LOCATION: Kathmandu, Nepal
DATE: 24 May 2015

Situation Overview

- Many areas affected by the earthquake remain prone to landslides, which are causing frequent road blockages. Access to many remote villages remains a major challenge, and some locations in the affected area will be cut off once the monsoon season begins.

- Landing permission and customs requirements at Kathmandu airport are returning to pre-emergency procedures.

- Helicopter missions are underway to assess the damage to community trails prior to the start of rehabilitation. These trails will be essential to the planned use of porters for last mile transport.

- The first forward satellite hub in the affected areas is now operational. Another three are underway.

Air Transport and Cargo Handling

Airport and Humanitarian Staging Area

- The flow of cargo through Kathmandu airport has greatly reduced and there is at present little congestion. The majority of humanitarian relief items coming through the airport continue to be processed through the Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA).

- During the first month of the earthquake response, customs procedures and import duties were largely waived for relief items entering the country. As of 26 May, the normal customs requirements are being reinstated. The regulations and procedures surrounding duty exemptions are strict and even if a humanitarian organization has a MoU with the government many items will not fall under waiver. A snapshot on customs procedures for humanitarian cargo entering KTM and the list of government approved relief items will be posted on the Logistics Cluster website at: http://logcluster.org/ops/nepal. The Logistics Cluster is working with the Ministry of Home Affairs to discuss the possibility of fast track procedures.

- Landing permission for humanitarian cargo flights now takes place via the normal procedures for charter planes. A snapshot on these procedures are attached to this Situation Update.

- The US Military has almost completely withdrawn from Nepal, however a team of six remains to assist with incoming humanitarian cargo at the airport. Four of these are forklift drivers who will be facilitating incoming cargo and also providing forklift training to ensure continuing capacity.

- The Canadian Military will be providing assistance on the apron over the next ten days with one 10 mt forklift and two operators.

UNHAS

- The inaccessibility of many of the affected areas means that the humanitarian response in Nepal will remain heavily dependent on airlift for the coming period.

- Following many long hours of work, the helicopter landing zone that will serve the Chautara hub was completed on the night of Wednesday, 20 May. The first helicopter operation from Chautara took place on Thursday, 21 May with four rotations to the villages of Bolde and Lidi in the Sindhupalchok district, where Solidarités International and WFP distributed food, shelter and hygiene kits.

- On 20 May, the AS350 began flying assessment missions out of Deurali and Chautara with the remote

www.logcluster.org/ops/nepal
access operations team for the planning and preparation of trail rehabilitation and porter operations.

- Since the start of air operations on 29 April, UNHAS has flown a total of 329 sorties to 49 destinations, with 482 passengers and 138 mt of cargo.

- A joint assessment mission is being planned between WFP, MedAir and Mission East to assess landing zone options in the northeastern districts prior to cargo flights. The Logistics Cluster is mapping these grid points, landing zones and capacity, and a map is available for download from the Logistics Cluster website.

### Road Access Update

- A landslide occurred in Myagdi district north of its district headquarter Beni, blocking the Kali Gandaki river. The location is at Baisiri in Bhagwati VDC, where up to 26 houses were buried. The government has issued a flood warning and people in the Mustang, Mygadi, Baglung, Parbat, Gulmi, Palpa, Syangja, Tanahu & Nawalparasi districts living near the river have been asked to move to safer locations on higher ground.

- Road access constraints are being mapped by the Logistics Cluster GIS Officer, who is collaborating with various authorities and the DFID/GIZ Risk Management Office for the collation of data. An access map is being updated on a daily basis and is available on the website at: [http://www.logcluster.org/map/nepal-access-constraints](http://www.logcluster.org/map/nepal-access-constraints).

- A large number of the trekking and community trails through the affected areas were damaged or blocked in the earthquake. Following aerial assessments, trail clearing and rehabilitation will begin to support last mile transport. This will be carried out by local workers designated by the wards.

- Mapping of the trails is also underway to facilitate these operations.

### Logistics hubs and storage

- Current total storage capacity offered in country to the humanitarian community amounts to over 7,840 m² in Kathmandu, Dhulikhel, Bharatpur, Deurali (Ghorka district), Chautara (Sindhulpachok district) and Bidur (Nuwakot district).

#### Kathmandu

- The HSA has 8 Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) available for short-term storage for the humanitarian cargo that continues to enter through KTM. The Dhulikel hub, managed by Logistics Cluster partner organisation Handicap International, has an additional 4 MSUs for medium-term capacity.

#### Chautura

- The rough terrain and lack of flat ground available in Sindhulpachok district makes cargo operations in this area particularly difficult. The Chautara forward operating hub was built from the ground up by WFP, as lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, on behalf of the humanitarian community. 4 MSUs are now available for common storage to position cargo for local operations. Air operations began from this hub on May 21 and will continue for the coming period.

#### Deurali

- Five MSUs are operational in Deurali and cargo is currently being stored for 10 different organisations.

#### Bharatpur

- The staging area in Bharatpur has four MSUs in place to handle inbound cargo from India as well as...
Satellite hubs

- Satellite hubs are being established in forward locations to support last mile transport. The first, in Bidur (Nawakot district) is now operational. A further three will be established: One in Dunche (Rasuwa district); one in Dhadinghesi (Dhading district); and one in Charikot (Dolakha district).

- To avail of transport and storage services please note the Service Request Form (SRF) is available at: http://www.logcluster.org/document/nepal-service-request-srf.

Land Transport

- The fleet facilitated by the Logistics Cluster out of the HAS will be reduced in the coming days to fifteen trucks (15 mt capacity) in line with a decrease in demand. Additional capacity can be provided on an ad hoc basis if required.

- Fleets of smaller 4x4 trucks and tractors remain available at the regional logistics hubs (Deurali and Chautara) to provide forward transport into less accessible areas.

- Using porters through the Trekking Association of Nepal and the Nepal Mountaineering Association, a common logistics supply chain is being established to reach people living in otherwise inaccessible villages. These personnel will carry up to 30kg per person at a time in order to reach affected communities. An initial trial run will take place in Dolakha next week and then in Dhading. Trained mountaineers will also be deployed to reach the most remote areas.

Coordination/Information Management/GIS

- Logistics Cluster Cells are in place in Kathmandu, Deurali (Gorkha district) and Chautara (Sindhupalchok district), with regular coordination meetings. Over 207 participants from over 100 organizations have attended Logistics Cluster coordination meetings.

- To support the response operation, an Information Management, GIS, Operation and Cargo Tracking Officers have been deployed to Kathmandu.

- To maximise the use of military air assets in relief activities, the Logistics Cluster has a dedicated Civil / Military Coordinator stationed in Kathmandu airport to facilitate cargo operations and provide logistics support.

- Updated logistics information and maps are shared via the Logistics Cluster Nepal Operation website: http://logcluster.org/ops/nepal and via a dedicated mailing list.

Other Logistics Gaps or Bottlenecks

- Customs issues for all humanitarian organisations may arise over the coming weeks due to the lack of a blanket waiver for relief items and the lengthy process sometimes required to obtain duty exemption. Some humanitarian flights have recently been denied landing permission since certain items (ie. tools for road repairs) were not on the list of approved humanitarian goods.

- A number of organisations have reported problems with police escorts directing their trucks arriving from India to the Nepal Transit Warehouse Corporation, causing delays and issues for consignees to retrieve their cargo. Organisations have been invited to share such cases with the Logistics Cluster so that this problem can be raised with government counterparts.
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