

Background

On Saturday 16 April 2016, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck the northern coast of Ecuador. Government reports indicate over six hundred people killed, thousands injured and several thousand displaced. The earthquake caused extensive damage to buildings and infrastructure including electricity, water and other public service supply networks. A state of emergency was declared in the provinces of Esmeraldas, Santo Domingo, Manabí, Guayas, Los Ríos and Santa Elena.

In coordination with the humanitarian community and the Government, the Logistic Sector identified three main gaps for this operation: Coordination, Information Management with GIS support and Temporary Warehousing near the affected areas. Although the Logistics Cluster was not activated, the WFP-led Logistics Sector group has been supporting relief efforts to address these gaps specifically in the areas of Quito, Pedernales and Manta.

Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks

After two months of the emergency operation, the main bottlenecks affecting the humanitarian sector is linked with administrative procedures to clear cargo from ports. Special customs procedures have been implemented, however, further coordination between the humanitarian community and local authorities is required to prevent delays in movement of emergency cargo. To address this gap, the WFP-led Logistics Sector is holding meetings with government authorities and advocating for easier movement of humanitarian cargo.

Objectives

The foremost objective of the Logistics Sector in Ecuador is to support the Government-led response by coordinating with International and National NGOs, the UN system and the Private Sector, in order to optimize logistics efforts in the delivery of the extensive humanitarian assistance.

This objective will be met through execution of the following activities in response to the earthquake:

Coordination:

- The Logistics Sector team holds weekly or bi-weekly sectorial meetings at three strategic locations: Quito, Portoviejo, and Manta; providing a forum for coordination and information exchange between Government, NGOs, INGOs and UN agencies involved in the response.
- WFP, as representative of the Logistic Sector for inter-sectorial meetings ensures representation on decision-making forums and continues to advocate for much needed funding through important coordination initiatives such as OCHA inter-sectorial meetings, flash appeals revisions, donors meetings, etc. To date, the Logistics Sector has led over 21 meetings in all three locations. Minutes of the meetings are all available at the www.logcluster.org website.

Information Management

- Through the dedicated webpage <http://www.logcluster.org/sector/ecu16>, the Logistics Sector continues to provide support to all actors involved in the emergency response by serving as a repository of important information including: minutes for weekly coordination meetings, templates for service request, latest formats provided by the Government for clearance of incoming humanitarian shipments, and registration procedures for NGOs not previously registered in Ecuador.
- Additionally, by facilitating the identification of available transportation options, the Logistics Sector shares information on local transporters, suppliers, etc., to assist organisations in their response to the emergency.

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.

Relevant contact lists are available at:

<http://dlca.logcluster.org/display/public/DLCA/4.2+Ecuador+Contact+Lists> GIS support for producing

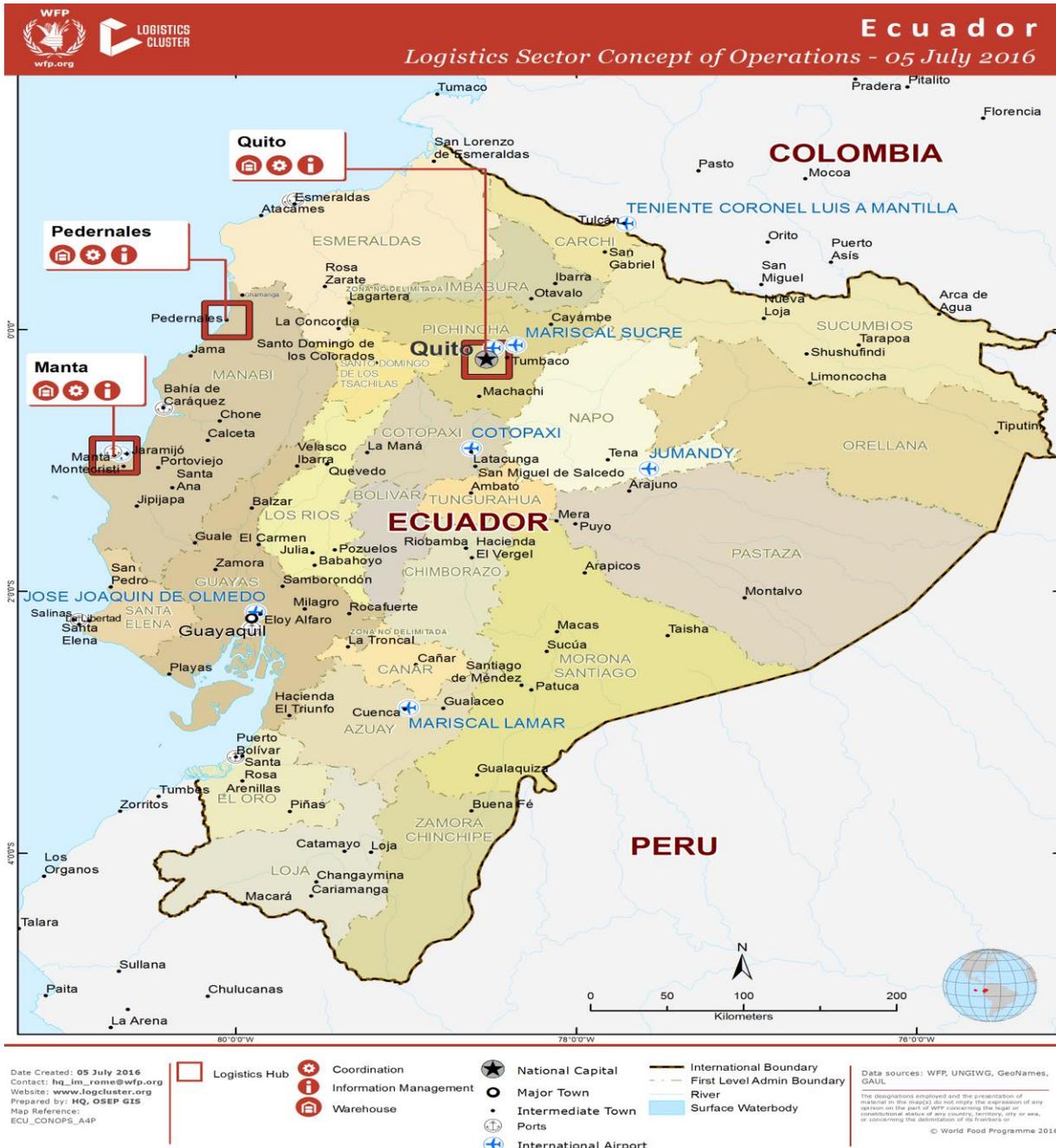
relevant maps is available to organisations upon request.

Logistics Service Facilitation

The services made available by the Logistics Sector are not intended to replace the logistics capacities of organizations, but rather to support the humanitarian community through common services.

Temporary Storage space

- In response to the need for appropriate temporary storage, the Logistics sector set up temporary storage facilities and logistics hubs in strategic locations, on a free-to-user basis, to facilitate the movement of relief cargo to the affected population.
- Support is being provided to the Education, WASH, Shelter and Non Food Items (NFIs), Camp Management, Protection and Health sectors by providing storage space (managed by experienced logistics staff) and office spaces at the following locations:
 - **Pedernales:** Logistics Hub, with two Mobile Storage Units (MSU's) for a total storage capacity of 560 m²
 - **Manta:** Logistics Hub, with two MSUs, for a total storage capacity of 640
 - **Quito:** approximately 3,600 m² of total space at the 'Centro Logístico de Asistencia Humanitaria' (CELAH) located in Tumbaco, Quito – mainly used for incoming air shipments.
- The cargo stored at each of these three locations also relies on the support of the Logistics Sector cargo tracking and reporting tool (RITA). The tool allows dedicated staff to provide users with receipt, dispatch, and existing stock reports – greatly facilitating the management of their pipelines.



As “Provider of Last Resort” (PoLR) WFP, through the Logistics Sector, 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.

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.