**Concept of Operations - YEMEN**

**Background**

On 22 February 2010, following a ceasefire agreement between the Government and Al-Houthis, the Humanitarian Country Team requested the activation of the Logistics Cluster in order to focusing on improving the emergency preparedness and response, information sharing, strengthening coordination, and enhancing the humanitarian community’s capacity to respond to growing needs of vulnerable populations in the country.

Unfortunately, the security situation in Yemen continues to deteriorate. Like Libya, Tunisia and Egypt, Yemen has experienced widespread pro and anti-government protests leading to a political stalemate. Parallel to the demonstrations, security has deteriorated substantially nationwide. Sporadic fighting has broken out, including in the capital Sana’a. As a result of the ongoing political crisis, Yemen’s economy—which is already weak—has been further impacted and this has lead to the severe scarcity fuel products. Most petrol stations have run out of fuel and massive queues have developed around those petrol stations that have remaining stocks.

**Gaps and Needs**

Given the situation in Yemen and the scaling up of humanitarian interventions, there is an identified need to support the movement of life-saving humanitarian cargo from the capital Sana’a to the affected areas. While access to portions of Yemen remains difficult, pre-positioning of fuel in Haradh and Aden is needed before onward movement to affected regions.

The main obstacle to relief efforts is access to affected areas due to a protracted internal conflict with anti-governmental elements and to the Arab spring uprising who has affected the whole region. 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.

**The Objectives and Planned Activities**

The Logistics Cluster activities aim to provide the humanitarian community with the logistics capabilities and coordination mechanisms to deliver life-saving relief assistance to the populations in Yemen’s affected regions. Based on the initial logistics gaps and bottlenecks identified, the activities of the Logistics Cluster will include:

1. **Logistics Coordination and Information Management**
   - A Logistics Cluster coordination cell for Yemen has been established in Sana’a with a dedicated Logistics Cluster Coordinator to facilitate the overall response strategy, including optimizing the use of logistics assets aiming to ensure an uninterrupted supply of life saving relief items to the affected population. The Logistics Cluster will liaise closely with the other organisations and facilitate regular Logistics Cluster meetings and publish records of decisions taken on behalf of the Humanitarian Community.
   - The Logistics Cluster will also have dedicated information management capacity, which will include GIS / mapping services, 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 consolidate information on the overall logistics situation from the humanitarian community and local authorities, identifying logistics gaps and bottlenecks.

- Additionally, the Logistics Cluster will disseminate vital information through the Yemen page at: http://www.logcluster.org/ops/yem10a

### 2. Logistics Cluster Services

- The Logistics Cluster will procure fuel on behalf of the humanitarian community in order to avoid fuel shortage and therefore avoiding disruption of the life-saving humanitarian activities in Yemen. The proposed locations where fuel will be distributed are: Sana’a, Aden and Haradh. These services are not intended to replace the logistics capacities of the organisations but rather supplement them through the provision of common services. Furthermore, these services are not intended to compete with the commercial fuel market, but to fill identified gaps.
- The Logistics Cluster will establish three fuel storage facilities in WFP warehouse compounds: one in the capital (Sana’a: 180,000-liter capacity), one in northern Yemen (Haradh: 100,000-liter capacity) and one in southern Yemen (Aden: 100,000 liter capacity).
- The Logistics Cluster will stand ready to make available staging areas at specific locations decided in conjunction of the participating organizations, to act as consolidation points for humanitarian cargo if need arises and gaps are clearly identified.
- In common staging areas, services will include handling, consolidation, tracking, and loading services (free on truck) to the users. All cargo transported and stored will be handled as per the priorities set by the Humanitarian Country Team.

### 3. Airlift

- The Logistics Cluster will make available to the Humanitarian Community the use of airlifts from Sana’a to strategic areas within Yemen for the delivery of life-saving relief items, pending the identification of a viable delivery point and authorization from Yemenite authorities.

This Concept of Operations is a living document and the activities will be adapted and revised as the situation unfolds and further assessment results become available, including the possible provision of additional logistics common services as required by the humanitarian community.