Pakistan Monsoon Floods

Concept of Operations

PAKISTAN

Background
Torrential monsoon rains have triggered devastating flooding in southern Pakistan. According to some estimates more than five million people have been affected, among them communities still recovering from last year’s unprecedented floods. The disaster has reportedly taken the lives of an estimated 200 people, destroyed or damaged nearly one million homes, and flooded 17,000 km² of land, prompting the Government of Pakistan to call for support from the humanitarian community. The Government reports 22 out of 23 districts in Sindh are affected by the floodwater as well as some parts of Baluchistan Province. The situation is still unfolding and more rain fall is expected.

During the last year’s widespread flooding, the Logistics Cluster played a vital role in providing logistics augmentation services to the humanitarian community, facilitating the delivery of life-saving relief. The operation was eventually scaled down in February 2011 as the situation stabilized. However, due to the current crisis, the government of Pakistan has asked WFP to reactivate Logistic Cluster.

Gaps and Needs
The Logistics Cluster is currently engaged in assessing the needs of humanitarian actors working in the affected areas, and in identifying logistics gaps that have the potential to impair delivery of relief items. These initial assessments are indicating a need for effective logistics coordination and the possible provision of additional transport and storage capacity to augment the efforts of humanitarian actors and the government of Pakistan.

Planned 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 rapid and coordinated manner. The activities of the Logistics Cluster will include:

1. Logistics Coordination
   The Logistics Cluster will facilitate regular coordination meetings with humanitarian partners and government counterparts to share information on the logistics situation, bottlenecks and gaps; and publish records of the decisions taken.
   • The National Logistics Cluster Coordination Cell for Pakistan is active in Islamabad with a dedicated Logistics Cluster Coordinator who ensures close liaison with the NDMA and the humanitarian community.
   • Additionally, Logistics Cluster Cells are active in Karachi and Sukkur, coordinating the logistics response and working closely with the PDMA and the humanitarian community.

2. Information Management
   The Logistics Cluster is providing information management services with the aim of supporting operational decision making to improve the efficiency of the logistics response. 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 as well as the publication of sitreps, bulletins, snapshots, flash news and briefings.
• The Logistics Cluster has developed information management capacity, including a dedicated Information Management Officer who is based in Islamabad.
• Provide a platform for the sharing and dissemination of logistics information at http://www.logcluster.org/ops/pak09a, as well as through a moderated email circulation list.

3. Geographic Information Systems
The Logistics Cluster provides logistics related Geographic Information Systems (GIS)/mapping tools and products. Mapping products will include general maps, road accessibility maps, maps for logistic infrastructure, etc.

4. Logistics Cluster services

Warehousing
• If required, temporary storage will be made available to the humanitarian community in strategic locations.
• In addition of existing WFP logistics hubs and warehouses, the Logistics Cluster will stand ready to make available additional storage capacity at specific locations, if needed and requested (leasing of warehouses from the commercial sector and/or erection of Mobile Storage Units - MSUs).
• Temporary storage services could include handling, consolidation and tracking systems.

Overland/Road & Boat Transport
• If overland transport is identified as a main gap in the supply chain, the Logistics Cluster could support truck and boat transport for the delivery of relief items to affected areas.

All cargo transported and stored will be handled as per priorities set by the Humanitarian Country Team.

This Concept of Operations will be updated as the situation on the ground evolves. The services outlined above are expected to be offered for a limited period of time. The provision of services may be either withdrawn earlier or extended for longer, depending on the situation on the ground, operational needs and funding.