LOGISTICS CLUSTER

Background

Since the beginning of the crisis in 2011, ongoing fighting and widespread insecurity have continued to fuel large-scale displacements, increase vulnerabilities and constrain humanitarian access across the country. According to the 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), around 13.1 million people in Syria require humanitarian assistance. Of these, 5.6 million people are in acute need due to a convergence of vulnerabilities resulting from displacement, exposure to hostilities, and limited access to basic goods and services.

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 land transport to inter-agency humanitarian convoys, cross-border transhipment, and storage services. In September 2014, the Whole of Syria (WoS) approach was adopted as a result of UN Security Council Resolution 2165, bringing together separate regional operations 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 the need to maintain Inter-Agency Humanitarian Convoys to reach newly-accessible areas in Syria.
- Need for the coordination of cross-border transhipment services under the UNSCR 2165.
- Limited storage capacity for prepositioning across Syria.
- Lack of a reliable fuel supply chain for immediate emergency response.
- 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 ensure a timely and uninterrupted supply of lifesaving relief items to affected populations in Syria and to 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 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 neighbouring countries as required.

1. **WFP, as the lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, facilitates access to logistics services (inclusive of land transport, transhipment, and common storage) for humanitarian organisations responding to the Syria crisis.**

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

<u>**Within Syria**</u>

- **Storage**
  Common warehouse facilities with over 12,369 m² of storage space have been established in four locations: Kisweh in Rural Damascus, Homs, Aleppo, and Qamishli to facilitate onward movement to further destinations. Additional storage space and locations may be provided if/as required.

- **Inter-Agency Humanitarian Convoys**
  Coordination, together with OCHA, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), and other humanitarian partners to organise inter-agency humanitarian convoys to hard-to-reach locations within Syria.

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](#) to be considered for any transport or storage service.

<u>**Cross-border Operations**</u>

Under the umbrella of Security Council Resolutions 2165/2191/2258/2232/2393 and most recently 2449, the Logistics Cluster provides coordination support and facilitates common services for cross-border operations from Turkey and Iraq into Syria.

Turkey

The Logistics Cluster has set up two transhipment hubs in Turkey at Bab al-Hawa and Bab al-Salam to avoid congestion at the border and ensure the quick transfer and delivery of humanitarian cargo. UN agencies and their partners arrange for Turkish trucks to transport their cargo from load points to the transshipment hubs. UN agencies and their partners are also responsible for arranging Syrian trucks to come to the transhipment points. WFP, as lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, is responsible for cross-loading cargo from Turkish trucks to Syrian trucks inside the transhipment zone. Transhipment operations are supervised by the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism (UNMM).

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

Iraq

The Logistics Cluster has set up a transhipment hub in Iraq at the Al-Yarubiyah border crossing to ensure the quick transfer of humanitarian cargo. UN agencies and their partners arrange for Iraqi trucks to transport their cargo from load points to the transshipment hubs. UN agencies and their partners are also responsible for arranging Syrian trucks to come to the transhipment point. The Logistics Cluster is responsible for arranging cross-loading of the cargo from Iraqi trucks to Syrian trucks inside the transhipment zone. Transhipment operations are supervised by the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism (UNMM).

For transhipment services, interested organisations are required to submit their request and loading plan to the Logistics Cluster to be considered for any transport service.

2. The Logistics Cluster maintains regional Whole of Syria inter-agency logistics coordination and information management to support humanitarian actors.

To avoid competition and/or duplication of services, the Logistics Cluster will engage with partnering organisations and key stakeholders to coordinate humanitarian logistics activities and optimise the resources available. It will do this by:

- Facilitating Logistics Cluster coordination meetings in Damascus, Gaziantep, Antakya, Erbil and other locations as required.

- Deploying a dedicated Information Management Officer, based in Beirut, who will ensure that relevant and up-to-date logistics information is made available to humanitarian organisations.

- Providing updated operational information such as warehouse capacity, city and governorate maps, snapshots, Operations Overviews, Coordination Meeting Minutes, Assessments and Standard Operating Procedures.

- Establishing and maintaining information sharing platforms such as a dedicated webpage for the Syria Operation (http://www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a).

The Syria Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) is available here.

3. The Logistics Cluster aims to enhance the capacity of humanitarian actors via dedicated logistics trainings.

Ad hoc trainings will be organised for 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, where access and funding permit and where these gaps limit the ability of the humanitarian community to meet the needs of the affected population.

Annex I ConOps Map

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.