

---

## Background

Since March 2015, the conflict in Yemen has exacerbated the already precarious humanitarian situation and according to OCHA, an estimated 24.1 million are in need of humanitarian assistance as of December 2018, including 14 million who are in acute need<sup>1</sup>. In addition, since December 2017, Hodeidah Governorate has been witnessing an escalation of military operations. In June 2018, the conflict reached the city of Hodeidah, and in November 2018 it approached the populated areas of the city. This intensification of the conflict has led to major displacement from and within Hodeidah Governorate, with a parallel increase in restriction in humanitarian access (since 2015, nearly 15 percent of the entire population - 4.3 million people - have been forced to flee their homes).

The scale of the needs and the scope of the emergency response has required a large, multi-agency and multi-sector response. However, the humanitarian community continues to face a number of critical logistics challenges; therefore, additional logistical support is required to ensure humanitarian organisations responding to the crisis can deliver efficient and effective assistance to affected people.

The Logistics Cluster will continue to ensure coordination and information management services in Sana'a and Aden to maximize the use of available resources in country and avoid duplication of efforts. Pending availability of resources, the Logistics Cluster will facilitate access for humanitarian organisations to common logistics services such as in-land transport, air cargo transport from Djibouti to Sana'a, and sea cargo transport from Djibouti to Aden and Hodeidah; sea passenger transport between Djibouti and Aden; access to temporary common storage facilities.

---

## Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks

The major constraints on the ability of humanitarian organisations to respond to the crisis in Yemen include damaged road infrastructure, disruptions in access to many parts of the country in terms of both cargo and staff. Specifically, the following logistical gaps have been identified:

- Congestion at main entry points (Port of Discharge - PoD);
- Transport of humanitarian aid between south and north Yemen is affected both by conflict dynamics and the need for multiple clearance processes. Furthermore, some of the roads connecting Aden to the north of country are reportedly blocked;
- Limited international transport options into Yemen, especially by air;
- Limited in-country storage capacity to meet humanitarian actors' requirements;
- Irregular overland transport capacity from neighbouring countries;

## Objectives

---

Based on the needs expressed and identified by the humanitarian community, and in close alignment with the 2019 [Humanitarian Response Plan](#) (HRP), the Logistics Cluster aims to facilitate access to sufficient and reliable logistics services and operationally relevant information to ensure a timely and uninterrupted supply of life-saving relief items to 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 fill identified gaps in the humanitarian supply chain and supplement the response of the humanitarian community through the facilitation of access to common services, based on need.

The following activities will be reviewed according to changes in context and the results emerging from ongoing gaps and needs exercises conducted with partners.

### 1. Coordination

---

The following coordination services will be provided to minimise duplication of efforts and competition by the humanitarian community

- Dedicated Logistics Cluster staff based in Sana'a and Aden, where regular Logistics Cluster coordination meetings take place; a Logistics Cluster Coordinator based in Sana'a, with a Deputy Cluster Coordinator based in Aden;
- Coordination with other clusters, agencies and humanitarian organisations, including regular participation to Inter-Cluster Coordination Mechanism (ICCM).

### 2. Information Management

---

To support operational decision-making and improve the efficiency of the logistics response, logistic information is collected, managed and disseminated to:

- Consolidate and share updated operational information, including Situation Updates, Operational Snapshots, Meeting Minutes, UNHAS flights and Sea Passenger schedules, forms and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs);
- Maintain information sharing platforms including a common mailing list, and a dedicated operation webpage on the Logistics Cluster website to disseminate relevant and up-to-date logistical information to the humanitarian community: [www.logcluster.org/ops/yem10a](http://www.logcluster.org/ops/yem10a);
- Produce and share logistical infrastructure Geographic Information Systems/mapping tools and products.

---

<sup>1</sup> OCHA Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2019 [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2019\\_Yemen\\_HNO\\_FINAL.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2019_Yemen_HNO_FINAL.pdf)

### 3. Logistics Services

---

The services facilitated by the Logistics Cluster are not intended to replace the logistics capacities of the agencies or organisations, but rather to supplement them through the access to common services. While services are accessible regularly for all organisations implementing assistance programmes in Yemen, in case of sudden crisis, cargo will be prioritized based on the needs identified by the Humanitarian Country Team.

Access permitting, and pending availability of resources, the following services may be coordinated at no cost to the user, or on a partial/full cost-recovery basis, depending on the availability of funds:

#### Air Transport

- Ad hoc Airlift Service facilitation from Djibouti to Yemen is strictly intended for the transport of urgent life-saving items and commodities (in accordance with the priorities set by the Humanitarian Country Team). This is to ensure the best use of the limited number of airlifts available until the end of 2019.
- Detailed Air Transport SOPs are available [here](#).

#### In-land Transport

- Based on organisations' needs, the Logistics Cluster facilitates access to inland transport from Sana'a, Aden, Hodeidah and Bajil to any accessible location in Yemen.
- Detailed SOPs on how to access in-land transport services are available [here](#).

#### Sea Cargo Transport

- The Logistics Cluster facilitates access to two WFP chartered vessel that operate a weekly rotation:
- VOS Apollo vessel from Djibouti to Aden (VOS Apollo also provides sea passenger transport. Tentative schedule available [here](#))
- VOS Theia vessel from Djibouti to Hodeidah
- Refrigerated containers providing cold chain are available on both VOS Apollo and VOS Theia vessels.
- Detailed SOPs are available [here](#).

#### Sea Passenger Transport Service

- The Logistics Cluster facilitates access to sea passenger transport on board the WFP-chartered VOS Apollo, providing weekly transportation between Djibouti and Aden. Passengers may also be accommodated on board while the vessel is anchored in Aden port.
- A booking system is in place, with booking and penalty fees for late cancellations. Detailed SOPs on how to access sea passenger transport services are available [here](#) and the tentative schedule is available [here](#).

## Common Storage

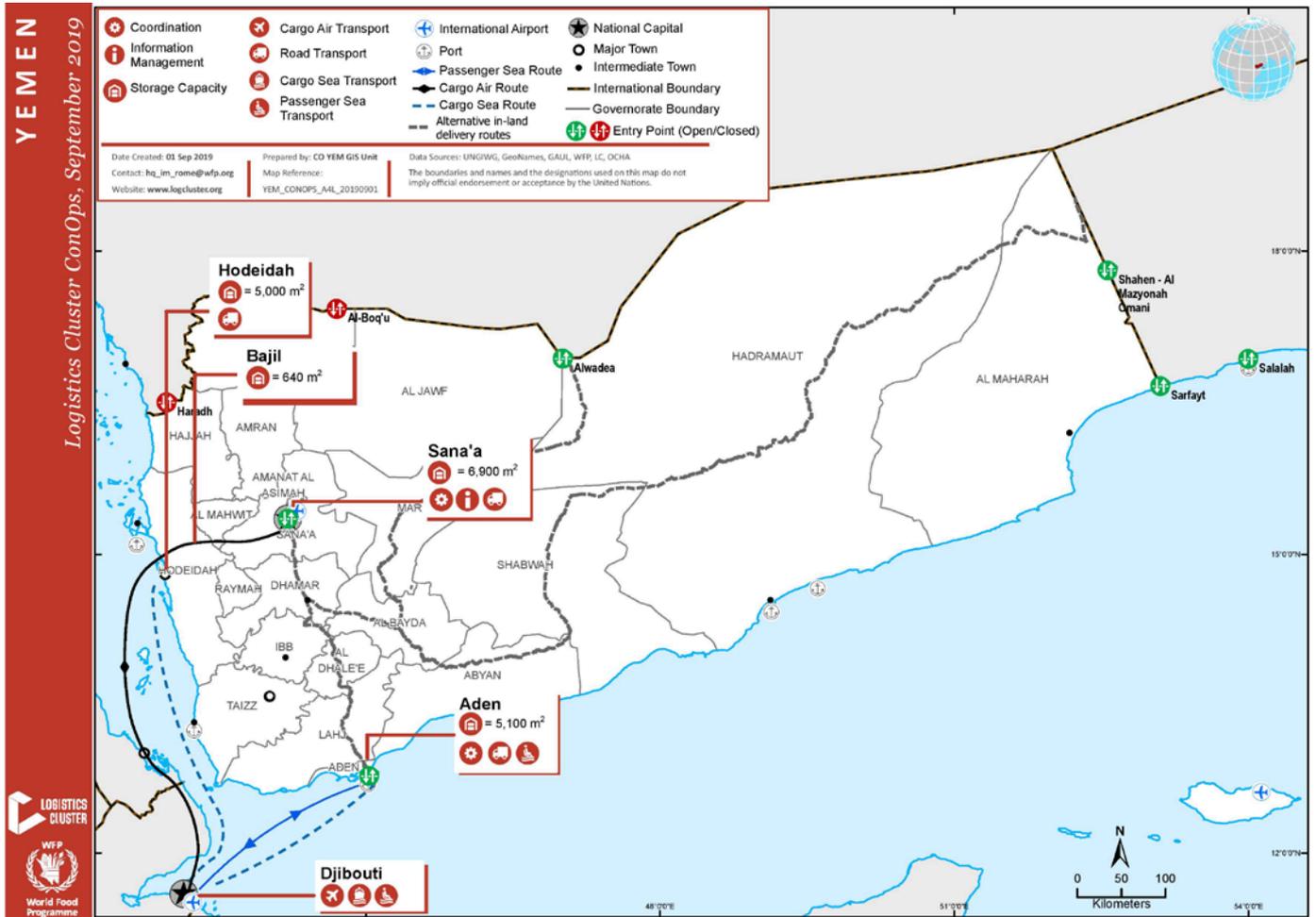
To support common temporary storage of humanitarian cargo, the Logistics Cluster will facilitate access to the following storage facilities:

- Aden: 5,100 m<sup>2</sup> including temperature controlled and cold chain storage
- Sana'a: 6,900 m<sup>2</sup>
- Hodeidah: 5,000 m<sup>2</sup>
- Bajil: 640 m<sup>2</sup>

Detailed SOPs on how to access temporary common storage services are available [here](#)

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.