
MYANMAR – CYCLONE GIRI

Concept of Operations

Background

Cyclone Giri made landfall in Rakhine State on 22 October. The cyclone reached category 4 of the Saffir-Simpson scale, entailing winds reaching up to 170 kilometres per hour. Major loss of life was avoided due to early warning and the prompt evacuation of people in coastal areas carried out by local authorities and the Myanmar Red Cross. The most affected townships were Kyaukpyu, Myebon, Minbya and Pauktaw. Joint surveys confirmed that nearly 200,000 people were affected and in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

Gaps and Needs

Cyclone Giri caused extensive damage to infrastructure in the affected areas: electricity outages, inaccessible roads and lack of telecommunications which hampered the relief efforts. Large portions of the coastal areas affected by the cyclone were under water and roads inaccessible; hence, a large part of the affected areas could only be reached by boat.

Warehouse capacity in the area was not sufficient to accommodate the flow of relief items required for the response; infrastructure had been damaged and adequate warehousing space was very scarce; in addition most of the organisations responding to the crisis were new to the area and did not have proper warehouses in place.

Therefore, there was an urgent need to augment the logistics capacity of the Humanitarian Community in order to meet the needs of the affected population and ensure the unimpeded flow of urgent humanitarian relief items. There was also a need for better coordination and information sharing between the various actors in order to mitigate any duplication of efforts and maximize the use of available logistics assets.

Objectives and Activities of the Logistics Cluster in Myanmar

1. Logistics Coordination

The scale of the situation called for a coordinated and efficient response from the humanitarian community to avoid possible bottlenecks in the delivery of relief items. A Logistics Cluster coordination cell is established in Yangon with a Logistics Cluster Coordinator who coordinates with Yangon-based organisations as well as coordinating Cluster-related activities in each of the operational hubs.

2. Information management

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

- a. Consolidating information from the humanitarian community and local authorities on the overall logistics situation, including logistical gaps and bottlenecks.
- b. Provision of updated operational information, such as road/bridges conditions, customs procedures, publication of SitReps, bulletins, snapshots, flash news and briefings.
- c. Provision of Geographic Information Systems (GIS)/mapping tools and products, including maps of logistics infrastructure.
- d. Provision of a platform for sharing logistics information at: <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/mmr10a> as well as through a moderated email circulation list.

3. Logistics Hubs

Operations and logistics hubs are established in the affected regions. Augmentation of the existing logistics hub in Sittwe and establishment of cargo consolidation hubs in Myebon and Kyaukpyu, including MOSS - compliant operation centres (Mobile Storage Units to support the response), office facilities and the associated telecommunication infrastructure required have been established. These hubs facilitate the consolidation of

increased cargo volumes and support the constant flow of humanitarian relief items into cut-off areas. Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) are made available on loan to Logistics Cluster participants to increase storage capacity in other affected areas of relief operations, such as Pauktaw and Minbya. Myebon Logistics Hub in a jointly funded WFP/UNICEF initiative has constructed a new jetty which allows direct access to the storage facilities and allows larger vessels for delivery from Yangon.

4. Access to Ad-Hoc Transport Services

Ad-hoc cargo consolidation is available on a cost-sharing basis in Yangon and each of the Logistics Hubs, with Logistics Cluster participants sharing dispatch information for coordination of activities. In addition, a number of agencies have leased smaller boats to deliver relief items into smaller and isolated areas and have made these boats available to the Humanitarian Community.

5. Telecommunications/Connectivity

Internet connectivity has been established in the Logistic hubs of Sittwe, Myebon and Kyaukpyu for use by Logistics Cluster participants.

Planning assumptions and constraints

This ConOps is a “live document” and is updated periodically based on changes in operational requirements.

The extent of the services to be provided by WFP in its role as Logistics Cluster lead are not meant to replace or replicate the capacity of Logistics Cluster participating organizations. The Logistics Cluster aims to supplement the overall logistics capacity in order to help organizations to focus their energy on other parts of the supply chain, in particular down-stream deliveries.

The provision of services may be either withdrawn earlier or extended for longer, depending on the situation on the ground, operational needs and funding availability.

The planned duration of the Logistics Cluster intervention in Myanmar is 3 months. [This may be revised based on operational exigency]. The Cluster system established to support the emergency relief response to Cyclone Giri will be de-activated towards the end of January 2011.