

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, which caused significant infrastructure damage, interrupting regular supply routes.

Mozambique was hit by a second cyclone on 25 April. Category 4 Tropical Cyclone Kenneth made landfall in Cabo Delgado province, bringing wind speeds of up to 200 km per hour and heavy rains. The cyclone left a trail of destruction in the districts of Quissanga, Macomia and Ibo (the most affected areas), with 90% of infrastructure reported to be severely compromised on Ibo and Matemo islands.

Both cyclones caused significant damages to the logistics infrastructure across the affected areas including warehouses, roads and bridges. According to OCHA, Cyclone Idai left 1.85 million people in need in its wake, and Cyclone Kenneth an additional 374,000, for a total of over 2.2 million people, of which around 2 million were targeted for assistance¹.

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, was requested by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) to provide coordination and information management support, and to facilitate access to common logistics services to assist the humanitarian community in their efforts to deliver life-saving items across affected areas.

With the support and participation of partners, the Logistics Cluster will deactivate and transition to a sector working group co-led by WFP and INGC. This is scheduled to occur by the end of the second quarter of 2019.

Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks

While humanitarian needs remain, the main logistics gaps which were initially identified have been bridged. This is mirrored by a general decline in demand for logistics services due to local service providers and the market being operational again, as well as the reopening of main roads to access affected population. A shift in focus from a solely emergency response towards early recovery, livelihood, resilience modalities has also been registered.

In June 2019, partners in Beira and Pemba reported that the logistics gaps created by the Cyclone Idai and Cyclone Kenneth's passage were bridged, and that logistics services, conditions and constraints had reverted to the situation prior to the cyclones. Following a gap and needs analysis carried out in Beira and Pemba at the beginning of July, key findings suggest that there are no longer common logistics gaps nor bottlenecks, but only partner-specific logistics challenges or issues that can be tackled by improving collaboration and partnership amongst the humanitarian community.

Overall, thanks to an improvement of the situation and as the national structure has enough capacity to meet remaining humanitarian needs in line with humanitarian principles, there are no demonstrated needs to support with coordination and IM activities to respond to the ongoing emergency.

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/mozambique/2018-2019-mozambique-humanitarian-response-plan-revised-following-cyclones-idai>

However, as part of ongoing preparedness and supply chain strengthening efforts moving forward, coordination and IM remain essential to share information and resources, avoid duplication, monitor market rates, and to raise issues on constraints and coordinate agreed solutions to get better prepared to the next emergency. Maintaining and developing links between national humanitarian partners and government counterparts is also necessary to build capacity and understanding of relevant government mechanisms as the international partners gradually phase out.

Objectives

Based on the needs expressed and identified by the humanitarian community, the Logistics Cluster aims to work jointly with humanitarian organisations and relevant government authorities towards shared objectives and activities in view of the Cluster deactivation. This includes the transition of sectorial responsibility such as logistics coordination and information management to a working group led by the Government of Mozambique, and the discontinuing of common logistics services made available during the emergency phase of the response. This will allow for the maintenance of the network of actors involved in humanitarian logistics in Mozambique.

Planned Activities

The following services are being made available to the humanitarian community. They will be adapted and revised as the situation evolves.

1. Coordination and Information Management

Coordination and IM remain essential to enhance supply chain functions of humanitarian actors and ensure responders are better prepared for the next emergency. Coordination aims to avoid duplication of efforts, while information sharing allows stakeholders to access to relevant, up-to-date logistics information to set up an uninterrupted and efficient supply chain.

The following activities will be undertaken:

- With efforts toward capacity building and empowerment of individual organisation as well as government counterparts, coordination and IM activities will transition and be handed over to a logistics working group led by INGC following the deactivation of the cluster, as per IASC cluster coordination reference module requirements.
- A Logistics Cluster Coordinator will be based in Beira until the end of July 2019 to ensure the smooth and effective transition of these core functions to INGC. Specifically, the Coordinator will ensure the implementation of the Logistics Cluster exit strategy, which includes preparedness activities.
- In terms of preparedness, a team of two staff will be recruited to be based in Maputo to support WFP and INGC to:
 - Develop the ToR of the logistics working group;
 - Establish a national forum of discussion for humanitarian responders;
 - Identify national logistics capacity/constraints and possible gaps;
 - Develop a Logistics specific National Plan of Action/Road map to tackle the identified logistics challenges/gaps.

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.

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.

Concept of Operations Map



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