

Background

Since March 2015, the conflict in Yemen has exacerbated the already precarious humanitarian situation and according to OCHA, an estimated 24 million people (80 per cent of the entire population) continue to require some form of assistance, including 14.3 million who are in acute need¹. In addition, since January 2020 violence has been increasing across multiple locations in Yemen. Conflict dynamics, as well as pre-existing logistical and bureaucratic constraints, further hinder the ongoing humanitarian response efforts.

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, Hudaydah and Aden to maximise 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 inland road transport, air cargo transport, sea cargo transport, sea passenger transport and 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 onerous bureaucratic processes and disruptions in access to many parts of the country. Specifically, the following logistical gaps have been identified:

- Transport of humanitarian aid between southern and northern Yemen, as well as to and from neighbouring countries, is affected both by conflict dynamics and the need for multiple clearance processes.
- Closure of Sana'a Airport, due to COVID-19 preventative health measures. Overall limited international transport options into Yemen - especially by air – including a reliable international supply chain route directly to the north of the country.
- The absence of commercial sea liner services to Hudaydah port, to facilitate the delivery of containerised cargo into northern Yemen.
- Limited suitable in-country storage capacity in some key locations to meet humanitarian actors' needs.
- Limited temperature-controlled storage capacity in-country.
- Irregular overland transport capacity from neighbouring countries.
- Significant delays in humanitarian cargo transport and delivery into and across Yemen, due to COVID-19 related preventative health measures.

¹ <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/yemen>

Objectives

Based on the needs expressed and identified by the humanitarian community, and in close alignment with the Status Report (the technical roll over document from the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan) which outlines humanitarian response priorities for 2020, 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 provision of common services, based on need.

The following services will be made available to the humanitarian community until 31 December 2020.

1. Coordination

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

- Dedicated Logistics Cluster staff based in Aden, Hudaydah and Sana'a, where regular Logistics Cluster coordination meetings take place; a Logistics Cluster Coordinator and a Coordination Officer based in Sana'a, a Deputy Cluster Coordinator based in Hudaydah, and Coordination Officer based in Aden.
- Coordination with other clusters, agencies and humanitarian organisations, including regular participation to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), Operations Centre (OpsCen), Inter-Cluster Coordination Mechanism (ICCM) and the Humanitarian Access Working Group (HAWG).

2. Information Management

- Collect, manage and disseminate logistical information to support operational decision-making and improve the efficiency of the logistics response.
- Consolidate and share updated operational information, including Operational Overviews, Meeting Minutes, UNHAS flights 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.

3. Logistics Services

The services facilitated by the Logistics Cluster are not intended to replace the logistics capacities of agencies or organisations, but rather to supplement them through the access to common services. Access permitting, 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 Cargo Transport

- Ad hoc Airlift Service facilitation 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 available resources.
- The Logistics Cluster will explore alternative departure points across the region to increase the efficiency and quality of service.
- Detailed Air Transport SOPs are available [here](#).

Inland Road Transport

- Based on organisations' needs, the Logistics Cluster facilitates access to inland transport - including from Sana'a, Aden, Hudaydah 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 vessels, VOS Apollo and VOS Theia. The vessels are used interchangeably, and routes determined based on needs.
- Refrigerated containers providing cold chain are available on both VOS Apollo and VOS Theia.
- The vessels are primarily at the disposal of the in-country Security Management Team (SMT) for operations in support of the entire humanitarian community. Therefore, vessel availability varies depending on changes in the security context.
- Detailed SOPs are available [here](#).
- The Logistics Cluster will cover the costs related to partner sea cargo transport on the Jeddah – Hudaydah sea route, facilitated by WFP Shipping through the MV Elena WFP-chartered vessel. The Guidance Note on how partners can access this service is available [here](#).

Sea Passenger Transport Service

- The Logistics Cluster facilitates access to sea passenger transport on board the WFP-chartered VOS Apollo, providing transportation between Djibouti and Aden (this service is currently suspended by the SMT for security purposes). 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](#).

Common Storage

- To support common temporary storage of humanitarian cargo, the Logistics Cluster will facilitate access to the following storage facilities:
 - Aden: 5,100 m² including temperature controlled and cold chain storage
 - Sana'a: 6,900 m²
 - Hudaydah/Bajil: 640 m²
- 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

