

Background

On the evening of Thursday 14 March Category 3 Tropical Cyclone Idai made landfall in Beira, Mozambique's fourth largest city, bringing high wind speeds of up to 224 km per hour and heavy rains. The cyclone followed extensive flooding throughout the Mozambique provinces of Zambézia, Tete and Niassa in early March. Ongoing assessments are being undertaken by government officials and humanitarian workers to determine immediate needs, however significant infrastructure damage has been reported, with heavy rainfall over a number of days has causing damage to road and bridges, and interrupting regular supply routes. Sofala province is expected to be the worst affected. There are also growing concerns regarding the potential effects of the overflow of the Marowanyati Dam in Zimbabwe on water levels in Mozambique, which could lead to further deterioration of roads and infrastructure (OCHA).

The Government of Mozambique (GoM) has declared a state of national emergency and requested international assistance. The National Disaster Management Agency (INGC) is leading the response. The Logistics Cluster was activated on 20 March. WFP, as lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, has been requested by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) to provide coordination and information management support, and facilitate access of common logistics services to assist the humanitarian community in their efforts to deliver life-saving items across affected areas.

Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks

The cyclone path has seriously damaged logistics infrastructures across the affected areas including warehouses, ports, airports, roads and bridges. Until 24 March, Beira is currently only accessible via sea and air. This includes the main supply route from Beira to Harare (Zimbabwe) via Chimoio, where bridges have reportedly collapsed and parts the road remain flooded. An 18 March aerial survey of the Buzi area showed more than 50 km of land in Buzi town had been submerged. Moreover, several roads north of Caia in the Zambézia province remain impassable. Given high water levels, road access will continue to remain a key challenge to access affected populations. This is further hindered by the local market's limited capacity to provide specific truck types suitable for such conditions.

In relation to storage, the cyclone has caused extensive damage to infrastructure. In Beira operational warehousing will remain limited until rehabilitation work is complete and cargo stored in damaged warehouses will have to be transferred. It is anticipated that available storage capacity will be fully occupied in the coming days. Temporary storage solutions such as Mobile Storage Units (MSU) will be required until impacted infrastructure returns to operational use.

Based on the above analysis, the major logistics constraints limiting humanitarian operations in Sofala, Manica and Zambézia Provinces of Mozambique currently are:

- A lack of available storage capacity (Beira and Chimoio);
- Insufficient transport capacity (air assets, small trucks or off-road truck and river boats);
- Possible congestion at entry point (Beira)

Objectives

The primary objective of the Logistics Cluster is to support the government-led response by coordinating with the humanitarian community and facilitating access to critical logistics information and common services, in order to optimise logistics efforts, and maintain an uninterrupted supply chain of life-saving items.

Planned Activities

The following range of activities and services are not intended to replace the logistics capacities of individual agencies or organisations, but rather to fill identified gaps in the humanitarian supply chain and supplement the response of the humanitarian community through the provision of common services, based on need. The Logistics Cluster will act as a provider of last resort, filling the gaps of the humanitarian response in the coordination of logistics activities and information management. The Logistics Cluster will also facilitate access to common logistics services (transport, storage) in order to maintain an interrupted supply chain of relief items

The following services will be made available to the humanitarian community. They will be adapted and revised as the situation unfolds and further assessment results become available.

1. Coordination

The following coordination services will be provided to minimise duplication.

- Coordination cells will be established in Maputo, Beira and Chimoio, to support the overall coordination of the Logistics Cluster operation in Mozambique. A Logistics Cluster Coordinator and an Information Management Officer will be based in Beirato support inter-agency efforts in coordination with the INGC. Operational cells are also established in Maputo and Chimoio.
- Regular coordination meetings will be held with partners across all three coordination cells for the purpose of providing a briefing on, and updating operational planning as needed; information sharing on critical logistics constraints impacting the response; as well as providing a communication platform for the analysis of existing and emerging logistics gaps and bottlenecks.

2. Information Management

To support operational decision-making and to improve the efficiency of the logistics response, a dedicated information management Officer will:

- Collect, consolidate, and share information related to on-going activities, key infrastructure, important procedures, and available storage and transport capacity in the affected areas.
- Maintain information sharing platforms including a common mailing list, and provide content for a dedicated operational webpage via the Logistics Cluster website.

Dedicated support will also be provided by the Global Logistics Cluster information management team in Rome, and by HQ GIS unit for the production of maps and snapshots.

3. Logistics Services

The services facilitated by the Logistics Cluster are not intended to replace the logistics capacities of the agencies or organisations, but rather to supplement them through the access to common services. Access permitting, the following services may be coordinated at no cost to the user, or on a partial/full cost-recovery basis, depending on the availability of funds.

- **Air transport:** The Logistics Cluster will facilitate access to the following air assets which are to be positioned on a rotational basis between Maputo, Beira and Chimoio
 - Two Mi-8 helicopters (3 MT capacity), currently positioned in Beira
 - 1 C-295 fixed wing aircraft (8 MT capacity) , currently positioned in Maputo
- **Road transport:** The Logistics Cluster will facilitate access to last mile from Beira to Chimoio, based on needs.
- **River transport:** The Logistics Cluster will facilitate access to river transport to access identified locations, based on need.
- **Storage:** To rapidly forward relief to affected regions, the Logistics Cluster will facilitate access to common storage services across the following locations:
 - Beira (1,100 m2) shared between airport and Beira city
 - Chimoio (1,000 m2)
- The Relief Item Tracking Application (RITA) will track and share information on cargo moved and/or stored on behalf of the humanitarian community.

As “Provider of Last Resort” (PoLR) WFP, through the Logistics Cluster, is responsible only to provide logistics services that fill identified gaps in logistics capacity, where access and funding permit and where these gaps limit the ability of the humanitarian community to meet the needs of the affected population.

