Concept of Operations

NIGER

Background

The Sahel region—particularly Niger, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Northern Cameroon and Northern Nigeria—is once again facing an impending food security and nutrition crisis with alarming rates of malnutrition and associated mortality.

Niger is in the midst of a food security and nutrition crisis resulting from years of failed harvest due to the lack of rainfall. According to the preliminary findings of the vulnerability assessment, the food security situation is expected to worsen during the next three months as households exhaust their food stocks. It is projected that by April 2012, some 3.5 million persons may be severely food insecure. This survey reveals a significant increase in the number of severely food insecure people and also reveals a high level of vulnerability in urban areas, particularly amongst new migrants, as well as a higher rate of severe food insecurity amongst women.

In response to the severe deterioration of the food security and nutritional situation in Niger, the Logistics Cluster resumed its activities in support of the humanitarian community.

Gaps and Needs

In coordination with the National Authorities, the humanitarian community is delivering food and relief supplies to assist the populations affected by the food security and nutrition crisis. There is a clear need to ensure strong coordination between the various actors assisting the affected populations in order to mitigate any duplication of efforts and maximise the use of available logistics assets. The following are the needs identified to facilitate the smooth delivery of food and relief items to the affected populations:

- Logistics coordination.
- Information management.

Activities of the Niger Logistics Cluster in the food security and nutrition crisis response

1. Logistics Coordination

- A Logistics Cluster coordination cell has been re-activated in Niamey to coordinate the logistics response. The cell includes a dedicated Logistics Cluster Coordinator.
- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator facilitates regular Logistics Cluster meetings and publishes records of decisions taken.
- Optimization of the logistics resources available locally and regionally, awareness raising and consolidated fundraising efforts.
- Advocacy to Government of Niger on behalf of Cluster participants in order to address issues of tax exemption and custom clearance.
The cell is working closely with the government, and wider humanitarian community, to identify possible gaps and bottlenecks in the logistics response and to ensure the uninterrupted supply of life saving relief items to the affected population in Niger.

2. Information Management

The Logistics Cluster is providing information management services, including Geographic Information Systems (GIS)/mapping services with the aim of supporting operational decision making to improve the efficiency of the logistics response. These services include the following:

- Provide updated information on operational data, such as road network, entry points and customs procedures through the publication of situation reports, bulletins, snapshots, flash news and briefings.
- Provision of logistics infrastructure GIS/mapping tools and products.
- Provide a platform for the sharing and dissemination of logistics information at as well as through a [http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ner12a/view](http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ner12a/view) moderated email circulation list.
- Consolidating information on the overall logistics situation from the humanitarian community and local authorities, identifying possible logistics gaps and bottlenecks.

This Concept of Operations is a live document and the activities will be adapted and revised as the situation unfolds and further assessment results become available, including the possible provision of additional logistics common services as required by the humanitarian community.