
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 that caused significant infrastructure damage, interrupting regular supply routes. According to OCHA an estimate of 1.85 million persons need humanitarian assistance and more that 50 locations remains hard to reach in Nhamatanda, Buzi and Chibabava district.

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 has seriously damaged logistics infrastructures across the affected areas including warehouses, roads and bridges. Despite significant improvements in accessibility, many of the damaged infrastructures that were identified continue to require repair. While Buzi City is now accessible to light vehicle and trucks up to 20 mt, south Buzi remains extremely difficult to access by road, boats and helicopters are still the main delivery modalities to reach this location. In Muanza, the road from Dondo to Caia remains very difficult to access and the broken Nhamatanda bridge significantly affects the passage of trucks from Tica to Inchope. In Mossurize, the N260 road is still impossible to pass, despite ongoing reparation efforts.

One month after the cyclone, the current logistics bottlenecks are as follow:

- Air transport to hard to reach locations
- Road transport for roads difficult to pass
- Temporary storage support in the main humanitarian hubs

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 Logistics Cluster provides coordination of logistics activities, information management and facilitates access to WFP common logistics services (transport and storage) to maintain an interrupted supply chain of relief items.

WFP, as lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, acts as a 'provider of last resort' offering common logistics services, when critical gaps hamper the humanitarian response. 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.

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

1. Coordination and Information Management

The following coordination services are provided to avoid duplication of efforts and maintain a discussion forum for humanitarian logistics actors in country.

- Active coordination cells in Beira (weekly meetings) and Chimoio (twice a month meetings) to support the overall coordination of the logistics response.
- Information management to support operation decision-making and to improve the efficiency of the logistics response through the collection, consolidation and sharing of key logistical information such as road access and common services available.
- A Cluster Coordinator and an Information Management Officer are based in Beira to support inter-agency efforts in coordinating with the INGC and national technical counterparts (e.g. Ministry of Transport).

2. Logistics 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 facilitates access to the following air assets which are to be positioned in Beira:
 - Two Mi-8 helicopters (3 mt capacity)

- **Road transport:** The Logistics Cluster facilitates access to last mile inside Beira and to various locations such as Buzi, Nhamatanda, Estaquinha and Muanza.
- **Storage:** The Logistics Cluster will facilitate access to common storage services across the following locations:
 - Beira (1,100 m²) - Logistics Cluster Warehouse
 - Chimoio (1,000 m²) - Logistics Cluster Warehouse
 - Buzi (240 m²) - Mobile Storage Unit loaned to IFRC for common use
 - Nhamatanda (240 m²) - Mobile Storage Unit loaned to Concern Worldwide for common use
- 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.

Concept of Operations Map



This Concept of Operations is a live document and the activities will be adapted and revised as the situation unfolds and further assessment results become available, including the possible provision of additional logistics common services as required by the humanitarian community.