HAITI Earthquake Response

Operation Overview

Background
On 12 January 2010, an earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale struck Haiti. The epicentre was located near Leogane, 17 km from the capital Port-au-Prince (2 million inhabitants). Approximately 3.5 million people resided in the areas directly affected by the earthquake. The number of people living in spontaneous settlement sites is estimated at 1.3 million people, while more than 600,000 people have left Port-au-Prince for outlying departments.

The earthquake damaged the major seaport in the country (at Port-au-Prince) where, prior to the earthquake, accounted for approximately 90% of all containerised imports and exports to and from Haiti. This has been partially restored to allow some humanitarian cargo to pass through but is not yet sufficiently rehabilitated to resume normal food import and distribution systems. While regional warehouses were not even widely available prior to the earthquake, what limited warehouse and storage capacity in the affected areas was decimated. The forthcoming rainy and hurricane season poses significant challenges. Road conditions along the major supply routes are acceptable at the moment, but are severely vulnerable to deterioration and failure in the coming months.

Logistics Cluster Objectives
- To facilitate the provision of life-saving and immediately needed key relief items to the affected population;
- To enhance the coordination, predictability, timeliness and efficiency of the emergency logistics response under the Cluster approach;
- To support the humanitarian community to carry out their role by providing direct logistics services, support equipment, facilities, infrastructure repair and capacity-building.

Logistics Cluster Staffing
On the Haiti country level, the Logistics Cluster team is composed of staff from Handicap International/Atlas Logistique, iMMAP, Irish Aid and WFP, and is co-located with WFP Logistics in the MINUSTAH LogBase in Port-au-Prince.

Logistics Cluster Activities
- Logistics coordination;
- Cargo consolidation and preparation in transit hubs in Port-au-Prince, Leogane, Jacmel and Cap Haitien;
- Common transport and storage managed by Handicap International/Atlas Logistique in Port-au-Prince; onward transportation to Jacmel, Gonaives, Cap Haitien and to other nationwide locations provided by the same fleet;
- Handling of air cargo and passenger transport for humanitarian organisations;
- Inter-agency sea transport service provided through a chartered barge to access disaster-prone areas;
- Coordination and information source at the Malpasse/Jimani border;
- Liaison and coordination with the Government of Haiti (GoH) – Directorate of Civil Protection (DPC);
- Liaison and coordination with the different military actors involved in the relief effort for the use of available military assets (MINUSTAH, US Military, French Military, etc.);
- Hurricane season preparedness activities, incl. Mobile Storage Units being deployed across the country;
- Road condition monitoring and mapping;
- Information management supporting logistical decision-making and facilitating information sharing and communication, including GIS mapping capacity.

Logistics Cluster Challenges
- Due to lack of handling equipment, inability to handle containers;
- Aging fleet of trucks leads to unreliability and high maintenance costs, thus reduced ability to deliver relief cargo.
Logistics Cluster Achievements to date

- The Logistics Cluster is facilitating the deliveries of emergency relief items through a truck fleet managed by Handicap International/Atlas Logistique.
- To date, 99 different organizations have utilised the Logistics Cluster common transport service facilitating the delivery of goods for other sectors, including Shelter, Health, Water and Sanitation, Food and Nutrition.
- As of 28 June 2010, more than 6,355 mt (28,845 cu m) have been dispatched from Port-au-Prince: 89% by land and 11% by air. Of these dispatches 41% have been shelter items, 20% food items, 14% agriculture, 11% water and sanitation, and 6% logistics items for 99 different organizations. In addition to which more than 1,300 truck loads have been dispatched from Santo Domingo to Haiti delivering more than 9,300 mt (35,000 cu m) of life-saving relief supplies.
- The Logistics Cluster facilitated the allocation of 140 vehicles donated to the humanitarian community by the Clinton Foundation.
- 38 organizations have used inter-agency storage in Port-au-Prince.
- To meet storage requirements an additional 2 hectares of warehouse/transit hub is operational outside Port-au-Prince on the road to the Jimani border crossing, as a site for organisations to set up and manage their own Mobile Storage Units (MSUs). As of 28 June 2010, there are 17 MSUs with a capacity of more than 4,560m² for inter-agency use.
- To date, over 12,000 passengers from some 500 different UN Agencies, donors, NGOs, governments, embassies and media institutions have used the UNHAS passenger transport services. The helicopters have flown numerous assessment missions to more than 90 isolated villages & have delivered more than 990 mt, largely medicines, food, & tents.
- Since 21 June 2010, a chartered 1,500 mt barge provides a viable alternative to road transport for the humanitarian response programmes. In case of road failure, access to disaster-prone areas will be possible via sea to northern and southern coastal areas. The barge is planned to perform a northbound voyage from Port-au-Prince calling at St Marc, Gonaives, Port de Paix and Cap Haitien. The southbound voyage from Port-au-Prince would call at Miragoane, Jeremie, Les Cayes and Jacmel.
- The Logistics Cluster, together with IHP, established temporary accommodation for inter-agency staff beginning February 2010. This “base camp” is managed by IHP and their partners and can accommodate up to 450 relief workers.
- The UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD), a WFP network able to deliver humanitarian relief items worldwide within 24/48 hrs from five strategically placed hubs (Italy, UAE, Ghana, Malaysia and Panama), deployed prefabricated offices to Port-au-Prince. Their technical support team erected structures for 15 different organisations.
- The Logistics Cluster is part of the Joint Operations Tasking Centre (JOTC) alongside representatives of MINUSTAH, the US Military, the Canadian Military and OCHA that was established to optimize the use of military assets in support of the humanitarian operation.
- As part of the hurricane preparedness strategy, the Logistics Cluster is part of the Inter-Cluster working group on emergency preparedness together with OCHA, Food Cluster and IOM. The Logistics Cluster is also part of the Incident Response Team (CIRT), a partnership with IMC, IOM, MIUSTAH and OCHA to provide 24 hour rapid response.
- As of 28 June 2010, 40 Logistics Cluster meetings have been held since 12 January 2010.
- Representatives from 192 different organizations, including UN agencies, UN affiliated organizations, NGOs, military responders, and government, have attended Logistics Cluster meetings.
- 30 Situation Reports and 8 Bulletins have been published along with a number of in-depth snapshots on operations, procedures and infrastructure
- A dedicated webpage for the Haiti response is online and includes daily information: http://www.logcluster.org/ops/hti10a. So far 20,113 unique users have visited the site, producing 119,989 page views.
- A Haiti Logistics Cluster mailing list has been set up to ensure flow of information within the humanitarian community Haiti.logs@logcluster.org. The mailing list has more than 900 subscribers.