

## Background

Since March 2015, Yemen has seen a dramatic escalation of violence and armed conflict; this has compounded the already precarious humanitarian situation. According to OCHA 21.1 million people, approximately 80 percent of the population, are in need of humanitarian assistance, (Humanitarian Needs Overview, November 2015). The scale of the humanitarian needs and the scope of the emergency response have required a large, multi-agency and multi-sector response to be undertaken.

Currently, the active conflict and its unpredictability is affecting multiple areas in Yemen and an increasing need for humanitarian assistance to support the affected population. In addition the complicated security situation, coupled with the strain of multiple actors simultaneously working through the same limited infrastructure and services, is restricting the ability of the humanitarian community to meet these needs.

## Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks

All humanitarian organisations responding to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen are facing a number of specific logistical challenges that continue to impede their ability to deliver relief supplies, such as: limited access to some of the conflict areas ; inadequate or damaged infrastructure slowing down the deliveries; congestion at main entry points; unreliable and unpredictable access to sufficient quantities of fuel; high volatility in the price of fuel;; lengthy administrative process and limited international shipping options, both sea and air.

## Objectives

In response to the above, and in alignment with the revised 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), the Logistics Cluster will continue to support coordination within the humanitarian logistics sector and will work to address gaps in logistics information and services, and mitigate the effect of bottlenecks that restrict the movement of humanitarian aid.

## 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 based on clearly identified gaps and needs.

- 1. Coordination:** In order to support the humanitarian community, the Logistics Cluster will implement the following coordination activities with humanitarian organisations to minimise duplication:

*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.*

- Dedicated Logistics Cluster Coordination staff will be based in Sana'a, Djibouti and Hodeidah and regular Logistics Cluster Coordination meetings will take place in the named locations.
  - Coordination with humanitarian organisations, UN agencies, government, and military actors, enhancing collaboration.
- 2. Information Management:** The Logistics Cluster will provide Information Management to support operational decision making and improve the efficiency of the logistics response:
- Dedicated Information Management staff will be based Djibouti.
  - Provision of updated operational information such as ports and airports status updates, relevant procedures, as well as the publication of Meeting Minutes, Operational Overviews, Situation Updates, UNHAS flight schedules, forms and guidance.
  - GIS mapping products produced and distributed via the dedicated mailing list ([Yemen-logs@logscluster.org](mailto:Yemen-logs@logscluster.org)), and dedicated webpage ([www.logcluster.org/ops/yem10a](http://www.logcluster.org/ops/yem10a))
- 3. Logistics Services:** The Logistics Cluster will facilitate access to the following services (according to the conditions and limitations outlined in the appropriate Standard Operating Procedures – SOPs, provided access and security constraints allow) to support humanitarian organisations responding to the crisis in Yemen:
- **Sea Transport**  
Access to WFP-chartered vessels and dhows for the movement of inter-agency cargo from Djibouti to Yemen.
  - **Air Transport**  
Access to WFP-provided airlift (UNHAS), linking Djibouti with key destinations in Yemen.
  - **Transit Cargo Processing**  
Management of all processes and services necessary to receive, hold and dispatch humanitarian cargo, booked through the Logistics Cluster and arriving to Djibouti in transit to Yemen.
  - **Fuel Provision Service**  
Access to WFP-managed fuel distribution points in Aden, Hodeidah and Sana'a (This service will be implemented to ensure that key functions, such as the provision of water and power to health facilities, can continue to operate).
  - **Storage Services**

*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.*

Access to storage and warehouse facilities in Sana'a, Hodeidah, and Aden for the temporary storage of humanitarian cargo.

- **Road transport**

Access to overland transport based on the needs of the organisations will be facilitated. The service will include obtaining the necessary permissions for the movement of cargo inside Yemen on behalf of the requesting organisation).

- **Standard Operating Procedures**

The detailed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are available at:

***Djibouti Transport & Transit Services***

<http://www.logcluster.org/document/standard-operating-procedures-sops-transport-and-transit-services-djibouti>

***Yemen Transport & Temporary Storage***

<http://www.logcluster.org/document/standard-operating-procedures-sops-transport-and-temporary-storage-yemen>

***Yemen Fuel Provision Services***

<http://www.logcluster.org/document/standard-operating-procedures-sops-fuel-provision-services-january-2016>

*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.*

*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.*

