Background

Libya has been experiencing an unprecedented level of upheaval and violence since anti-government protests began on 17 February 2011. As a result of the continuous heavy fighting across the country, significant numbers of people have been displaced within Libya and in neighboring countries.

On 23 October, Libya’s transitional government declared national liberation. However, the humanitarian community continues to provide relief assistance to most affected population.

Logistics gaps and Needs

Giving the evolving situation in Libya and the scaling up of humanitarian interventions, there is an identified need to support the uninterrupted movement of humanitarian cargo into and within Libya while the country returns to a more market oriented supply chain network. The following logistical gaps have been identified by the humanitarian community:

- There is a need for coordination and information sharing between the various actors in order to mitigate duplication of efforts and maximize the use of available logistics assets.
- No regular air services in/to Libya currently available.

Activities of the Logistics Cluster

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

1. Logistics Cluster services

   Warehousing
   - In Malta (bonded storage - 1,000 m²), temporary storage is available to the humanitarian community.
     - Temporary storage services include handling, consolidation, tracking and loading services to the users.
     - Temporary storage is provided at no cost to the user.
   - In Tripoli NFI and Shelter items are now managed in consultation with UNHCR. Other inter-agency cargo can be stored by WFP on a case by case basis.
   - In Misrata NFI and Shelter items are now managed in consultation with UNHCR and its implementing partners. Other cargo is usually dispatched directly to consignees.
   - Common services warehousing in Benghazi is no longer available.

   Road transport
   - Road transport services, from Egypt and Tunisia into and within Libya can be provided by the Logistics Cluster on a cost recovery basis. Road transport services will cease to be offered after 30 November.
Air services transport

- Air services transport for passengers between Malta, Tripoli and Benghazi is made available for the humanitarian community and operated by the United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS). A cost recovery mechanism will begin on 01 November 2011.

2. Logistics Coordination

- Logistics Cluster coordination for Libya has been established in Tripoli and in Benghazi to facilitate the overall response strategy, including optimizing the use of logistics assets to ensure an uninterrupted supply of life saving relief items to the affected population.
- The Tripoli and Benghazi cells are staffed by a dedicated Logistics Cluster Coordinator/Officer.
- The Logistics Cluster coordination mechanism in Benghazi will cease with effect 16 November 2011.

3. Information Management

- The Logistics Cluster has developed information management capacity, including a dedicated Information Management Officer.
- Consolidating information from the humanitarian community on the overall logistics situation, including logistical gaps and bottlenecks.
- Provision of updated operational information, such as port and airport status updates, procedures, as well as publication of sitreps, snapshots and briefings.
- Provision of information on customs regulations. (Note that the Logistics Cluster will only share information on customs, it will not undertake customs clearance on behalf of others).
- 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/lyb11a as well as a moderated email circulation list.

This Concept of Operations will be updated as the situation on the ground evolves. The services outlined above will be progressively scaled down and the cluster will cease operations in its current form on 31 December 2011. Legacy support functions may be continued on a project-managed basis.