Concept of Operations (ConOps) - Mozambique

Background
Severe seasonal flooding has hit southern Mozambique and caused widespread damage to infrastructure, while displacing segments of the population. In the lower Limpopo river basin has caused damage to road infrastructure and interrupted regular supply routes. Camps have been set up and relief items have begun to arrive in affected areas. An estimated 150,000 people have been displaced with the number expected to rise as the rainy season continues.

The Government is leading relief effort with support from the humanitarian community. Humanitarian Organisations’ operations are scaling up to prevent the situation becoming worse. The Logistics Cluster has been called upon by the Humanitarian Country Team to provide common logistics support and services to the Government and the humanitarian community for the emergency phase of the response.

I - Gaps and Needs
Given the present situation in Mozambique, access to the beneficiaries is challenging. In particular the following logistical gaps should be addressed in order to facilitate the delivery of the most urgent relief items:

a) Coordination and Information Sharing: Coordination and information sharing amongst the various humanitarian actors is required in order to mitigate the duplication of efforts and maximise the use of available assets.

b) Access to beneficiaries: The floods immediately cut off several roads in the affected area, and even as flood waters gradually recede shorter term road closure is to be expected. This situation calls for the use of river transport (boats and barges) to access some of the affected populations.

c) Storage: There is limited capacity of reliable storage across the affected areas. The establishment of logistics hubs in strategic locations is intended to mitigate that as well as to facilitate transhipment of cargo.

d) Transport cost: Road transport in Mozambique is relatively costly and the capacity is scarce. Grouping of items would enable Cluster partners to benefit from economy of scale transport rates.

II - Activities of the Logistics Cluster
The following range of services do not intend to replace the logistics capacities of individual agencies and organisations, but rather to fill identified gaps in the supply chain and supplement the response of the humanitarian community through the provision of common services.

1. Coordination
The following coordination services will be provided:

- Regularly convened Logistics Cluster coordination meetings to which partners will be invited to participate (frequency will be determined by participants).
- The Logistics Cluster Coordination Cell for Mozambique is established in Maputo to facilitate the overall response strategy and optimise the use of logistics assets. The Cell is staffed by a dedicated Logistics Cluster Officer.
- As part of the logistics coordination mechanism, the Cell also ensures liaison with the National Authorities, through the National Disaster Management Agency (INGC).
- If needed and requested, additional Logistics Cluster Coordination Cells might be established at field level.
2. Logistics Services
The following services will be provided for free as funding levels permit; in case funding is not availed to fund the proposed operational elements, the proposed services will be provided against full cost recovery.

a) First leg transport
- According to preparedness plans developed by the Logistics Cluster, some 25% of the required humanitarian assistance will be brought to Gaza from Beira, while the rest will be dispatched from Maputo. The Logistics Cluster offers consolidation and grouping of relief items in these locations and road transport to the theatre of operations.

b) Warehousing
- The Logistics Cluster will make temporary storage capacity available in intermediate storage sites located on both sides of the flooded area and as close as possible from the distribution areas in order to minimise transport costs and to facilitate operations. The identified locations are: Xai-Xai and Chiaquelane. These locations will also be used as transhipment areas, where cargo will be consolidated and prepared for secondary transport to the final delivery points.
- Locations of intermediate storages sites may change if required.
- Temporary storage services will include handling, consolidation and tracking.

c) Road and boat transport
- Transport from the intermediate storage sites to the final delivery points will be provided using small all-terrain trucks when possible. Where beneficiaries are not accessible by road, small motorised boats and barges will be used for the last leg of transport.

All cargo transported and stored will be handled according to the priorities established by the Humanitarian Country Team.

3. Information Management and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
Logistics Information Management activities will be implemented by the Logistics Cluster Coordination Cell in Maputo with the support of the Information Management and GIS teams based in Rome. The following services will be provided:
- Consolidated overview of in-country logistics situation, including gaps and bottlenecks, based upon information provided by the humanitarian community.
- In particular the Logistics Cluster will aim to provide up-to-date information on road accessibility and potential road closure and alternative routes.
- Information on customs regulations and general logistics planning advice.
- GIS/mapping tools and products, including specific maps related to logistics infrastructure, will be developed by the Logistics Cluster.

This Concept of Operations is a live document and will be updated as the situation evolves (security, operational needs and funding).