Background

The outbreak of COVID-19 in Somalia and the surrounding region has accelerated humanitarian needs in Somalia and caused severe access constraints for humanitarian cargo and staff to meet these. This has been compounded by severe flooding which has affected almost one million people, and displaced over 400,000, disrupting critical infrastructure. At the same time the country is experiencing the worst desert locust upsurge in 25 years.

This ‘triple threat’ emergency has accelerated the urgency of humanitarian assistance reaching Somalis in need. As many key roads have been rendered impassable, air transport is the most effective and rapid viable way of delivering relief items.

To support the humanitarian community The Logistics Cluster was reactivated in Somalia on 26 April. As captured in its Concept of Operations, the Logistics Cluster is facilitating coordination, information management and common logistics services – air, sea and road transport, as well as storage facilities in 10 locations – on behalf of the humanitarian community.

Access Overview:

- Ports remain operational (Mombasa, Djibouti, and ports within Somalia: Mogadishu, Kismayo, Berbera, Bossaso).
- The Ethiopia-Somalia and Kenya-Somalia borders remain closed for commercial entities, however the Ethiopia-Somaliland border (Berbera corridor to Ethiopia) remains open for WFP.
- Key airports remain open for cargo but continue to be closed to passenger flights; Hargeisa airport remains open for passengers flying with Ethiopian Airlines to Addis Ababa. Abudwak airport remains closed for refurbishment until the end of June – flights scheduled for Abudwak are being redirected to Dhushamareb.

Key Highlights

COVID-19 Response

- The Logistics Cluster, jointly with UNHAS, has been supporting the transportation of Ministry of Health (MoH) medical teams, blood samples and COVID-19 medical supplies to key locations across Somalia. From end of May to mid-June, over 36 flights carrying 300 passengers and 20 MT of cargo flew to locations including Dollow, Beletwyne, Afmadow, Bardera, Kismayo, Galkayo, Guriel, Burte Bulo, Dhushamareb, Hudur and Garbaharey.
- In addition to these joint passenger and cargo movements, the Logistics Cluster continues to facilitate dedicated cargo airlifts on behalf of the MoH, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), WHO and key health partners upon request. Over 24 MT have been dispatched Dhusamareb, Kismayo, Baidoa, Jowar, Hargeisa, Beletwyene, Garowe, Guriel and Barawe.
- The Logistics Cluster has also been supporting the MoH and OPM develop and manage an easy-to-use tool for tracking COVID-19 donations, stocks, and dispatches.

Floods Response

- The Logistics Cluster has been facilitating the air transportation of essential cargo such as essential infrastructure and medical
items such as hospital beds and tents to affected locations across the country to support the flood response. In May during the sudden onset phase of the response, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the transportation of over 7 MT of sandbags, donated by UNSOS to the Government of Somalia, to Beletweyne – one of the areas most severely affected by flooding.

- Over 80 MT have been transported on behalf of five organisations (OPM/MoH, Gredo, UNHCR, IOM, MOHADM) to Baidoa, Beletweyne, El Berde, Dollow, Hobyo and Jowhar.

- The Logistics Cluster is currently facilitating the air transportation of 300 Refugee Housing Units (RHUs) on behalf of UNHCR. So far 90 RHUs have been transported to Dollow. Additional airlifts are planned for this weekend to Baidoa.

**Logistics Services**

The Logistics Cluster is facilitating the provision of air, road and sea transport, as well as storage, shunting and handling services, on behalf of the humanitarian community in Somalia.

- **Air Transport:** For both the COVID-19 and Floods Response, the Logistics Cluster is prioritising the coordination of airlifts - from Nairobi (Kenya) and Mogadishu to locations throughout Somalia, as well as facilitating the transport of cargo arriving at the COVID-19 regional hub in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) upon request; and plans to expand airlift capacity and frequency as soon as sufficient resources become available. The Logistics Cluster has been facilitating access to helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft, through both UNHAS and commercial providers, enabling humanitarian partners to deliver urgent cargo to areas inaccessible by road.

- **Road Transport:** Where possible, the Logistics Cluster is facilitating the provision of road transport to ensure that relief items are able to reach affected populations. In cases where destination airports are non-operational, the Logistics Cluster has been diverting cargo to operational airports and then coordinating the onward transportation of the cargo by road.

- **Sea Transport:** The Logistics Cluster is coordinating the sharing of the updated schedule, as well as available space for inter-agency cargo, on the WFP time-chartered vessel MV Juist; due to arrive in Mogadishu on 20 June stopping at Djibouti and Berbera. Partners will continue to be kept informed of any updates to the vessel’s Voyage 11 and 12.

**Coordination & Information Management**

- The Logistics Cluster holds bi-weekly Coordination Meetings, regularly attended by around 30 organisations. The Meeting Minutes are published on the Somalia Operation page – those from the Meeting on 9 June may be found here. The next Cluster Meeting is scheduled for 23 June 2020.

- In order to keep partners informed of the latest road access updates, the Logistics Cluster has produced a Map of Flood-Affected Roads which is updated on a regular basis. The latest Map, as of 18 June, may be found here.
• For photos of the Somalia operation, check out the photo gallery on the country page https://logcluster.org/ops/som20a.

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