Overview

Intensified fighting between the Government and militant groups in NWFP has prompted further displacements of people, bringing the total number of IDPs to approx. 2.3 million. The expanded humanitarian operations have accentuated the need for an enhanced and coordinated logistics response.

The response of the Logistics Cluster to the IDP Operation in Pakistan is focused around four services offered to UN agencies, International organisations and NGOs:

1. Inter-agency logistics coordination;
2. Provision of transit hubs and free storage for cargo consolidation and preparation for onward transportation;
3. Support to Relief Bank collection centres;
4. Logistics information management (e.g. reports, maps, website).

This snapshot focuses on the Humanitarian Logistics Base in Pirpiai that has been established to receive, consolidate, store and dispatch relief items for all humanitarian actors responding to the IDP crisis.

Located 22km east of Peshawar, Pirpiai is a large plot of land which belongs to the Railway Authorities. This base - previously known as UNILOG - was utilized by WFP up to 1998 as the main logistics base for Pakistan and Afghanistan overland operations. The base was returned to WFP in 2008 on a short-term basis to serve current operations.

With the gearing up of humanitarian operations, WFP plans to sign a 5-year lease agreement to use Pirpiai as a Humanitarian Logistics Base to ensure the uninterrupted supply of life saving items to the displaced populations in Pakistan. Pirpiai will continue to serve overland operations after the crisis.

Under the current project, efforts are underway to complete the necessary upgrades and construction works at Pirpiai to meet the required security measures and additional storage. Additional Mobile Storage Tents are in the process of being erected. The base will hold up to 60,000 mt capacity (covered and under tarpaulins).

At present, Pirpiai is dispatching an average of 2,000-2,500 mt of food per day to the affected areas. Through the Logistics Cluster, transport and temporary storage services are also provided to NGOs and UN Agencies. The items are temporarily stored prior to onward delivery to the distribution hubs.

Main challenge is lack of funding of the overall project, with only 29% received against the total requirement. WFP has so far relied on internal funds to kick start activities and provide support to NGOs and agencies.