Operation: Haiti Earthquake Response

Concept of Operations
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Background
Due to the devastating earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale which hit 17 km to the south-west of Port-au-Prince on Tuesday 12 January 2010, at 16.53 hours local time, Haiti suffered severe destruction to critical infrastructure, including buildings, roads, electricity, water supply and communications networks.

Due to the magnitude of the damage caused by the earthquake, the humanitarian response in Haiti necessitated major augmentation of the logistics supply chain and assets, as well as the coordination of the overall response. This was to ensure effective and efficient logistics operations for humanitarian organisations to deliver their relief aid to the affected population in Haiti. Nearly eight months after the earthquake in Haiti, the Logistics Cluster continues to take the lead in tackling the greatest logistics challenges faced by the government and humanitarian organisations in Haiti in recent years.

Gaps and Needs
- **Logistics Cells** - Based on a request from the Humanitarian Country Team, the World Food Programme as Logistics Cluster lead has established and will maintain a Haiti Logistics Cluster cell in Port au Prince which continues to coordinate the mobilisation and use of logistics assets and provision of logistics support services to the humanitarian community. In June the previously established cell in Santo Domingo which advised both on transport and storages services available, as well as on customs clearance processes, closed operations as soon as the commercial sector could operate at full capacity.
- **Logistics Supply Chain & Assets** – Haiti continues to require logistics augmentation of logistics assets to overcome potential bottlenecks and congestion at entry points to ensure sufficient capacity to handle and store significant volume of relief cargo.
- **Logistics Infrastructure Network** - From the logistics point of view, the roads and infrastructure network in Haiti is extremely fragile especially considering the scale and frequency of natural disasters that Haiti has seen over the years. Haiti is a high risk and disaster prone country; its geographic landscape is dominated by mountainous areas where communities are often isolated and are housed on deforested lands with unstable soil and, in coastal towns tidal surges are commonplace owing to the low lying lands upon which they rest.
- **Logistics Coordination** - The complexity and scale of the humanitarian response in Haiti still requires close coordination between logistics actors. Optimizing and complementing the logistics capabilities of the humanitarian community is therefore essential to ensure the uninterrupted supply of life saving items in support of the most vulnerable affected people in Haiti.

Primary Concept of the Haiti Logistics Cluster
Due to the severity of the damage that has occurred in and around the capital Port-au-Prince and based on the gaps and needs identified, the Logistics Cluster, while continuing the activities related to the earthquake response, will simultaneously give more attention to hurricane preparedness activities in the following areas such as:
1. Transit hubs and storage locations
2. Surface Transport
3. Air transport
1. Transit hubs and storage locations

- In preparation for the hurricane season, a thorough evaluation of logistics assets and capacities, including ports and warehouse sites has been conducted in order to better coordinate the mobilisation and use of logistics assets and provision of logistics support services to the humanitarian community.
- The Logistics Cluster has one temporary storage facility available in Port-au-Prince and located near the international airport. This warehouse (Logistics Cluster Warehouse No 2) is managed by Handicap International/Atlas Logistique (HIAL) and has a capacity of 3,000m².
- The Logistics Cluster has also a longer term storage site outside Port-au-Prince where organizations can set up and manage their own Mobile Storage Units (MSUs). The site (Logistics Cluster Warehouse No 3) is on the road to the Jimani/Malpasse border crossing and consists of a secure 2 hectares of warehouse/transit hub.
- A new storage compound is in the process of being developed in Leogane, the location of the epicentre of January’s earthquake. “Hand on Disaster Response” (HoDR), an international NGO, located and leased suitable land. WFP and the Logistics Cluster are collaborating with HoDR to look at developing this project by offering its assistance and expertise (engineering works and infrastructure equipment).
The prepared measures include prepositioning additional MSUs, office accommodation (pre-fab) as well as medium-term measures such as provision of waterproof semi-permanent storage facilities.

2. Surface Transport

- The Logistics Cluster continues to work with its partner Handicap International/Atlas Logistique (HI/AL) to provide transport services to organisations without logistics capacity. The transport services will be provided from Port au Prince, Cap Haitien, Gonaives and Jacmel to the final delivery points.
- HI/AL is managing a Logistics Cluster fleet of more than 50 M-6 6x6 “all-terrain” trucks that is available for tertiary transport needs as well as 20 ‘international trucks’ of 10 mt, donated by the Clinton Foundation.
- M6 6x6 trucks could be mobilised and pre-positioned in Port-de-Paix, Le Cayes and Jeremie in preparation for the rainy season.
- The Logistics Cluster is collectively focusing on addressing challenges in the upcoming months of rain and potential hurricanes. The fragile road network, which serves as the mode of transport for 85 percent of all relief and reconstruction materials, poses further risk. In order to tackle these challenges, the Logistics Cluster is assessing road conditions to identify potentially inaccessible roads and mapping alternative access routes.

3. Air transport

- The Logistics Cluster handled incoming air cargo and helicopter operations on behalf of humanitarian community in coordination with the government and military actors.
- Air services were established by UNHAS whose current assets include:
  - one aircraft, LET 410, 19-seater, available since 25 June 2010 for humanitarian passenger transport capacity and operates between Port-au-Prince and Santo Domingo. It can also carry 1.7 mt of cargo and can be utilized for medical evacuations.
  - one aircraft, Cessna Caravan (12-seater) has been based in Port-au-Prince since 13 June 2010 and now serves locations within Haiti.
  - one Mi-171 helicopter with a 3 mt capacity can deliver to inaccessible areas.
- All cargo movement requests are tasked and tracked by Logistics Cluster using the same system as for surface transport.

4. Sea transport

- An alternative sea transport has been identified by deploying a barge that can service coastal landing points and resupply forward bases. Since 21 June a 1,500 mt barge, chartered for an initial period of three months, provides a viable alternative to road transport for the humanitarian response programmes. In case of road failure, access to affected areas will be possible via sea to northern and southern coastal areas. The barge is planned to perform a northbound voyage from Port-au-Prince calling at St Marc, Gonaives, Port de Paix and Cap Haitien. The southbound voyage from Port-au-Prince would call at Miragoane, Jeremie, Les Cayes and Jacmel.

5. Coordination

- The complexity and scale of any natural disasters requires close coordination between different actors. The Logistics Cluster and the Shelter Cluster have been holding meetings to examine possible
areas of coordination and cooperation in terms of emergency preparedness and response during the ongoing hurricane season in Haiti.

- A close collaboration has been established with the government, particularly with the Department of Civil Protection (DPC), by providing feedback and input for the drafting of the National Contingency Plan for 2010 in preparation for the hurricane season. A Technical Agreement between WFP/Logistics Cluster and the DPC within the framework of the joint preparation and response to natural disasters and the strengthening of DPC technical capacities has been proposed.

- The Logistics Cluster is part of the Joint Operations Tasking Centre (JOTC) alongside representatives of MINUSTAH, the US Military, the Canadian Military and OCHA which was established to optimize the use of military assets in support of the humanitarian response. For emergency preparedness, the Logistics Cluster takes part, together with the Military, other UN agencies and the Department of Civil Protection (DPC), to discussion forum and simulation exercises with a view to establishing the general frame of reference for civil-military response in case of natural disaster, improve knowledge of the tasks and determine possible problems regarding coordination.

- The Logistics Cluster is part of the multi-sectorial rapid assessment team coordinated by OCHA to assist the humanitarian actors operating in Haiti in meeting the needs for early and qualified information sharing, coordination and relief during the first phase of a large scale emergency at national and at field level.

- Regular fortnightly Logistics Cluster meetings avail the members of the cluster services, apprise them of information products and provide general advice and trouble-shooting. At the sub-national level four regional centres – Jacmel, Leogane, Cap Hatien, and Gonaives are replicating similar coordination mechanisms.

### 6. Information Management

The Logistics Cluster has dedicated information management capacity, with the aim of coordinating logistics operations and supporting decision-making to improve the efficiency of the logistics response. Within this capacity, the Logistics Cluster will undertake the following:

- Consolidate information on the overall logistics situation from the humanitarian community and local authorities, identifying logistics gaps and bottlenecks. Facilitate Logistics Cluster meetings and publish records of decisions taken.

- Provide updated information on operational data such as customs procedures, air operations and prioritisation of cargo to the humanitarian community through the publication of sitreps, bulletins, snapshots, flash news and briefings.

- Dedicated GIS mapping for logistics is provided and focuses on road status monitoring, logistics infrastructure mapping and route optimisation modelling. The updated maps on logistics infrastructure should facilitate decision-making for transportation of humanitarian relief by the humanitarian community. Two national staff have been seconded by the Centre National de l’Information Géo-Spatiale (CNIGS) whilst other five national staff have been trained in SDI-T data collection and have been deployed strategically in Jacmel, Les Cayes, Gonaives, Hinche and Cap Haitien to conduct infrastructure assessments until the end of the hurricane season.

- Provide an information sharing platform for the dissemination of logistics information to the humanitarian community at [http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ht10a](http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ht10a) as well as through a moderated email circulation list.