

**LOCATION: Kinshasa, DRC****DATE: 22 September 2014**

### Situation Overview

- The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is a high-risk country for the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). The current outbreak has been confirmed by the Minister of Health (MoH) on 26 August 2014. As of 21 September 2014, 68 confirmed cases have been to have contracted Ebola, out of which 41 were fatal. So far, all cases point to a different strain of the virus than currently encountered in West Africa.
- All cases have been located in Djera county of Boende territory in the Equateur Province, 1,200 km northeast of the capital Kinshasa and 300 km east of the province's capital Mbandaka. Cases have been reported in WatsiKengo, Lokolia, Boende and Boende Moke.
- The government has assumed overall coordination and implementation of the Ebola response, with UN agencies and NGOs providing assistance. It has published a response plan in August 2014 that serves as road map and defines the overall coordination and the strategy of implementation for three months, from September to November 2014. Emergency measures include:
  - A quarantine area, 100km around the epicentre of the outbreak, has been established by the government, restricting the movement of the 30,000 to 40,000 people living in the affected areas.
  - A National Coordination Committee (CNC, *Comité National de Coordination*) has been established to coordinate the Ebola response under the leadership of the Minister of Health (MoH), with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) as focal point for the humanitarian response. Other participants include WHO, the UN Children Fund (UNICEF), the UN Stabilisation Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the World Food Programme (WFP). Seven technical sub-groups report directly to the Minister of Health (*Commission de surveillance, de prise en charge médicale, de prise en charge psychosociale, logistique, hygiène, laboratoire et recherché, communication et sensibilisation*). The groups are mirrored at provincial and local level.
  - WFP, as lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, has been asked to coordinate logistics services, preventing the duplication of efforts and maximize the use of resources and assets. In this regard, a Concept of Operations (CONOPS) has been developed. It is available at: <http://www.logcluster.org/document/concept-operations-25-september-2014>.
  - Other measures include reinforced hygienic measures in hospitals, prepositioning of personal protection equipment (PPE) in all provinces, prohibition of animal hunting in Tshwapa district in Equateur province, measures to measure the temperature of passengers at the airports and a mobile laboratory in Lokolia, the epicentre of the Ebola outbreak.

**Logistics Update – Gaps and Constraints Cluster Services**

- The remote location has – for now – allowed to contain the outbreak. But the remote location in the heart of the dense equatorial forest has also left health workers struggling to quarantine and treat those affected, risking further contamination and spread of Ebola.
- Logistical constraints and bottlenecks are a major challenge to ensure the outbreak the affected population can be treated and the outbreak can be contained.
- Mbandaka is the capital of Equateur province and can be reached reliably by air and river from Kinshasa. It serves as coordination hub at regional level for the Ebola response.
- Boende is located on the Tshuapa River, east of Mbandaka in Equateur province with an estimated population of 36,158. It has a river port with ferries sailing to Kinshasa via Mbandaka and an airstrip.
- The gravel airstrip is 1,400m long and served previously as a MONUSCO base. Conditions deteriorate with rain. The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) operates flights to Boende from Mbandaka and Kinshasa. The flight schedule for the Ebola response has been published on the website: <http://www.logcluster.org/document/temporary-ebola-response-flight-schedule>.
- Other flights to Boende are by MONUSCO, MSF and the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) as well as by commercial charters.
- Boende has a port that can be reached from Mbandaka directly or from Kinshasa, taking 3 to 7 days, depending on the water level.
- Lokolia is a small town with a population of 5,000, 60km from Boende, with very limited infrastructure. It cannot be reached by trucks but only by light vehicles. The river crossing is via ferry, located 18km from Boende, with a load capacity of 30 tons. The onward road between Boende and Lokolia needs rehabilitation in some areas. MONUSCO is supporting the government to improve the road conditions.
- A table with distances, means of transport possible and population size is copied below.

District	Cities	Distance to Boende (Vehicle type possible)	Population
Boende	Watsikengo	96 km (Motorcycle, bicycle)	7,217
	Lokolia	68 km (Light vehicle)	5,605
	Mndombe Ngele	75 km (Motorcycle, bicycle)	7,714
	Bokoto	109 km (Motorcycle, bicycle)	7,492
	Ikonge	135 km (Motorcycle, bicycle)	6,047
	Boende Moke	25 km (Vehicles)	12,257
	Lokulia	40 km (Vehicles)	5,008

**Logistics Cluster Services**

- To date, the following activities are being conducted by the Logistics Cluster, under the current CONOPS.

**Coordination, Information Management and Geographic Information System**

- Coordination and Information Management with humanitarian partners takes place in Kinshasa, Boende and Lokolia with dedicated Logistics Cluster and GIS staff in Boende and Kinshasa.
- Regular coordination meetings are taking place, as required.
- Information Management and GIS products are disseminated via the dedicated webpage and Mailing lists.

**Common Services**

- Three WFP Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) have been erected next to the Boende airstrip for Inter-agency storage (10 x 24 meters), with a total capacity of 720 m<sup>2</sup>.
- Storage capacity will be provided in Lokolia with one MSU (240 m<sup>2</sup>).
- One MSU and support is provided to the central camp site to be built by MONUSCO in Lokolia. The camp will accommodate about 60 staff from WHO, UNICEF and the government, responding to the Ebola outbreak.
- Secondary road transport from Boende to Lokolia will be provided. Two all-terrain trucks DAF from the WFP Goma fleet will be positioned in Boende.
- Access to passenger spaces in two speed boats based in Mbandaka and to Boende can be made available. The service is provided through UNDP and ACTED.
- From Boende cargo will be delivered by canoes, motorcycles and bicycles as the low capacity of bridges and narrow pathways prevents using trucks.

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