WFP Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) Dakar, Senegal: Shot: 1Oct2014

WFP operates a global air service for humanitarian aid workers. Today this plane carrying doctors and other humanitarian workers arrived from Conakry(Guinea) and then proceeded to Monrovia(Liberia). By next week, the regular schedule is expected to connect Dakar-Accra-Monrovia-Freetown-Conakry. UNHAS will adapt to needs as required. Here at Dakar’s airport, Senegalese health authorities handle check passengers coming and going who, on arrival, wash their hands with chlorine.

SOT Dr, Ousmane Faye, Pasteur Institute of Dakar, Arriving from Conakry, (New Guinea) Ebola laboratory Dakar, Senegal: Shot: 1Oct2014
(French)
“This corridor is important for us, as it will allow us to have enough stock of laboratory products for the tests at the laboratory. We really had a problem. Whenever we ran out of products we had to order them all the way from France, although we have stocks in Dakar. Now with this corridor, we have the guaranty to have enough laboratory products available at all times.”

WFP Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) Dakar Senegal: Shot: 1Oct2014
Humanitarian aid workers checking in and embarking for Monrovia

SOT Denise Brown, WFP Regional Director Gueckedou, Guinea Shot: 26 Sept. 2014
“We are shifting our gears at the same time trying to keep up with the spread of the virus and it is a huge challenge for us, we are doing a lot, both in delivering food, logistic support, planes, helicopters, ships, building treatment centres, and I said to health partners ‘tell us what more we can do, how we can do better to help you’”

Gueckedou, Guinea, Shot: 18 Sept. 2014 Offloading WFP food from trucks at distribution point

WFP food distribution West Point slum, Monrovia Shot 27 Sept. 2014
Rice, peas and oil distributed to almost the entire community. West Point is an area of ‘widespread and intense Ebola transmission’. WFP is targeting these areas.

02:01-02:24
SOT Martin Penner, WFP spokesperson
Monrovia, Liberia
Shot 30 Sept. 2014
“Ebola is effecting Liberia in a number of ways, and for many people what it boils down to, is the fact that they just can’t get the food they need, that’s why the World Food Programme is organizing food distributions, especially in places where the virus is spreading rapidly, because one thing we want to do above all and that is make sure that this health emergency does not become a food emergency.”

02:24-02:41
Family eating
Dolo Town Margibi County, Liberia
Shot: 10 Sept. 2014
Fatu Yargaya and her family eating WFP rice.
Fatu’s husband, Emmanuel makes a living cutting and gathering wood, but he is not working because of the restrictions on movement.
ENDS

EBOLA OUTBREAK
Guinea - Sierra Leone - Liberia
1 October 2014

Key Messages

- As the number of people affected by the Ebola virus spirals, WFP is scaling up its emergency operation to provide food assistance within a package of care to more than 1 million people, in coordination with the health response in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS), managed by WFP, has opened a new air corridor between Dakar, Accra, Freetown, Monrovia and Conakry to facilitate the rapid deployment of humanitarian staff to the field.

- WFP is also providing unprecedented logistics support to help prevent the spread of the virus. In Liberia’s capital Monrovia, WFP field engineers are setting up four Ebola Treatment Units with an approximate capacity of 400 beds.

- WFP has begun to help quantify the impact of the health crisis on household food security through a new innovative technique called mVAM, using mobile phones for surveys that are normally done in person.

- WFP has so far received only 33 percent (US$ 42.6 million) of the US$ 126.9 million required for its global Ebola emergency operations until February 2015. This critically slow response has led WFP to borrow internal funds to provide urgent logistical support to humanitarian partners.
LATEST INFO ON WFP REGIONAL RESPONSE

As of 30 September, WFP has provided food assistance to 430,000 people in the three countries (5,971 metric tons) in response to the Ebola outbreak, since April 2014. Food distributions are ongoing in both urban and rural areas, often house-to-house, one family at a time.

Under the regional Emergency Operation (EMOP), which started on 25 August, WFP plans to provide food to 1.36 million people in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone over six months.

To stem the rapid spread of Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa, the World Health Organization (WHO), medical NGOs, and the Governments of Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea have identified the need to quickly establish training and isolation/treatment centres for the affected communities. WFP was requested by the WHO to provide support and services to include construction, logistics, procurement and transport. Of particular concern to WHO is the spread of Ebola in Liberia’s capital Monrovia, where WFP’s assistance was requested to set up four Ebola Treatment Units, with an approximate total capacity of 400 beds. Four sites have been identified. Two of these sites are currently being built.

On 25 September, the ‘humanitarian corridor’ from Dakar to the affected countries was opened with the first successful UNHAS flight to Conakry. UNHAS has already been operating between the affected countries and has transported 497 passengers and 6.6 metric tons of light cargo for 25 organizations (NGO, UN, donors, government partners and media). UNHAS is using two aircraft and one helicopter to provide the air service for the humanitarian community.

WFP has contracted a ship for the Ebola response. It is currently in Cotonou, Benin, loading 7,000 metric tons of rice to be transported to Monrovia and Freetown.

WFP’s mVAM (mobile Vulnerability Assessment Mapping) technology is being used to track the impact of the crisis on food security. In Sierra Leone, data collection via SMS has been completed for a total sample of 800 households. In Guinea and Liberia, WFP is preparing data collection through interactive voice response.

The UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD), managed by WFP, continues to support the response efforts of WHO, WFP and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). UNHRD depots in Dubai (UAE) and Accra (Ghana) have so far dispatched 155 metric tons, worth US$ 1.4 million, of protective gear, emergency health kits and equipment to the region. Weekly dispatches are ongoing.

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