Operations Overview as of 11 December 2013

The Logistics Cluster, when activated in a sudden onset emergency, is responsible for providing logistics coordination, information management; and, where there is a gap in logistics infrastructure, it acts as a ‘Provider of Last Resort’ by offering common logistics services to support the humanitarian community in their response operations.

Logistics Coordination, Information Management and GIS

- Logistics Cluster Cells have been established in Tacloban, Guiuan, Ormoc, Cebu, Roxas, and Manila. Meetings are held on a regular basis in all of the six locations.
- Information is disseminated on a daily basis both through the mailing list of organisations on the ground and via the Logistics Cluster website.
- The Logistics Cluster has a dedicated GIS Officer in Cebu able to take requests from the humanitarian community for any logistics mapping products required.

Customs

- From the start of the operations, the Logistics Cluster established regular coordination with the DSWD to avoid bottlenecks, and through the private partnership LET (Logistics Emergency Team), two representatives have been made available to advise the humanitarian community on customs procedures both in Manila and Cebu.

Civ/Mil Coordination

- Governments (such as the Philippines, United States of America, Australia, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Japan, Italy, the People’s Republic of Korea, Canada, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, and Sweden) have been providing essential operational support and assets, such as helicopters cargo planes and ships in the first weeks of the response, ensuring that life-saving assistance was dispatched as soon as possible.
- The Logistics Cluster has facilitated cargo operations and provided logistics support and liaison through the deployment of Civ/Mil Coordinators in Manila, Cebu and Tacloban.
- Since the start of the operation, 2,280 m³ of inter-agency cargo has been facilitated on military transport for 32 organisations.

Air Transport

- UNHAS currently has one dedicated 19-seat Beech 1900 fixed-wing aircraft and two 10-seat Sikorsky 76 helicopters providing a passenger service for the humanitarian community as well as assessment missions and some light cargo transport.
- As of 10 December, UNHAS has transported over 1,000 passengers and 6 MT of humanitarian cargo.
- Over 200 flights have been executed to 20 different locations (Manila, Cebu, Ormoc, Roxas, Guiuan, Tacloban, Catbalongan, Romblon, Alcantara, San Roque, Palawan, Cuyo, Lungsod, Borongan, Zumaraga, Iloilo, Sagay, Cadiz Santa Fe and Victorias).
Sea Transport

- Since 18 November, WFP-contracted vessels have transported inter-agency cargo into Tacloban from Cebu. This is an on-going service and deliveries are now about to start to Roxas and Bantayan Island as well as Tacloban. Other locations are also available on request.
- A forklift and operator has been deployed to the seaport of Guiuan to assist with offloading and help ease the current congestion.
- As of 11 December, 3,800 m³/1,000 MT of interagency cargo has been shipped into Tacloban ex Cebu on behalf of 15 organisations.

Storage

- WFP, as the lead of the Logistics Cluster, is providing over 8,000 m² of storage space to the humanitarian community, in multiple locations including Tacloban, Guiuan, Ormoc, Roxas and Cebu with the capacity to scale-up rapidly should the need arise.
- The process of identifying warehouses for rehabilitation in order to support long-term storage capacity in the area is underway. Repairs are due to begin at the gymnasium near Tacloban seaport to assist the Department of Social Welfare & Development (DSWD) with repacking operations.
- A 2,250 m² inter-agency warehouse is now ready to receive cargo in Roxas. Rehabilitation of this facility is planned to take place to provide long term capacity for the National Food Authority (NFA).

Road Transport

- Logistics Cluster services are not intended to compete with the local transport market. Since there is currently no lack of commercial transport in the affected areas, the Logistics Cluster is not providing common overland transport. However it is augmenting the capacity of organisations, such as UNHCR, UNICEF and DSWD, as required to speed up the deliveries of priority relief cargo including Food, Shelter and WASH relief items.
- Road transport has also been provided to take urgent fuel supplies to Guiuan to support the humanitarian community.
- As of 11 December, a total of 4,600 m³ / 2,600 MT of interagency cargo has been transported by the WFP truck fleet on behalf of 27 organisations.

Logistics Emergency Team (LET) Partnership

- Logistics support has also been activated through the LET private partnership, made up of Agility, UPS, Maersk and TNT, in terms of assets, heavy equipment, fuel and staff in all locations currently facing a gap in capacity (mainly the airports and ports of Tacloban and Guiuan as well as Cebu airport).
- Two customs experts from have been present since the start of the operation to provide assistance with incoming humanitarian cargo.
- Inventory and warehouse managers are being deployed to the DSWD warehouses in Tacloban to assist with operations. A 2,000 m² warehouse has been made available by the LET in Cebu.