LOCATION: Kathmandu, Nepal
DATE: 31 March 2016

Situation Overview

- According to the Government of Nepal, close to 9,000 fatalities resulted from the 25 April and 12 May 2015 earthquakes that destroyed 602,592 and damaged 284,482 houses.

- In the six months following the 25 April earthquake, the overall humanitarian situation in Nepal is reported to have improved. The frequency of aftershocks decreased, and the country slowly began to move towards recovery and reconstruction. However, a number of factors led to the need for the extension of the Logistics Cluster’s phase-out date from 31 December 2015 to 30 April 2016. Factors included:
  - **Fuel crisis:** The shortage of fuel and essential commodities in the country, since the end of September, negatively affected the activities of the whole humanitarian community. Many organisations continued to access the Logistics Cluster service facilities through the critical winter months of January and February, as the fuel crisis had delayed their winterisation aid distributions.
  - **Winterisation plans:** The Logistics Cluster services proved to be crucial in supporting organisations to provide relief items to the earthquake-affected people, so that they could better withstand cold winter weather.
  - **Border crossing:** The volatile security situation in the south of the country hampered the movement of trucks across the border with India. The uncertainty of the situation required constant monitoring and guidance from the Logistics Cluster.

- Currently, the humanitarian situation has improved, significantly reducing humanitarian needs and therefore the associated response and coordination gaps. According to the most recent data released by the Logistics Cluster on service utilization, there is no need for further extending the Logistics Cluster operation in Nepal after the current extension date – 30 April 2016:
  - The organisations’ winterisation plans were completed at the end of February.
  - The percentage of requests for the Logistics Cluster Service has decreased by 88% from 1 January to 29 March: during the week 21-29 March the Logistics Cluster received zero requests for storage and four requests for transport from three organisations.
  - Birgunj border point reopened on 5 February and the fuel situation in the country has improved. The number of requests for fuel from the organizations has decreased to less than three requests per week.
  - Organisations in need for logistics support can be assisted by WFP, on a full cost recovery basis plus administrative fees, after the Logistics Cluster closure, as the Logistics Cluster acts as “provider of last resort” in emergencies.

www.logcluster.org/ops/nepal
Customs and Entry Points

**Customs**

- Organisations can apply to receive duty exemption on importation of relief and recovery items, which are included in the following government-approved list: [http://www.logcluster.org/document/government-approved-list-humanitarian-relief-items-nepal](http://www.logcluster.org/document/government-approved-list-humanitarian-relief-items-nepal)
- To receive duty exemption, organisations should obtain a letter of recommendation from the relevant Ministry, which will be then submitted to the Ministry of Finance. If approved, the Ministry of Finance will then issue a letter to the relevant Customs Office granting a tax waiver.
- The duty reduction from 30% to 15% for importing Corrugated Galvanised Iron (CGI) sheets is still active.
- Organisations with the official documentation for relief items held at customs were invited to come to the Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) so that the Logistics Cluster government liaison focal point can provide support in the release process. Items will then be dispatched in coordination with the government to the affected areas.

**Entry points**

- Currently, all Nepal-India border points remain unobstructed.
- Organisations facing issues with trucks/containers being held at the border with India can contact the Logistics Cluster for assistance.

**Air**

- As of 31 December, UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) ceased operations in Nepal.
- Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) operations will continue until 21 April 2016.

**Logistics hubs and storage**

- The Logistics Cluster teams have officially started the hubs decommissioning process on 15 February. The current Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) dismantling process is approximately 50% completed.
  - Dhading (Dhading Besi District) and Bidur (Nuwakot District) hubs were handed over from Handicap International and they are now closed.
  - Charikot (Dholaka District) and Bharatpur (Chitwan District) hubs will be closed by 30 April.
  - Chautara (Sindupalchowk District) and Deurali (Gorkha District) hubs will remain active after the closure of the Logistics Cluster and they will continue to offer storage space on cost recovery (plus 4.5% administrative fees).
  - The Kathmandu Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) is currently due upgrading and re-construction as part of the Emergency Preparedness and Response project (EPR). The new structure will include a logistics operation centre, a workshop, a fuel station, a prefab village designed to withstand earthquakes, toilets and showers, among other assets. The HSA storage facilities won’t be available in the months of May and June. WFP will be able to offer long term storage facilities again from July onwards, on a cost recovery basis (plus 4.5% administrative fees).
Dhulikel (Kabhrepalanchok District) hub will remain operational for other three months after the Logistics Cluster closure, as it is being used to strategically pre-position dismantled assets.

- The Logistics Cluster will continue to accept requests for short-term storage until 18 April. All goods will be removed from the hubs by 25 April, except from Chautara and Deurali platforms that will remain active after the closure of the Logistics Cluster on 30 April.

- Current total storage capacity offered in country to the humanitarian community amounts to 6,080 m² in Kathmandu, Deurali (Gorkha District), Chautara (Sindhulpachok District), Bharatpur (Chitwan), Dhulikhel (Kabhrepalanchok District) and Charikot (Dolakha District).

**Kathmandu**

- The Humanitarian Staging Area has five Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) for a storage capacity of 640 m² available for short-term storage for humanitarian cargo.

**Dhulikhel**

- Dhulikhel hub was officially handed over from Handicap International on 15 February, however, the hub is still operational with two MSUs and a storage capacity of 640 m².

**Chautara**

- Three MSUs, with a storage capacity of 960 m² are available for common storage to position cargo for local operations. Due to the rough terrain of this location, no additional space is available to increase storage capacity.

**Deurali**

- Four MSUs with a storage capacity of 1,600 m², as well as outside storage, are available.

**Charikot**

- One MSU with a storage capacity of 320 m² is available.

**Bharatpur**

- The staging area in Bharatpur has seven MSUs in place, for a total storage capacity of 1,920 m², to handle inbound cargo from India, as well as to provide additional storage capacity for the operation.

- All MSUs in Bharatpur will be dismantled by 8 April. A UNHRD training on camp installation/dismantling and warehouse management will be held in this platform from 4 to 8 April. Participants, including WFP selected hubs managers and Rapid Response Team staff, Government entities and organisations will be exposed to a wide range of practical assignments through this on-the-job training.

- To access all common transport and storage services, a Service Request Form (SRF) is available at: [http://www.logcluster.org/document/nepal-service-request-srf](http://www.logcluster.org/document/nepal-service-request-srf) For service requests for storage and transport for Kathmandu as well as for the hubs, a Service Request Form has to be submitted to nepal.clustercargo@wfp.org

**Road Access**

**Cargo Handling services**

- Road transport with both origin and destination will continue to be provided on a free-to-user basis until the closure of the operation on 30 April from Kathmandu Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) to Ramechap and Okhaldunga and from the hubs of other three priority districts - Gorkha, Sindhupalchok and Dolakha - to final destinations.
• Road transport outside of the above-mentioned priority districts can be provided by WFP on a full cost-recovery basis.

• The Logistics Cluster continues to monitor the status of the roads in coordination with the government’s Risk Management Office. An Access Constraint map is regularly updated by the Logistics Cluster’s GIS officer and posted on http://logcluster.org/ops/nepal

Trail Access

- In the framework of the Remote Access Operation (RAO), trail rehabilitation and last mile transport to otherwise inaccessible and high altitude locations is being provided in the six districts of Gorkha, Sindhupalchok, Dolakha, Dhading, Rasuwa and Okhaldunga.

- RAO will continue to facilitate transport services until the end of July.

- This operation is designed to complement ongoing road and air transport. The overall goal of this project is not only to provide immediate essential supplies to sustain local communities through the monsoon season, but also to help quake-stricken areas recover faster re-establishing access to isolated communities.

- When moving cargo through RAO, a single SRF specifying the origin and destination points has to be submitted, including both the initial road part to the start of the trail and the RAO leg. Logistics Cluster will coordinate the transfer between the two transport modalities.

- When submitting SRFs, detailed information including exact weight and size of the relief items, and GPS coordinates for the final location of the deliveries, should be provided. Writing only the name of the Village Development Committee (VDC) is not sufficient.

- Organisations are responsible for cargo re-bagging or special bagging (e.g. cement and Corrugated Galvanised Iron (CGI) sheets) for RAO transport, ensuring that the maximum load of 30 kg for porters and 60 kg for pack animals is respected.

- Organisations’ staff should be present at the RAO transit point to ensure proper re-bagging, and for documentation purposes.

- RAO will focus its activities on trail operations in the following months, unless it receives requests from organisations for remote transport operations.

Coordination/Information Management/GIS

- The Logistics Cluster is in charge of prioritisation of interagency cargo according to the list of priorities approved by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), in accordance with the mandate of the common services.
  - Sectors in order of priority: 1) Shelter, 2) Food, 3) Health, 4) WASH, 5) Education (emergency components only), 6) Nutrition (emergency components only).
  - Sectors in terms of percentage of cargo to be transported (planned target): Shelter 50%, Food 40%, Other Sectors 10%.
  - Geographic coverage: hard-to-reach areas of Gorkha, Dhading, Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Sindhupalchowk, Dolakha, Okhaldunga and Ramechap and areas adjacent to these districts.

- The last Nepal Logistics Cluster Meeting was held in Kathmandu on 29 March.
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.

**Lessons Learned mission**

- A Logistics Cluster Lessons Learned mission was in country at the end of September. Several meetings were held with key stakeholders to receive feedback on the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of the support provided by Logistics Cluster to the humanitarian community.
- A Logistics Cluster Lessons Learned Report was released in January and it is available at: http://www.logcluster.org/document/logistics-clusternepallessons-learned-reportjanuary-2016

**Logistics Cluster Exit Strategy**

- Currently, there is no need for further extending the Logistics Cluster services in Nepal. All Logistics Cluster activities will be terminated by 30 April 2016.
- The next phase of WFP emergency response in Nepal will be centered around the Emergency Preparedness and Response Special Operation. Through the EPR, WFP seeks to:
  - Implement projects across the spectrum of emergency preparedness and response;
  - Help the Government of Nepal to build long-term disaster resilience;
  - Cater for pre-positioning and storage needs to respond quickly to future potential disasters;
  - Co-locate key partners in WFP’s platforms, including Government entities;
  - Provide opportunities for an integrated logistics approach to any response;
  - Disseminate know-how among partners and military/government officials on emergency preparedness/response and humanitarian staging area/hubs management, among other contexts, in line with corporate strategies, policies and priorities.
- Organisations that are interested in sharing WFP EPR assets after the closure of the Logistics Cluster, including long-term storage facilities and office space, should provide information on where they are working, what logistics infrastructure they possess and what type of items they are pre-positioning or holding for future response. They can contact the project Focal Point, Dorothy Hector, at dorothy.hector@wfp.org

**Contacts:**

**National**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter Donovan</td>
<td>National Logistics Cluster Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Peter.donovan@wfp.org">Peter.donovan@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richie Bhattarai</td>
<td>Hub Manager</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Richie.bhattarai@wfp.org">Richie.bhattarai@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleonora Ponti</td>
<td>Information Management Officer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Eleonora.ponti@wfp.org">Eleonora.ponti@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy Hector</td>
<td>EPR Project Focal Point</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Dorothy.hector@wfp.org">Dorothy.hector@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

www.logcluster.org/ops/nepal
Regional

Nang Shri

Jemima Ndege

Regional Coordinator, Gorkha District  Nang.shri@wfp.org
Regional Coordinator, Sindhupalchok and Dholaka districts  jemima.ndege@wfp.org

www.logcluster.org/ops/nepal