

1 – Video – Year of living dangerously

2 – National staff initiatives

National staff have been a pillar of the ebola response.

SLIDE 1 – National Staff Initiatives – In numbers

a) Ebola deployment exercise

Pendant la crise – des centaines de staff nationaux en Guinée, Liberia et Sierra Leone ont été **redéployés au sein des pays** pour mettre en place la réponse – ont leur a demandé de passer de la gestion de programmes de cantines scolaires... à la planification des distributions de nourriture et de kits d'hygiène porte-à-porte aux ménages en quarantaine.

- Ceci a marqué un changement important dans le type de travail effectué – et des nouveaux risques.

Et en appui, **plus de 140 staffs nationaux** ont été déployés dans les pays ebola sur les derniers 10 mois – provenant non seulement de la région mais du monde entier. Ces collègues ont occupé des rôles essentiels – en tant que chefs de sous-bureaux dans les zones de transmission et ils ont assuré la logistique, les services aériens, ICT, et l'administration nécessaire non seulement pour la réponse alimentaire mais pour toute la réponse humanitaire et de santé.

La prochaine fois, nous voulons déployer plus de staffs nationaux. Le Bureau Régional a donc lancé un exercice pour **évaluer la performance** et capacités des staffs déployés ; l'exercice permettra également **d'informer des initiatives** de développement du personnel.

En parallèle, nous réalisons déjà des formations en capacités techniques – conforme aux priorités du PAM au niveau global :

a) Cash training

Le mois dernier nous avons lancé une formation multifonctionnel sur les transferts de cash et de bon d'achats. Cette formation marque la première d'une série de formations **corporate** qui sera déroulé sur toute la région. Avant la fin de l'année, nous visons former **plus de 425 staffs** – dont 90% nationaux – sur 17 pays de l'Afrique de l'Ouest dans cet outil.

b) Regional Readiness and Access Negotiation Trainings

Il faut aussi que nous assurons que nos collègues sur le terrain disposent des informations nécessaires pour **se protéger** et pour pouvoir **livrer effectivement** dans les urgences.

- Avec l'appui des fonds de préparation de **DFID**, le Bureau Régional a élaboré une formation à l'image des formations FASTER et SSAFE. Pour nous cette formation est une priorité parce que la majorité de nos staffs nationaux sont **francophones**, et donc ne peuvent pas bénéficier à fond des formations globales. Et en créant cette formation au

sein de la région, nous avons pu intégrer des **défis spécifiques** à la région, y compris l'ébola.

- A travers cette série de formations, entre mars et avril **près que 70 staffs** de la région ont pu développer leurs capacités en situations d'urgence. La grande majorité étant des staffs nationaux. Nous visons à reproduire ces formations dans l'avenir, et d'encourager une plus grande **participation de nos collègues femmes** (qui représentaient un-tiers des participants dans la première série).

Nous sommes également en train de développer une formation pour adresser un des grands défis dans la région – notamment : **l'accès humanitaire**.

- Prévu pour **fin juin**, 35 staffs seront formés. La formation vise les collègues provenant des zones entourant les crises **Nigéria, Mali, et RCA** – là où la création et le maintien d'accès aux bénéficiaires représentent des risques pour le succès de nos opérations.

3 – Security/Humanitarian context - *Epicentres*

Ces initiatives sont essentielles pour notre travail dans certaines zones de l'Afrique de l'Ouest.

SLIDE 2 – MAP OF CRISIS EPICENTRES

Today, targeted attacks **against humanitarians** continue in CAR and are on the rise in Mali – the past days alone saw an attack on MINUSMA in the capital Bamako and we learned the sad news of an ACF Spain national colleague executed. In Guinea, humanitarian staff face not only the ebola risk but also security concerns linked to community fear and disbelief in the virus.

a) ebola

- In fact, in Guinea today we are seeing once more a **spike in cases** – not only in numbers but also spreading **geographically**. Secret burials continue, and about one third of new cases are not on contact lists. There is a major **joint effort underway** with the government, humanitarian and health partners, and traditional leaders to work with communities to get to zero.
- On Friday, there will be a **high-level WHO/WFP consultation** – to discuss how we develop our active collaboration in the ebola countries, and **institutionalize as a corporate partnership** for other emergencies.

b) Conflict epicentres

Across the three conflict epicentres (CAR, Mali, Nigeria), the roots of the violence will take time to address and solve.

In Central African Republic –we welcome the recent Bangui Forum.

- But the situation remains fragile: i) **clashes continue** to be reported between anti-Balaka, ex-Seleka, and other armed elements; ii) WFP **supply to and within** the country remains a challenge; and iii) the past months have seen successive waves of **new displacement** into neighboring DRC and RoC.
- I would also highlight some important progress in our operations on the ground. As you know, there has been an important push over the past year to reinforce our response in the country – and it has paid off. In the month of May alone we have been able to:
 - o i) shift more of our assistance from **food to voucher** transfers to support the rebuilding of local markets ;
 - o ii) we have launched the **seed protection** programme with FAO and cluster partners to support small holder farmers – though limited funding means sufficient seeds only for ½ the farmers in need
 - o iii) also towards supporting small farmers, am happy to announce we have **re-launched local production purchases** in Bouar and Bozoum after more than a year and a half; and
 - o iii) we continue to build strong partnerships, such as the ongoing nationwide **de-worming** campaign with UNICEF and the government through the WFP school meal programme, and a new youth initiative with UNDP, UNFPA, and MINUSCA to support **reconciliation** in Boy Rabe – a conflict-challenged neighborhood of Bangui.

In Mali, the ongoing peace process has been a positive sign – but it is not (yet) translating to the ground.

- The security situation in the north is deteriorating, and violence and criminality is creeping southwards. We have seen **new displacements**: as many as 30,000 new IDPs in Timbuktu region in the past two weeks, and new refugees are arriving to camps in Mauritania and Niger.
- River and road transport to the conflict-affected Timbuktu region is affected by fighting.
- The situation is evolving just as the annual hunger season peaks – and compounding our already stretched resources. From May, we were required reduce the coverage of our nutrition treatment programmes by half as a result of insufficient funds.

Meanwhile in the **tri-border area of northern Nigeria**, there appears to be progress in curtailing Boko Haram’s growing control of territory. Population **displacement** to and within neighboring countries continues. And there is serious concern that insecurity will interrupt the approaching **planting season** in the sub-region.

In May, we **revised** both the CAR and Nigeria regional EMOPs in order to account for increased population movements – and will continue to adapt as required to cover humanitarian needs.

- The focus on regional EMOPs in epicentre areas is a mechanism by which we are promoting **equitable assistance**.
- And in ensuring this humanitarian assistance, we can **contribute to stability** – which is essential for building lasting resilience.

4 – WFP : Nigeria update

During a dedicated Operational Briefing on the regional Nigeria crisis two weeks ago, had opportunity to speak in depth to WFP's response to the evolving humanitarian crisis in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger.

SLIDE 3 – MAP OF OVERLAY FOOD INSECURITY AND EPICENTRES

a) Regional impact

Today, most receiving areas of Cameroon, Chad and Niger report **more displaced and refugees** than resident populations.

- Reliance on cross-border livelihood activities has left these **communities at a total loss** – and they cannot cope with the added burden. Meanwhile, already scarce resources are being exhausted – in Niger, communities report a depletion of limited available wood linked to the influx – and we know from other contexts, that competition between refugee and host populations for scarce resources generates tension and conflict.

Humanitarian assistance will be a critical factor in mitigating tensions – but we do not have the resources necessary.

b) Nigeria

Meanwhile in Nigeria WFP is working with the National Emergency Management Agency, State Emergency Management Agencies (*from 33 of 37 states including the North*), the Red Cross, and local and international NGOs to enable the nationally-led humanitarian response through a series of technical workshops.

The objective: to transfer WFP's operational know-how to directly enable the ongoing response.

- Since March, we have conducted 7 of a 9-part series of workshops focused logistics and warehouse management, emergency food security assessments, and emergency telecommunications. The final workshops (on warehouse and GIS) are underway.
- Based on this positive experience, we are in the process of developing a **new MoU** – to this end a **WFP Senior mission** from the Bureau is in Abuja this week. The new MoU will **continue to support NEMA** at the federal level, but go further to **push out to the**

northern states – embedding WFP teams in the SEMAs directly responsible for the humanitarian response.

In parallel, a Special Operation for **Humanitarian Air Services** has been developed at the Request of the UN RC/HC. NGO partners working in the northern states have indicated that the service would provide a critical lifeline – connecting Abuja to Maiduguri and other northern capitals. The proposal is with the government of Nigeria.

WFP is also supporting the roll-out of the **Cadre Harmonise** (*food security phase classification – West Africa*) in Nigeria. Last month – we participated with FAO and CILSS on a mission to the North. And in June, we will return once more to train counterparts (including from North) on the framework roll-out.

5 – Assessments and Monitoring – wider region (including note on Benin CP)

More widely across the region, we are embarking on a series of initiatives to reinforce systematic food security and market monitoring – **in collaboration with the private sector**.

SLIDE 4 – MAP OF EXPANSION OF mVAM (overlain on epicentres)

a) mVAM

- We first launched mVAM in the ebola affected countries in September 2014. Since, we have completed 8 rounds of monthly monitoring using SMS and Inter-active voice recording – and will soon pilot live calls based out of Dakar. With the support of **Google** investment, in the second half of 2015 we are planning a series of **comparative studies** in each of the three countries to compare the cost and accuracy of the different methodologies.
- mVAM provides us a vital tool in areas where **access can challenge regular data collection**. In Abala (*Malian refugee camp, Niger*) the tool was launched in January 2015 – and preliminary analysis suggests that results are in line with face-to-face monitoring and costs 1/3 less. We are now rolling the tool out in a second camp of Niger, as well as two refugee camps of Chad (*1 CAR, 1 Sudanese*) – and studying feasibility to introduce in Diffa, Niger and Far North, Cameroon.

b) Markets

We are also working with **academic institutions and private sector** to strengthen and diversify our **market analysis** across the region.

- In partnership with **Berkeley**, University of Washington, and Premise – we are conducting a **comparative study** of classic price data collection systems and innovative technologies.
- We are also developing a regional study on market-based food assistance to better understand the **role of women in food markets of West Africa**, and their primary challenges and risks. We aim to partner with both an international and regional academic institution for the study.
 - o Initiative in line with corporate priorities – and **supports two policies on the EB agenda this session** : *Gender Policy* (understanding gender inequalities that affect people’s opportunities) and *South-South and Triangular Cooperation* (drawing on local/regional universities).

c) Note on – Benin CP

Housainou Taal is here today to present on the **Benin Country Programme**, and

- how we are working with the **government** to set up food security and market **monitoring systems** so we can monitor climate risks and market fluctuations, and build national capacity;
- how we are reinforcing monthly monitoring of school meal, nutrition, and for-asset programmes in remote areas using **smartphone data collection**. Last week, a team from the RB was in country to support the roll-out.

6 – Nutrition

A recent case study on how WFP Niger has Scaled-up nutrition programming underscores the importance of systematic monitoring and research.

SLIDE 5 – SCALING UP NUTRITION IN NIGER – KEY LESSONS

In less than one decade, Niger went from having almost no WFP nutrition programme, to today treating the largest number of children with acute malnutrition in the world (1 million in 2014).

Some of the key factors contributing to this shift

- Was the work by WFP, UNICEF and the government to integrate nutrition indicators into systematic food security and early warning tools, and to invest in operational research with MSF and research institutes.
- Findings were then operationalized – as observed in the shift from shock response, to pre-emptive preventive malnutrition interventions ahead of seasonal crisis periods; and the alignment of food/cash and nutrition programming.

- The results of impact research have in turn supported advocacy efforts at national level. Today, food security and nutrition make up integral axes of the high level strategic 3N initiative – to which REACH is intricately linked. And annual national response plans focus on pre-emptive intervention and integrated food security and nutrition programming. And in the ongoing response in **Diffa**, all food security partners have agreed to coordinate food packages to ensure the inclusion of specialized nutrition products (provided by WFP).

7 – Local Purchase + Linkages (Segway to CO presentations)

I will end on a final note.

SLIDE 6 – CHART LOCAL PRODUCTION PURCHASES

As of mid-May we have already procured nearly 136,000 mt in the region. We have reinforced long-term supply agreements to support local economies and encourage faster delivery into the region. Of the tonnage so far procured, approximately 50% is from local production. And we are actively exploring new ways to support local economies and farmers.

SLIDE 7 – BURKINA FASO YOGHURT PILOT

Today, Jean-Charles Dei will speak to the innovative approach to Blanket Supplementary Feeding we are taking in Burkina under the PRRO – providing **vouchers to households to purchase locally produced fortified flour** for young children.

And in a dedicated side event on school meal programmes in West Africa this afternoon, we had the opportunity to update Reps on a new initiative we are implementing in coordination with the government in the **pastoral region** of Dori, Burkina under the Country Programme.

The programme supports the **whole value chain**, linking

- Milk production from vulnerable pastoralists
- To local women’s associations within the same communities, who work to pasteurize and transform the milk into yoghurt
- And then supplying this yoghurt to our school meal programme

It has taken **time to put in place the quality control** standards required – but finally at the beginning of May we were able to launch the programme, covering **200,000 children** in 12 schools. Preliminary feedback is extremely positive.