LOGISTICS CLUSTER
BENIN FLOOD RESPONSE SITUATION REPORT
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1 Highlights

- The Logistics Cluster started a river assessment in the Grand Popo area in the south-west of the country. The mission will assess the river transport capacity, transport routes, and the type and capacity of boats in affected villages such as Avlo, Djanglammey, Gbehoue and Sazoue.
- An Information Management Officer, Tobias Stoehr (tobiasstoehr@googlemail.com) has begun work with the Logistics Cluster. He will be based in Cotonou for a month.

2 Border Crossing and Customs:

- The Logistics Cluster has provided guidelines on how to obtain exemption of humanitarian cargo from taxes / levies [http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ben10a/customs_guidelines/view].

3 Logistics Coordination

- A Logistics Cluster meeting was held on 3 November. At the meeting, participants shared information on local availability and prices for relief items. Participants were also briefed on the Emergency Telecommunication Cluster. In the meeting, participants indicated that although some areas have limited GSM coverage, overall there is good network coverage in Benin that enables humanitarian actors to operate in the field without major difficulties. Hence, there is no need for emergency telecommunication services.
- The Logistics Cluster meets at 10 am every Wednesday at the WFP office in Cotonou. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 10 November.

4 Incoming Cargo

- A USAID airlift of plastic sheeting rolls for 1,700 families arrived on 4 November. These items will be distributed by Catholic Relief Service.
- The Logistics Cluster provided advice on the reception, storage and distribution of a Japanese bilateral donation of 6,450 blankets, 150 tents, 1,500 sleeping pads and 40 rolls of plastic sheeting, which arrived by plane on 4 November.
- Four trucks carrying relief items for UNDP are expected to arrive by the end of this week from the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot in Accra, Ghana. The consignment includes 200 multi-purpose tents, 200 tarpaulins, 60 mosquito nets, 100 axes, 50 spades, 12 water tanks and 250 ropes. The Logistics Cluster has been working with OCHA and UNDP to facilitate customs clearance. This cargo will be stored temporarily in the WFP warehouse in Cotonou.
5 Storage

- WFP has offered UNHCR temporary storage space in Cotonou for 1,500 family tents.
- Support is also being provided to Plan Benin for storage of 10 mt of non food items in the WFP warehouse in Natitingou.

6 Transport Sector

- The Logistics Cluster has assessed local private air transport capacity and requested the WFP Aviation Safety Unit to evaluate the only local company, Cotair.
- The Government of Benin has offered trucks for the transport and distribution of humanitarian items as well as warehouse support. The Logistics Cluster has shared information on how to request support from the government.
- The Logistics Cluster has distributed information on domestic freight transport.

7 Fuel

- Fuel remains widely available due to the proximity of Nigeria.
- Fuel prices per litre are 500 to 600 FCFA (retail price), according to official sources. Street prices for fuel are lower (250 to 300 FCFA), but use is not recommended as the quality is unknown.