Operation Overview as of 6 August 2015

The Logistics Cluster, when activated in an emergency, is responsible for providing logistics coordination, information management and, where there is a gap in logistics infrastructure, WFP, as lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, acts as a ‘Provider of Last Resort’ by offering common logistics services to support the humanitarian community in their response operations.

Logistics Coordination, Information Management and GIS

- The Logistics Cluster was formally activated in Nepal on 27 April.
- Logistics Cluster Cells have been established in Kathmandu, Deurali, Chautara and Dhading Besi. Meetings are held on a regular basis in all locations in order to maximise the use of available resources, avoid duplication of efforts and allow an uninterrupted flow of relief material.
- Information is disseminated on a daily basis both through the mailing list of organisations on the ground and via the Logistics Cluster website: http://logcluster.org/ops/nepal.
- To date, 178 Information Management (IM) products have been published, and 17,071 unique users have visited the site, producing 20,812 page views. 783 users are currently subscribed to the dedicated Nepal mailing list.
- The Logistics Cluster has a dedicated GIS officer able to take requests from the humanitarian community for logistics mapping. Relevant maps are available for download on the Logistics Cluster website, including a road access map, a map of helicopter landing zones to assist air operations, and district trekking trail maps to facilitate porter operations and repairs.
- From the start of the operation, the Logistics Cluster established regular coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) to avoid logistics bottlenecks, and a representative has been made available in Kathmandu, to advise the humanitarian community on customs procedures.
- As of 06 August, over 270 participants from around 130 organisations have attended coordination meetings in Kathmandu, Deurali, Chautara and Dhading Besi.

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**Storage**

- Current total storage capacity offered in country to the humanitarian community amounts to 9,640 m² in Kathmandu, Deurali (Ghorka District), Chautara (Sindhulpachok District), Bharatpur (Chitwan District), Dhulikhel (Kabhrepalanchok District), Bidur (Nuwakot District), Dunche (Rasuwa District), Charikot (Dolakha District) and Dhading Besi (Dhading District).

**Humanitarian Staging Area - Kathmandu**

- As part of the Logistics Response Plan drafted in 2013, WFP, as lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, established a Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) as a contingency plan in the event of a natural disaster. This avoids congestion at the main entry points of affected areas and eases the flow of life-saving commodities during large-scale relief operations. Eight Mobile Storage Units (MSUs), with a total storage capacity of 2,640 m², are currently operational at this site.

- A storage facility in Dhulikhel (Kavre District) has been established to increase HSA capacity and offers longer-term storage for international air shipments before onward movement. Four MSUs, with a total storage capacity of 1,280 m², are currently operational at this site. The hub is managed by Handicap International on behalf of the humanitarian community.

- 11 MSUs have been provided to organisations and the Nepal government to assist with their logistics operations.

- To date, a total of 43,391 m³ (17,205 mt) of cargo has been handled through the Logistics Cluster on behalf of 139 different organisations.
Regional Logistics Hubs

- Staging areas and logistics hubs have been established at strategic locations in the affected areas where the road infrastructure still allows access by larger trucks, and which can also support local air operations to hard-to-access locations.

These hubs currently include:

- Chautara (Sindhupalchok District) - 4 MSUs - 1,120 m² storage capacity;
- Deurali (Gorkha District) - 5 MSUs - 1,920 m² storage capacity;
- Bharatpur (Chitwan District) - 4 MSUs - 1,280 m² storage capacity;
- Bidur (Nuwakot district) - 1 MSU - 320 m² storage capacity - Managed in collaboration with Handicap International;
- Dunche (Rasuwa District) - 1 MSU - 280 m² storage capacity - Managed in collaboration with Handicap International;
- Charikot (Dolakha District) - 2 MSUs - 480 m² storage capacity - Managed in collaboration with Plan International;
- Dhading Besi (Dhading District) – 1 MSU – 320 m² storage capacity - Managed in collaboration with Plan International.

Road Transport

- Over 3,600 truckloads have been dispatched from Kathmandu, Deurali and Chautara.
- The Logistics Cluster maintains a fleet of 10 trucks to provide common cargo transport from Kathmandu to the hubs and affected areas. Light transportation (3 mt trucks and tractors) are in use at the forward hubs. Additional ad-hoc capacity can be provided when required.
- Plans to ensure that all hubs have local transport capacities are on-going. Trucks will be locally recruited.
Air Transport

- Given the peculiar geographical conformation of Nepal, air transport remains the only option to reach many of the most remote areas of the country. The Logistics Cluster coordinates cargo movement requests to be transported by UNHAS. Prioritisation for airlifts is taking place under the list of priorities established by the Humanitarian Country Team and the Humanitarian Coordinator in accordance with the mandate of the common services.

- Current UNHAS assets include two AS350 helicopters for assessment missions and evacuations (max 4 passengers) and four Mi8 helicopters (2-2.5 mt cargo capacity) for cargo transport. The demand for air cargo transportation remains high, especially for the movement of Corrugated Galvanised Iron (CGI) in order to respond to pressing shelter needs in the areas affected by the earthquake and inaccessible by road. Moreover, assessment missions continue for the identification of potential landing zones in remote areas.

- Due to the high demand of air transport for both cargo and passengers, UNHAS has been flying seven days a week since the beginning of the operation.

- Despite the fact that with the monsoon season adverse weather conditions continue to result in delays and cancellations of flights, since the beginning of the operations on 29 April and 3 August, UNHAS has carried out a total of 2,863 sorties to 139 different locations; 1,457 mt of cargo have been transported on behalf of 135 organisations.
Remote Access Operation (RAO)

- In the framework of the Remote Access Operation (RAO), that is providing last mile transport into otherwise inaccessible and high altitude locations, the goal of the Logistics Cluster is not only to provide essential supplies to the most remote locations in Nepal, many of which lie above the altitude of helicopter access, but also to rehabilitate the main artery trails that remain the lifeline of these communities, thus swiftly reopening market access. The operation will not only provide immediate essential supplies to sustain people through the monsoon season that has now begun, but also to provide livelihood support and help move these stricken areas towards recovery much faster than could otherwise take place.

- The districts currently targeted by RAO are Gorkha, Dhading, Rasuwa, Sindhupalchok and Dolakha. If necessary, and based upon logistical and trail conditions, Sulkhumbu District could also become part of the operation.

- WFP, as lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, is working with the Trekking Agencies’ Association in Nepal (TAAN) and the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) to mobilize porters in order to reach people living in the most remote affected areas. Using up to 20,000 porters (approximately 4,000 in each of the five target districts) a common logistics supply chain is being established to bring food, shelter, sanitary health and medical supplies to population in need, living in villages located above the altitude of road access or in areas with a lack of safe landing zones. These skilled personnel are carrying up to 30 Kg per person at a time, to strategic locations along the main trekking trails. The porters are being supported with pack animals where local conditions permit it.

- As of 6 August:
  - 10,054 people are currently employed by RAO.
  - 376 Km (109 Trails) have been rehabilitated in Dolakha (19), Sindhupalchok (6), Rasuwa (1), Dhading (81) and Gorkha (2).
  - 211 km (66 Trails) are currently under rehabilitation in Sindhupalchok (11), Gorkha (1) and Dhading (54).
  - 256 mt of cargo has been delivered: 170 mt of which were food items and 85 mt Non-Food Items (NFIs).