Background
The Logistics Cluster has been active in Iraq since 2014 to support the humanitarian community in responding to the country’s ongoing needs. Logistics constraints, mainly caused by limited access, an unstable security situation and damaged/destroyed infrastructure in affected areas, remain a leading cause triggering the need for Logistics Cluster intervention.

Since the operation to retake Mosul began in October 2016, the Logistics Cluster has significantly scaled up activities across the country, mainly in the Ninewa Governorate. During 2017, the cluster extended activities to cover the responses in Telafar, Hawija and West Anbar, and increased its involvement in access and importation issues surrounding the September Kurdish referendum. Moving into 2018, the Logistics Cluster is working to implement a customs project in federal Iraq and conduct intensive logistics trainings aimed at government and national partners, while continuing to enhance the response capacity of the humanitarian community through the provision of coordination, information management and logistics services.

Highlights
- In January, the Logistics Cluster received for storage 1,198 mt, equivalent to 4,284 m³, of humanitarian relief items on behalf of seven organisations. As of 31 January, the Logistics Cluster is facilitating 17,160 m² of common storage space in 6 locations in key operational areas for the use of humanitarian actors in Iraq.
- The Logistics Cluster has been laying the groundwork for a dedicated project to enhance the customs clearance process for shipments entering federal Iraq, particularly through the Baghdad International Airport (BIAP).
- The One Stop Shop (OSS) for customs clearance in the KRI, a joint project between the Logistics Cluster and the Joint Crisis Coordination (JCC) centre, processed 1,058 requests, representing 13,890 mt of humanitarian cargo worth over USD 195 million during its first year of operation. Additionally, the OSS also processed 3,611 access approvals in 2017, allowing 180 organisations to carry out critical humanitarian operations throughout the north of the country.
- The Logistics Cluster conducted a number of missions to western Mosul and the Qayyarah area to gather further access information, including the route and ease of use for the recently opened Fourth Bridge. This bridge is now accessible to vehicles up to 25 mt and is helping to reduce the daily congestion when crossing between the two sides of Mosul.

Coordination & Information Management
- Logistics Cluster coordination meetings were held in Baghdad, Dahuk and Erbil to discuss logistics bottlenecks, share information and develop common solutions for an improved humanitarian response.
- An updated Concept of Operations narrative and map have been published to better reflect the Logistics Cluster operation moving into 2018.
- The Logistics Cluster continues to update the interactive online map outlining key access elements, including border crossing points, inaccessible/alternative routes and bridges.
- A new infographic highlighting the Logistics Cluster achievements over the second half of 2017 is now available here.

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