Pakistan Monsoon Floods

Concept of Operations

PAKISTAN

The heaviest Monsoon rains in Pakistan’s recent history have led to widespread flooding, causing loss of life, extensive destruction of homes and livelihoods, and significant displacement of population. It is reported that the flooding has affected 18 million people, of which 12.4 million are in need of immediate assistance. The Government of Pakistan is putting the current death toll at over 1,667 people and this is expected to rise as water levels remain high.

The geographic scope and scale of the emergency has expanded since the floods began. Increasing numbers of people have been affected, as the floods have spread from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) southwards to Punjab and Sindh. According to the latest estimates of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), 4.3 million people are affected in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), 8.2 million people are affected in Punjab and 3.6 million people are affected in Sindh. In all, 61 districts across Pakistan have been affected.

Gaps and Needs
The following logistical gaps have been identified:

- The main obstacle to relief efforts is access to affected areas, as much of the road network has been destroyed and bridges have been washed away. Heavy airlift support is needed to reach areas cut off by the floods, but there is insufficient civil and commercial air transport capacity in the country.
- There is a need to coordinate with the Government of Pakistan to facilitate the use of military and Government air assets to transport relief supplies provided by the humanitarian community.
- There is insufficient cargo handling, consolidation and storage capacity in affected areas.
- There is a need for coordination and information sharing between the various actors in order to mitigate any duplication of efforts and maximize the use of available logistics assets.
- Given the rapidly changing situation on the ground, there is a need for GIS/mapping information on access and road conditions to support operational decision making.

Activities of the Logistics Cluster in the Pakistan Flood Response
The Logistics Cluster aims to augment the humanitarian community’s capacity to deliver life-saving relief assistance to the most affected populations in Pakistan in a coordinated manner. In response to the logistics gaps and bottlenecks identified, the activities of the Logistics Cluster will include:

1. Logistics Coordination

- In addition to the existing Logistics Cluster coordination cell in Islamabad, coordination cells have been established in Peshawar (KPK Province), Sukkur (Sindh Province) and Multan (Punjab Province). The Logistics Cluster cells are coordinating the logistics response with the Government of Pakistan and the humanitarian community. As the area affected by the floods has expanded, it is planned to establish additional coordination cells in Gilgit (Baltistan), and Hyderabad and Karachi (Sindh Province).
- The Logistics Cluster has provided dedicated Logistics Cluster Coordinators and support staff in Islamabad, Ghazi, Chaklala, Gilgit, Multan, Sukkur and Peshawar, as well as an Information Management Officer, GIS Officer and Cargo Coordinator in Islamabad.
- The Logistics Cluster is participating in meetings of the NDMA and the Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMA) to ensure effective coordination with the Government.
The Logistics Cluster is also participating in the Joint Aviation Operations Group, which is jointly tasking Government of Pakistan and military air assets for delivery of relief items.

2. Information Management
The Logistics Cluster is providing information management services to facilitate operational decision making. These services include the following:

- Consolidating information from the humanitarian community and local authorities on the overall logistics situation, including logistical gaps and bottlenecks;
- Provision of updated operational information, such as road conditions, air operations and customs procedures, publication of sitreps, bulletins, snapshots, flash news and briefings;
- Provision of Geographic Information Systems (GIS)/mapping tools and products, including maps of logistics infrastructure;
- Provision of a platform for sharing logistics information at: [http://www.logcluster.org/ops/pak09a](http://www.logcluster.org/ops/pak09a) as well as through a moderated email circulation list.

3. Logistics Common Services

- Temporary storage capacity and staging areas have been established for trans-shipment of relief supplies and personnel in Sukkur, Multan, Ghazi, Khwaza Khela, Chaklala, Peshawar and Besham. The Logistics Cluster is providing participants with storage, handling, consolidation and tracking services at these hubs. It is planned to expand these facilities and potentially open new hubs in other locations, contingent on Government priorities, available resources and operational requirements.
- An UNHAS air operation has been established to facilitate transportation of relief supplies and workers to areas inaccessible by road. Four UNHAS heavy-lift helicopters have been deployed to Multan, from where they are transporting the humanitarian cargo of Logistics Cluster participants to areas cut off by the floods. The UNHAS fleet is flexible and may be redeployed to other locations in future, depending on operational needs. The UNHAS fleet will be expanded to a total of ten heavy-lift helicopters for a period of two months.
- In addition to UNHAS services, the Logistics Cluster is facilitating participants’ access to Government of Pakistan and military helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. These air assets are provided for the air-lift of urgent relief cargo to areas cut off by flood waters. Multiple air corridors are operating from Sukkur, Multan, Ghazi, Besham, Chaklala, and Khwaza Khela. Additional routes will be established if needed in Sindh, KPK, Punjab and Gilgit-Baltistan provinces.
- Light trucks will be provided for the shunting of relief items from transit hubs to helicopter staging areas in a timely manner, to maximize the number of helicopter rotations per day.
- All cargo transported and stored is being handled based on the priorities set by the Humanitarian Country Team /NDMA. All specified services will be provided at no cost to humanitarian actors.

This Concept of Operations will be updated as the situation on the ground evolves. The planned duration of aviation services is two months. Other Logistics Cluster services are expected to be offered only until 12 November 2010. The provision of services may be either withdrawn earlier or extended for longer, depending on the situation on the ground, operational needs and funding.