

Background

The rapidly deteriorating security situation in Yemen since mid-March 2015, is aggravating the needs of the most vulnerable population, with extensive displacement of people, damage to infrastructure and telecommunication networks as well as increased insecurity. Before March 2015, 16 million of the 25 million Yemenis required, humanitarian assistance to meet their most basic needs. Since escalation, the number of people in need of assistance is estimated to have increased to more than 21 million, hence a system wide Level 3 Emergency was declared in Yemen on 1 July 2015 (OCHA, 1 July 2015). As the security and political situation continues to deteriorate, increasing insecurity including ground conflict and airstrikes challenge the humanitarian response. The security situation in Yemen drastically restricts the movement of humanitarian, staff, items and commercial cargo, further increasing the need for relief items in country.

Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks

As a result of the on-going political crisis and deteriorating economy, the Humanitarian Community is facing a number of challenges including limited access, availability of private transporters, and poor quality infrastructure that continue to impede the ability to deliver an adequate response in Yemen. In addition, shortages of fuel and increases in fuel costs are being reported throughout the country, impacting port operations, some of which have been forced to operate at reduced capacities, causing congestion with the processing of incoming cargo. International sea and air commercial cargo carriers have limited services available to provide transportation to Yemen.

Objectives

Based on the needs identified, the Logistics Cluster aims to ensure that the humanitarian community has access to sufficient and reliable logistics services and consolidated information related to logistics capacities, both are crucial to facilitate the uninterrupted supply of life saving relief items to the affected populations.

Planned Activities

The following range of activities and services are not intended to replace the logistics capacities of individual agencies or organisations, but rather to supplement them through the provision of common services, based on clearly identified gaps and needs.

1. Coordination:

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.

In order to support the humanitarian community, the Logistics Cluster will provide the following coordination services to minimise duplication:

- To ensure a timely and efficient emergency logistics response, the coordination and information management mechanism will support cross-border and within country operations. Logistics coordination structures are implemented in several locations including Sana'a and Djibouti and additional locations as required;
- Regular Logistics Cluster Coordination meetings for all humanitarian organisations will take place in key locations, including Sana'a and Djibouti, with the presence of dedicated Logistics Cluster Coordinator in Sana'a and Logistics Cluster Officers in Yemen and Djibouti.
- Coordination with humanitarian organisations, UN agencies, government, and military actors, enhancing collaboration; as well as providing crucial information;

2. Information Management:

The Logistics Cluster will provide information management services in Sana'a and Djibouti to support operational decision making to improve the efficiency of the logistics response. Services provided include the following:

- Consolidation and sharing of information from the humanitarian community on the overall logistics situation, including logistical gaps and bottlenecks;
- Provision of updated operational information such as port and airport status updates, relevant procedures, as well as the publication of Meeting Minutes, Operational Overviews, Situation Reports (SitReps), UNHAS flight schedules, forms, guidance, operational data and procedures, as well as snapshots covering specific operational areas and briefings;
- Dedicated Information Management staff in key locations including Sana'a and Djibouti, and provision of mapping/ GIS services;
- GIS mapping products produced and distributed via a dedicated mailing list (yemen.logs@logcluster.org) and a purpose built website to share logistics information at: www.logcluster.org/ops/yem10a.

3. Logistics Services:

Access and security permitting, the following services will be provided at no cost to the user, or on a full cost-recovery basis.

- **Staging Area**

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Due to its close proximity and good port and airport facilities, the Logistics Cluster has established a staging area in Djibouti to support humanitarian operations in Yemen.

The Logistics Cluster will be offering the following services on a free to user basis to support the short term storage and movement of inter-agency cargo in-transit to Yemen:

- Djibouti Airport: Two mobile storage units (MSUs) with a total storage capacity of 640 m².
- Djibouti Free Zone: A warehouse at the customs bonded “free zone” with a total of 1,650 m² of storage capacity.
- Transport from Djibouti warehouses to port or airport and handling services;
- Receipt of cargo from port and airport and transport to the bonded warehouse. Customs clearance and provision of required documents remain the responsibility of the partners;
- Cargo tracking to monitor the transportation of non-food relief cargo on behalf of the humanitarian community.

- **Fuel Provision Service**

The sole supplier of fuel in Yemen is currently unable to deliver fuel in country and shortages are becoming an increasing concern of partners, as key functions, such as the provision of water and health facilities are depending on fuel to operate.

The existing fuel distribution points in Aden, Hodeidah and Sana'a will continue to be used and continue to provide fuel through the Logistics Cluster. If needed, the existing distribution systems could be augmented and new stations opened on a cost recovery basis, access and security permitting.

- **Storage Services**

Security permitting, the Logistics Cluster will facilitate the augmentation of storage and warehouse facilities in key locations including Sana'a and Hodeidah, and make it available to humanitarian partners for temporary storage. Additional storage capacity in key locations at entry points and/ or locations in Yemen will be made available dependant on need.

- **Transport**

The Logistics Cluster facilitates sea and air transport capacity through the use of dedicated assets between key locations for use by the humanitarian community. Additional capacity to further locations that are otherwise inaccessible will be assessed based on need.

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Sea

- The Logistics Cluster will facilitate access to WFP-chartered vessels for the movement of inter-agency cargo from Djibouti to Yemeni ports, access and security permitting.

Air

- The Logistics Cluster will facilitate access to WFP-provided temporary airlift (UNHAS), linking the staging area in Djibouti with key destinations in Yemen. The service is available to humanitarian organisations for the movement of urgently needed humanitarian cargo.

- **Standard Operating Procedures**

The detailed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for warehousing, transport and logistics services are available at: <http://www.logcluster.org/document/yemen-sops>.

The SOPs for fuel provision services are available at: <http://www.logcluster.org/document/yemen-SOPs-fuel>.

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 INGOs operating in Yemen, 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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