +39 346 7600806

Jane Howard, WFP/Rome, Tel. +39 06 65132321, Mob. +39 346 7600521

Elisabeth Byrs, WFP/Geneva, Tel. +41 22 917 8564, Mob. +41 79 473 4570

Gregory Barrow, WFP/London, Tel. +44 20 72409001, Mob. +44 7968 008474

Bettina Luescher, WFP/New York, Tel. +1-646-5566909, Mob. +1 646 8241112

Steve Taravella, WFP/Washington DC, Tel. +1 202 653 1149, Mob. +1 202 770 5993