

## Background

Since the beginning of the crisis in 2011, ongoing fighting and widespread insecurity have continued to fuel largescale displacements, increase vulnerabilities and constrain humanitarian access across the country. According to the 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), over 11 million people – half of the Syrian population pre-crisis – have been uprooted from their homes. Of these, 6.3 million are internally displaced, some have been displaced multiple times. The humanitarian community now estimates that 13.5 million people in Syria are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. This includes 4.9 million civilians who are living in hard to reach areas where sustained humanitarian programming is either impossible or extremely difficult.

The scale of the humanitarian crisis continues to require a large-scale, sustained and comprehensive response from the humanitarian community to provide the affected population with critical cross-sectoral assistance.

As a streamlined effort to enhance coordination and operational capacity among the humanitarian actors active in Syria and enhance the effectiveness of the overall response, through the provision of a set of tailored logistics services, the WFP-led Logistics Cluster was activated in Syria in January 2013.

The Logistics Cluster currently facilitates access to crucial logistics services for all operations across the region, including surface and air transportation, contingency fuel provision and storage, cross-border transshipment services, and warehousing. In September 2014, the Whole of Syria (WoS) approach was adopted as a result of the UN Security Council Resolution 2165, bringing together regional separate operations (Turkey, Jordan and Syria) into a single framework

## Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks

Access and security constraints remain the largest impediments faced by the humanitarian community in reaching vulnerable communities with life-saving relief supplies inside Syria.

In particular the Logistics Cluster, together with the partnering organisations, has identified the following logistics gaps:

- Restrictions on movement of humanitarian cargo and need to increase Inter-Agency Humanitarian Convoys to reach the most difficult-to-access locations in Syria as well as common transport services.
- Need for the coordination of cross-border transshipment services (from Jordan and Turkey to Syria).
- Limited storage capacity for prepositioning across Syria.
- Lack of a reliable fuel supply chain.
- Need for coordination and circulation of logistics information.
- Increasing need for dedicated logistics training.

## Objectives

Based on the needs identified, the Logistics Cluster aims to provide the humanitarian community with facilitated access to sufficient and reliable logistics services and consolidated information related to logistics capacities, to

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ensure timely and uninterrupted supply of life saving relief items to affected populations in Syria and enhance the capacity of the humanitarian community to deliver relief items to challenging locations.

## Planned Activities

As lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, WFP fills in the logistics gaps faced by the humanitarian community in responding to the Syria Crisis through a range of different support services and activities.

The following range of activities and services are not intended to replace the logistics capacities of individual agencies or organisations, but rather to fill identified gaps by facilitating the provision of common services.

Based on the above, the following list, neither definitive nor exhaustive, aims to mitigate these gaps.

Services will be facilitated to support the Whole of Syria (WoS) approach and the Logistics Cluster will adapt its activities and capacities in neighboring countries as required.

### **1. To provide logistics services (inclusive of surface and air transportation, transshipment, contingency fuel storage and warehousing) to humanitarian organizations responding to the Syria crisis**

**1.1 Access and security permitting, the following services will be provided on a no-cost-to-user basis, dependent on the availability of funds:**

#### **Within Syria:**

- Storage:

Common warehouse facilities with over 14,000 m<sup>2</sup> of storage space have been established in five locations: Kisweh and Sehnaya (Rural Damascus), Lattakia, Tartous, Homs, and Qamishly to facilitate onward movement to further destinations. Additional Storage space and locations might be provided if/as required.

- Inter-Agency Humanitarian Convoys:

Coordination, together with OCHA and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), of Inter-Agency Humanitarian Convoys to hard to reach and besieged locations within Syria.

- Emergency airlifts

Airlifts will be considered for inter-agency critical and life-saving items when no other option to reach the most inaccessible areas is available.

*For all the aforementioned logistics services, interested organisations are required to provide a completed Service Request Form (SRF) available [here](#), and submit it to [syria.clustercargo@wfp.org](mailto:syria.clustercargo@wfp.org) to be considered for any transport or storage service.*

#### **Jordan:**

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- Coordination support for cross-border operations from Jordan into southern Syria through Ar-Ramtha (Jordan) crossing point under Security Council Resolutions 2165/2191/2258 and most recently 2332.

Transshipment operations are supervised by the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism (UNMM).

*For coordination support in Jordan, interested organisations are required to provide a completed Service Request Form (SRF) available [here](#), and submit it to [jordan.clustercargo@wfp.org](mailto:jordan.clustercargo@wfp.org).*

#### **Turkey:**

- The Logistics Cluster set up two transshipment hubs in Turkey at Bab al Hawa and at Bab al Salam to avoid congestion at the border and ensure the quick transfer and delivery of humanitarian cargo. In Turkey, UN agencies and their partners arrange for their cargo to be trucked from load points to the transshipment hubs. Agencies arrange for Syrian-based trucks to come to the transshipment points where WFP, as the lead agency for the Logistics Cluster, is responsible for transferring the cargo from Turkish trucks to Syrian trucks inside the transshipment zone.

Transshipment operations are supervised by UNMM.

*For transshipment services, interested organisations are required to provide a completed Service Request Form (SRF) available [here](#), and submit it to [turkey.clustercargo@wfp.org](mailto:turkey.clustercargo@wfp.org) to be considered for any transport service.*

#### **1.2 The following services will be also provided by WFP on a cost-recovery basis:**

- Land transport to secure and accessible places that can be reached by private fleet trucks. (Partners are required to provide a completed SRF available [here](#) and submit it to [syria.clustercargo@wfp.org](mailto:syria.clustercargo@wfp.org) to be considered for transport service).
- Contingency fuel. These requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. Organisations are required to provide a completed SRF available [here](#) and submit it to [syria.clustercargo@wfp.org](mailto:syria.clustercargo@wfp.org) to be considered for this service.
- Access to the WFP Amman-Deir-ez-Zor airdrop operation for inter-agency critical and life-saving items is facilitated by the Logistics Cluster. This last resort service has been established on 10 April 2016 and, funding permitting, it will be maintained as long no other mean of access to Deir-ez-Zor is available.

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#### **2. To maintain regional Whole of Syria inter-agency logistics coordination and information management in order to support humanitarian actors**

The Logistics Cluster will engage with partnering organisations and key stakeholders to coordinate the humanitarian logistics activities to optimise resources available, to avoid competition and/or duplications of services:

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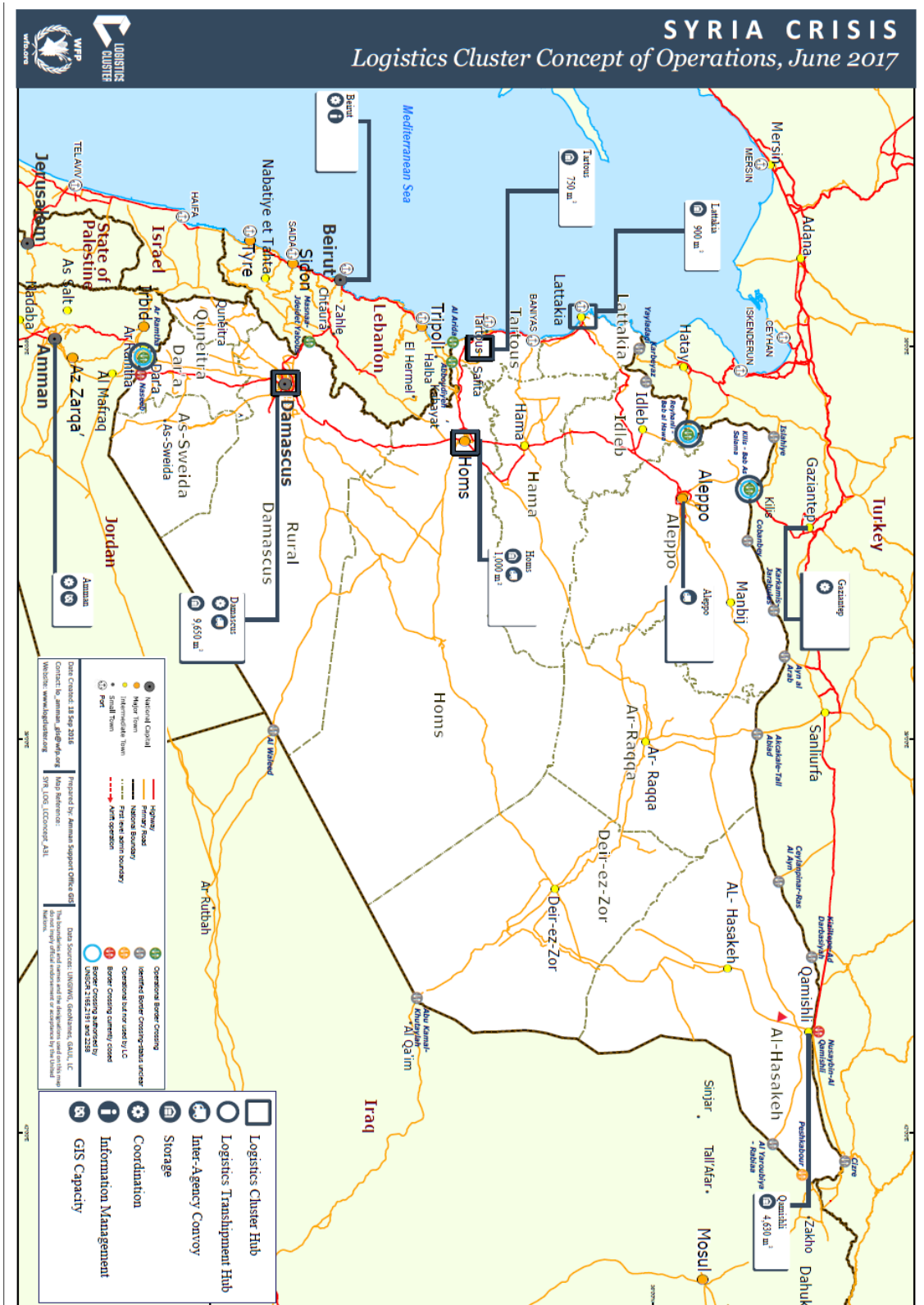
- Facilitation of Logistics Cluster coordination meetings in Damascus, Gaziantep, Antakya, Amman and other locations as required.
- A dedicated Information Management Officer based in Beirut will ensure that relevant and up-to-date logistics information is made available to the humanitarian organisations.
- Provision of updated operational information, such as warehouses capacity, city and governorates maps, snapshots, Operations Overview, Coordination Meeting Minutes, Assessments and SOPs.
- Information sharing platforms such as a dedicated webpage for the Syria Operation have been established and will be continuously updated (<http://www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a>).
- Syria Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) is available here: (<http://dlca.logcluster.org/display/public/DLCA/Syrian+Arab+Republic>).

### **3. To enhance capacity of humanitarian actors via dedicated logistics trainings**

Ad hoc trainings will be organised to the benefit of regional logistics personnel of the WoS response.

*As “Provider of Last Resort” (PoLR) WFP, through the Logistics Cluster, is responsible only to provide logistics services that fill identified gaps in logistics capacity and/or demanded by Organizations operating in Syria, where access and funding permit and where these gaps limit the ability of the humanitarian community to meet the needs of the affected population.*

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