LOGISTICS SECTOR – El Niño
Situation Update
(23 February 2016)

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- The current El Niño weather system, which strengthened in March 2015 and peaked in the last quarter of 2015 and early 2016, is one of the strongest on record. The slow-onset nature of the weather phenomenon and the potential impacts on globally dispersed geographical areas, require close attention and monitoring.
- Many countries are suffering from the consequences of this particular climate pattern around the world with drought and excess rainfall causing flooding and causing food insecurity.
- Although no official Logistics Clusters have been activated, the impact of this extreme weather translates into increased humanitarian assistance needs and response preparedness activities.
- As lead agency, WFP is providing logistics sector support including logistics coordination and information sharing on behalf of the humanitarian community.

ZIMBABWE

- The full impact of El Niño continues to be experienced across Zimbabwe where since October 2015, it has received less than 25 percent of the seasonal rainfall average and experienced the driest start of the season in 35 years.
- The Government declared a state of disaster on 4 February 2016 and issued a domestic and international appeal for humanitarian assistance for the affected, food insecure population, estimated to be more than 2.8 million, which represents the 30 percent of the rural population.
- As part of the preparedness and response activities, coordination meetings are being held and a Logistics Sector Working Group (LSWG) has been established to facilitate the coordination and sharing of information among the humanitarian community.
- The South western districts are reportedly the worst affected by drought and could eventually lead to increased food insecurity levels.
- The Humanitarian Country Team has undertaken an inter-agency contingency planning process to strengthen preparedness and response capacities with regards to El Nino’s impacts.
- No issues have been reported with import procedures and customs clearance.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- As of February 2016, the Government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) estimates that more than 2.7 million people are affected by extreme El Niño climate conditions, which started around April 2015 and are expected to extend until mid-2016.
- The situation is particularly aggravated in communities living in dispersed and high-altitude remote areas. Nearly 770,000 people living in rural locations continue to be negatively impacted by severe drought and localised frost.
- Due to heavy rains, a number of roads have temporarily closed and bridges have collapsed following flooding and landslides. Movement and access to main routes are severely restricted in many parts of the country including the Morobe, Chimbu, Jiwaka and West New Britain Provinces, as well as several locations across the Highlands region.
- Although the Logistics Cluster is not activated and there is no WFP Country Office, a Logistics Coordinator has arrived in Port Moresby, supporting the Government and acting as the focal point for logistical response issues for humanitarian actors involved in relief operations.
• An Information Management Officer is also currently working with the PNG National Disaster Centre (NDC) to provide logistical, GIS and information management support and coordination.

• Two PNG Logistics Bulletins were shared on 1 and 15 February and can be downloaded here:

**MADAGASCAR**

• It has been reported that nearly 1.9 million people in Madagascar are food insecure due to drought, with 450,000 facing severe food shortages.

• In Ankatafa ely – Ambanja and in Mandritsara in the north of the country, extensive flooding has caused population displacement.

• The government is leading the response and no official Logistics Cluster has been activated, however logistics sector coordination and information management support is being provided.

• Logistics coordination meetings are being held in Antananarivo and preparedness activities including logistics assessments are being carried out.

• Organisations were encouraged to share information, in order to increase the preparedness actions evaluated together with the National Office of Risks Management and Catastrophes (BNGRC).

**CONTACTS**

**Zimbabwe**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tendai Hamandishe</td>
<td>Head of Logistics</td>
<td>Harare</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tendai.hamandishe@wfp.org">tendai.hamandishe@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Papua New Guinea**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kennet Blixt</td>
<td>Logistics Coordinator</td>
<td>Port Moresby</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kennet.blixt@wfp.org">kennet.blixt@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francesca Ciardi</td>
<td>Logistics Information Management Officer</td>
<td>Port Moresby</td>
<td><a href="mailto:francesca.ciardi@wfp.org">francesca.ciardi@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
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**Madagascar**

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uwe Sonntag</td>
<td>Head of Supply Chain and Common Services</td>
<td>Antananarivo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Uwe.Sonntag@wfp.org">Uwe.Sonntag@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>