

Background

Following the devastating Typhoon Haiyan (locally known as Yolanda), which ravaged the Philippines on 08 November 2013, the Logistics Cluster has been activated to support the humanitarian community in their efforts to deliver life-saving relief items to 9.8 million people, in nine regions across the Philippines.

659,268 people remain displaced across the country with the majority residing in the in the worst-affected provinces of Eastern Samar, Leyte, Oriental Mindoro, Masbate, Sorsogon, Negros, Capiz, Romblon and Busuanga in Palawan.

Humanitarian coordination centres have been established in Tacloban City (Leyte) and Roxas City (Capiz) and immediate needs have been confirmed as emergency shelter, food and water and sanitation. Following widespread power-cuts, telecommunications have been re-established in in most of the affected areas.

Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks

Lack of access to the affected areas, due to blocked roads and damaged infrastructure is a significant constraint on the ability of responding organizations to meet the needs of the affected population. Additionally, the geographic area affected by the Typhoon is extensive and includes multiple islands, increasing the potential for logistics constraints on operations. This is further exacerbated by the difficulties in collecting information on the condition of transport infrastructure, and communications problems are limiting the ability to assess the logistics needs required to support the humanitarian response.

Sharing of information related to the status of logistics infrastructure, on-going assessments, customs procedures, and the availability of transport and storage options in the affected areas, especially outside of Tacloban, is critical to planning efforts which are currently underway. Initial evaluations indicate a need for support, including temporary storage, at Cebu Airport to manage the influx of relief items. Storage in general, across the affected areas and specifically in Cebu (as indicated) and Tacloban, is required to support humanitarian operations. Additionally, coordinated air, sea, road transport will also be necessary to ensure access to the affected populations.

Objectives

The foremost objective of the Logistics Cluster Cell in the Philippines is to support the Government-led response in coordinating with International and National NGOs, the UN system and the Private Sector, in order to optimize logistics efforts, and by association, the delivery of various humanitarian assistance programmes.

This objective will be met through execution of the following activities in response to the typhoon:

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The following services will be made available to the humanitarian community until the end of 2013.

1. Coordination:

In order to facilitate a unified response effort on behalf of the humanitarian community, the following coordination services will be provided to minimise duplication of logistics activities during the response:

- A Logistics Cluster Coordination Cell will be established in Manila to support overall coordination of the Logistics Cluster operation in the Philippines. Regular Logistics Cluster Coordination meetings will be held with partners for the purpose of: briefing on, updating, and revising operational plans as needed; Information Sharing; Analysis of existing and emerging logistics Gaps & Bottlenecks. The Manila Coordination Cell will also liaise with the Department for Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and other relevant mechanisms established in Manila for Humanitarian Customs Facilitation, and other entities for access to any available logistics assets.
- A Field-level Coordination Cell will be established in Tacloban, to support the operations on Leyte Island. Coordination meetings will be held with partners at this level to address operation issues and support communications of priorities for incoming cargo from Tacloban to Cebu and Manila.

Coordination support, concerning information on customs procedures, in Cebu will also be provided through operational staff at the airport; liaison with the Department for Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Philippines “One-Stop-Shop” and/or other relevant mechanisms established in Cebu for Humanitarian Customs Facilitation.

2. Information Management:

The following Information Management (IM) activities will be undertaken by the Logistics Cluster in the interest of promoting and facilitating the sharing of logistics information among all organisations conducting response operations. To ensure an efficient and effective response by the humanitarian community, the Logistics Cluster will collect, consolidate, and share information related to on-going activities, key infrastructure, important procedures, and available storage and transport capacity in the affected areas.

3. Logistics Services:

The services made available by the Logistics Cluster are not intended to replace the logistics capacities of the agencies or organisations, but rather to supplement them through the provision of common services. Access permitting, the following services may be provided at no cost to the user, depending on the availability of funds:

- **Temporary Storage and tracking:** via MSUs and/or commercial warehousing where available, the Logistics Cluster will provide storage to the Humanitarian Community for the consolidation of relief cargo. The main staging area will be in Cebu, with storage area in the affected area will be in Tacloban. Another temporary storage hub may be required in Roxas, pending assessment. Additional satellite sites to Tacloban may also be required, additional stocks of MSUs will be kept in Tacloban to meet this need as it emerges. Consignments stored or moved through the Logistics cluster will be tracked using the Relief Item Tracking Application (RITA).

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- **Air Transport:** Light/medium helicopters will be chartered and managed by WFP Aviation for aerial needs assessment and transport of life-saving cargo for the initial response until cargo can be shifted to sea/road. Access to Military and Civil Defence Assets (MCDA) will also be facilitated.
- **Sea Transport:** an appropriate vessel will be made available to the Humanitarian Community, and be chartered to operate out of Cebu and provide a predictable and reliable option for onward movement of relief items to Leyte Island, to discharge in Ormoc and/or Tacloban. Other locations may be added based on need.
- **Road Transport:** is planned in the form of shunting activities by road transport from vessel to Tacloban hub and potential other locations as required.

As “Provider of Last Resort” (PoLR) WFP, through the Logistics Cluster, is responsible only for providing logistics services that fill identified gaps in logistics capacity, where access and funding permit and where these gaps limit the ability of the humanitarian community to meet the needs of the affected population.

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Annex I ConOps Map



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