

Operations Overview as of 10 January 2015

The Logistics Cluster was activated in Liberia on 4 September 2014. The Logistics Cluster is responsible for providing logistics coordination, information management; and, where there is a gap in logistics infrastructure, it acts as a 'Provider of Last Resort' by offering common logistics services to support the humanitarian community in their response operations.

The operations overview highlights the overall response structure set in place in the fight against the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak as well as the logistics challenges and constraints. The overview also outlines the logistics coordination mechanisms and services offered.

Response Structure

For logistics purposes, the overall humanitarian response in Liberia can be divided into three categories:

- **Ebola Treatment Units (ETUs) and Community Care Centres (CCCs):** These are planned facilities established rapidly following the outbreak of EVD in Liberia. ETUs are large facilities dedicated to the treatment of EVD and have significant resupply needs. CCCs are smaller facilities that can treat other illnesses and can diagnose patients with EVD and refer them onto ETUs, hence they have lower resupply needs. Logistically, both facilities have established some capacity for storage on site, with resupply available from the Forward Logistics Base (FLB) network.
- **Pre-existing health facilities:** This includes the hospitals, health centres and clinics that had established supply chains prior to the emergency. These facilities now require augmentation to ensure adequate supply under the new circumstances. These facilities have a pre-existing network of county based storage facilities; and where inadequate, this network can be augmented through the FLB network.
- **Rapid Intervention Team for Ebola (RITE):** This refers to the standby capacity to deploy rapidly to a new Ebola outbreak hotspot, test for the presence of EVD and setup quarantine and treatment as necessary. This requires prepositioned emergency kits and standby transport capacity, both at a central and field level.



Information and Coordination



- The Logistics Cluster provides information, coordination and logistics services across Liberia.
- Weekly coordination meetings are held in Monrovia at the National Ebola Command Centre (NECC). Information is disseminated on a regular basis both through the mailing list and via a dedicated Logistics Cluster webpage: www.logcluster.org/countries/LBR.
- The Logistics Cluster has a dedicated civil military liaison officer to coordinate with peacekeeping and military forces in the country regarding logistics issues and potential support requests.
- In coordination with the Geographic National Institute, the Logistics Cluster maps all in-country ETUs, health facilities and CCCs.
- The Logistics Cluster's Relief Item Tracking Application (RITA) is operational and utilized by dedicated Logistics Officers.

Storage



- The Logistics Cluster has a central storage hub in Monrovia with 3660m³ of storage capacity. This facility has dedicated areas for kitting and dispatching.
- Customs bonded transit storage hubs have been established at the airport and port for Logistics Cluster partners with incoming goods.
- Five FLBs have been established at Buchanan, Zwedru, Harper, Gharnga and Voinjama. Each of these facilities has over 1500m² of storage space and dedicated cargo tracking systems and staff.
- These facilities are available to all humanitarian organisations to store humanitarian cargo, for limited periods of time.
- Access to Common Services is through Service Request Forms (SRFs) submitted to: liberia.cargo@logcluster.org

Road Transport



- The Logistics Cluster is providing road transport for humanitarian cargo across Liberia.
- A fleet of 40 DAF trucks has been secured for transport through rough terrain. These trucks are prepositioned at both the central hub and the FLBs and are available to humanitarian organisations to dispatch goods.
- An additional 30 flat-bed trucks have been secured for long haul transport of large consignments.
- Road transport can be accessed by sending a SRF to Liberia.Cargo@logcluster.org

Customs Guidance



- The Logistics Cluster has worked with the Government of Liberia (GoL) and the humanitarian community to streamline the customs clearance process.
- The Logistics Cluster does not clear customs on behalf of other organisations, but can facilitate the clearance process by consolidating requests and advocating to the GoL for humanitarian cargo to be cleared.
- Organisations are advised to consult the Logistics Cluster well in advance of their goods arriving to ensure a fast clearance process.

Sea Transport



- The Logistics Cluster has facilitated two international shipments of humanitarian cargo into the port of Monrovia. Further shipments may be scheduled based on identified need.
- Requests for coastal transport should be directed to the Logistics Cluster who are liaising with UNMIL to arrange transport between the ports of Monrovia, Buchanan, Greenville and Harper.
- To request such support send a SRF to Liberia.Cargo@logcluster.org

Air Transport



- UNHAS is providing international passenger transport from Monrovia to Freetown, Conakry, Accra and Dakar.
- Domestically, UNHAS provides scheduled flights between Monrovia, Voinjama, Gbarnga, Zwedru, Harper and Greenville.
- Service to other locations can be organised upon request.
- All requests for movement of cargo by air should be submitted to the Logistics Cluster. The Logistics Cluster works with UNHAS, UNMEER, UNMIL and USAID to coordinate and allocate cargo among the different assets available.

Exchange of Goods



- The Logistics Cluster hubs store cargo from a number of different organisations and dedicated to a number of different sectors. This makes the Logistics Cluster an efficient point from which to assemble kits of diverse items and for owner dispatch to facilities. The Logistics Cluster has worked with partners to define kits to support establishment of key health facilities and to enable the resupply of these facilities.
- Organisations in need of resupply should contact the relevant stock owner to define specific requirements and supply options.

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