

## **BACKGROUND**

The severe drought spanning over four consecutive poor rainy seasons has severely aggravated the humanitarian crisis in Somalia, and the fragility of livelihoods remains elevated. Humanitarian needs are on the rise due to insufficient rain, ongoing conflict, large-scale displacement and lack of access to basic services.

The operating environment in Somalia remains one of the most hazardous in the world. Regular and sustained access to the most affected areas represents a challenge due to conflict, insecurity and deteriorated infrastructure. Severe access constraints have a direct impact on the ability of the humanitarian community to efficiently and effectively deliver humanitarian relief to populations in need. The logistics capacity among national actors also remains limited, resulting in a lower ability to mitigate, prepare and respond to emergencies and shocks.

Ground level transport has been increasingly hampered, leaving the humanitarian sector with limited options to deliver life-saving cargo by road to displaced people across the country. Air services are the only alternative to deliver relief to locations that cannot be accessed by road, conduct assessment missions and identify the needs in the affected regions. Access by sea is the most viable option to preposition high volumes of humanitarian supplies in the country, delivering to the few functional Somali ports.

## **LOGISTICS GAPS AND BOTTLENECKS**

The humanitarian community is facing strategic challenges, impeding its ability to respond efficiently. The main challenges are as follows:

- Insecurity and humanitarian access: Access, safe passage, delivery and distribution of humanitarian relief to the affected population and Internally Displaced People (IDPs) is severely limited and the movement of personnel and humanitarian cargo is restricted due to the overall volatile security situation and the presence of armed non-state actors in particular. The key road transport routes are affected, which forces humanitarian agencies to re-route cargo to various ports and use coastal transshipments.
- Some key operational areas are only accessible by air and some areas are completely inaccessible.
- The general insecurity is disrupting commercial operations and preventing traders and transporters from fully carrying out their normal activities, resulting in limited services and high prices.
- Mainly inadequate and outdated logistics infrastructure is available in the affected regions, which restricts the ability to effectively execute operations.

## **LOGISTICS CLUSTER ACTIVITIES**

The Logistics Cluster aims to facilitate, coordinate, and ensure delivery of life saving humanitarian assistance to the populations in need in the most-affected regions of Somalia. In order to address bottlenecks and gaps, the Logistics Cluster partners are working closely together, by sharing information and resources in terms of logistics assets. WFP, as the lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, is facilitating this process and ensuring the provision of common services on a cost-recovery basis. The Logistics Cluster is engaging in the following activities:

### **1. Logistics Coordination:**

The Logistics Cluster provides essential coordination to mitigate duplication of efforts by humanitarian actors and maximise the use of available logistics assets and resources. The coordination activities include:

- Regular coordination meetings in Mogadishu and Nairobi;
- Identification of humanitarian and commercial operators' logistics capacity in Somalia;
- Coordination with other clusters, relevant organisations and entities, also through Inter Cluster Working Group (ICWG) Meetings.

### **2. Information Management:**

The Logistics Cluster provides information management support with the aim of enhancing operational decision making and, therefore, the overall logistics response efficiency. The information management activities include:

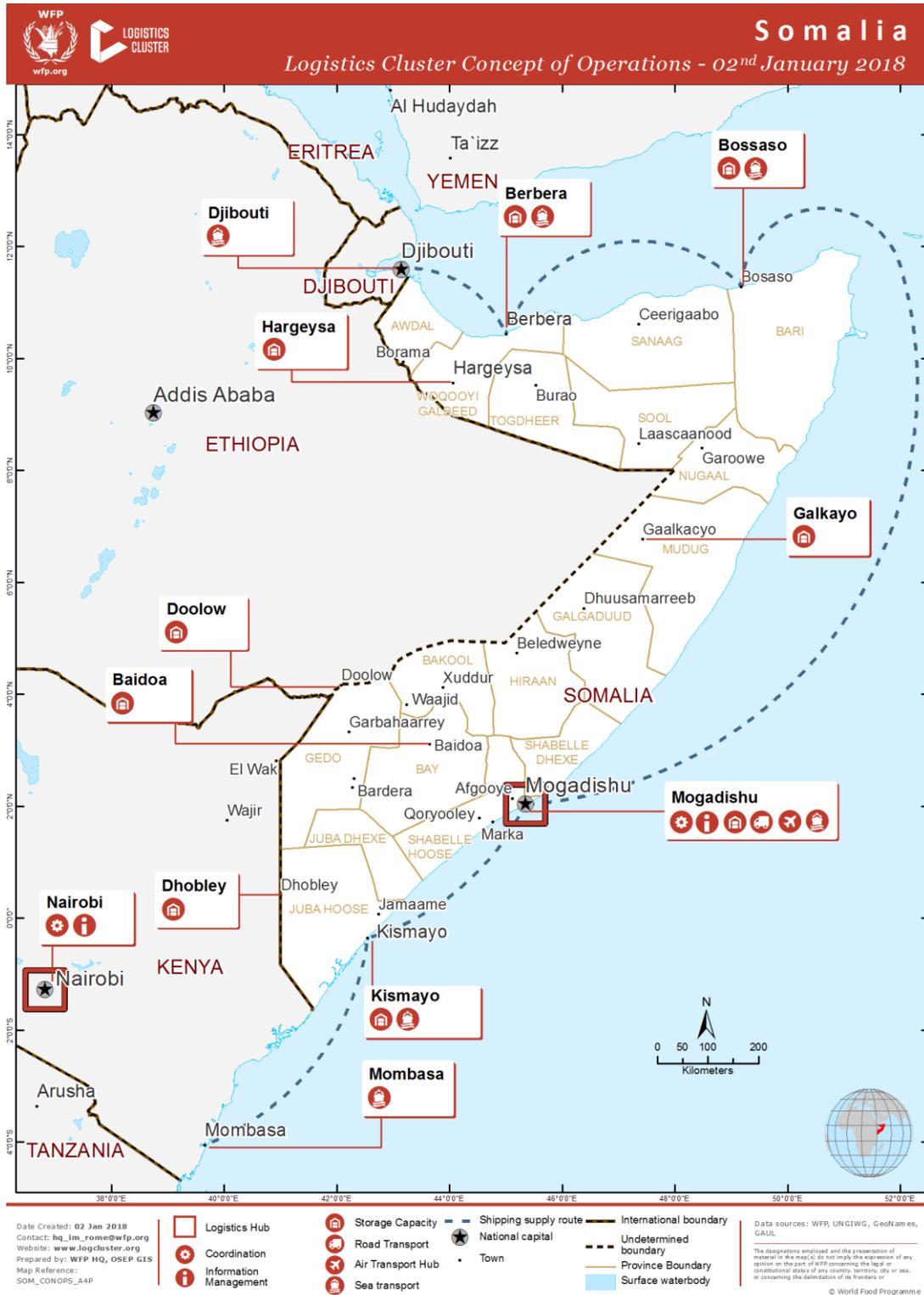
- Assessment missions to key locations in order to identify logistics gaps and bottlenecks;
- Provision of information on common services (such as warehousing, transport etc.) in cases where logistics gaps/bottlenecks exist;
- Rapid dissemination of strategic logistics information and guidance to organisations;
- Consolidation of information on the overall logistics humanitarian response, including gaps and bottlenecks;
- Provision of logistics infrastructure Geographic Information Systems/mapping tools and products;
- Provision of updated information on operational data through the publication of route accessibility maps, supplier/transporter lists, situation updates, meeting minutes, snapshots, flash news and briefings to be shared with partners via a mailing list and a dedicated [webpage](#).

### 3. Common Logistics Services

The Logistics Cluster provides common logistics services intended to fill the identified logistics gaps in the humanitarian supply chain and complement the response of the humanitarian community. Services are not intended to replace the logistics capacities of individual partners. The common logistics services, facilitated on a cost-recovery basis, include:

- **Storage:** Safe and common storage available in nine locations throughout Somalia on request. Common storage services include consolidation, storage and dispatch of aid cargo on behalf of the humanitarian community. Temperature-controlled storage service is available in Mogadishu.
- **Air Transport:** Through and in collaboration with WFP and UNHAS, air transportation service provision is available from Mogadishu to locations throughout Somalia, destinations can be identified upon request.
- **Road Transport:** Facilitation of road transportation services between key strategic locations is available upon request.
- **Sea Transport:** Cargo shipping services are available via vessel on a regular basis from Mombasa to the main Somali ports.

**Note:** The Government of Somalia is receiving bilateral donations for the drought response. The Logistics Cluster remains available to facilitate storage and/or transport of these aid items on behalf of the government on a free-to-user basis when possible, funding and access permitting.



*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.*