Background

More than seven years after civil unrest erupted in Libya during the 2011 Arab Spring, the country continues to face widespread insecurity. Recurrent clashes among local armed factions controlling different parts of the country have led to extreme instability and political divisions.

According to the 2018 Libya Humanitarian Response Plan, three million people inside Libya have been impacted by the conflict and ongoing crisis, and over one million people are in need of humanitarian assistance.

In response to the deteriorating situation and following the lifting of the evacuation status for UN organisations in Libya in February, the number of humanitarian organisations in the country has surged. While the humanitarian footprint is expanding with most actors consolidating presence in Tripoli, Misratah and Benghazi, access and presence in the other areas of the country, especially in the south, is a priority and remains a challenge.

The latest incidents in and around Tripoli that have led to further displacement of population have highlighted the urgent need to establish a coordinated response and a constant flow of up-to-date and reliable information, crucial to supporting the supply chain functions of humanitarian actors.

Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks

Security and access constraints are the major operational challenges for responding organisations, especially around Tripoli and in the east and the south of the country, and are impacting the ability of organisations to deliver relief items in an effective and efficient manner.

With a scale up of logistics activities in support of the response, the volumes of relief items being brought into the country is expected to increase, putting a strain on available logistics resources and capacities.

There is a general lack of consolidated logistics information available to humanitarian responders, especially in relation to the status of bridges, roads, ports and airports, and the availability of warehousing. This lack of information is impacting upon the capacity of responding organisations to effectively plan their supply chains. Information gaps also extend to humanitarian customs procedures through different entry points and other administrative processes, which also have potential to cause significant delays in clearing processes as cargo volumes increase.

Significant price inflation, including for fuel, has impacted the market and led to severe shortages of basic resources and services.

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Objectives

Based on a request from the Humanitarian Country Team, the World Food Programme, as lead agency of the Logistics Sector, aims to provide logistics coordination and information management support, facilitate access to sufficient and reliable logistics services, and augment the capacity of humanitarian organisations to deliver lifesaving items, ensuring a timely and uninterrupted supply to affected areas.

Planned Activities

The following range of activities and services are not intended to replace the logistics capacity of individual agencies or organisations but rather to fill identified gaps in the humanitarian supply chain and enhance the response of the humanitarian community through the provision of common logistics services, based on need.

1. Coordination

In order to facilitate a unified, efficient and effective response on behalf of the humanitarian community, the following coordination services will be provided:

- A Logistics Sector Officer will be based in Tripoli/Tunis to coordinate the inter-agency efforts in collaboration with national counterparts.

- Regular and ad-hoc coordination meetings will be held in Tripoli or Tunis, depending on the security situation, and in other field locations as required, to facilitate the exchange of information among actors.

- The Logistics Sector will liaise with authorities and relevant national and international actors on behalf of the humanitarian community to raise common logistics issues and advocate for solutions, including access and streamlined customs clearance procedures.

- Specialised staff will be deployed at major entry points (border crossings, airports and seaport) to facilitate assessment and provide operational support for incoming humanitarian supplies if/when necessary.

- The Logistics Sector will coordinate with other sectors and agencies, including through participation in inter-sector and inter-agencies fora, on strategic planning and pipeline information to enhance preparedness and response actions.

2. Information Management (IM)

The information management role will be undertaken in the interests of promoting and facilitating the sharing of logistics information among all humanitarian organisations via:

- The collection, consolidation and sharing of logistics information related to ongoing activities, key infrastructure, customs procedures and available storage and transport capacity in affected areas.

- The maintenance of information sharing platforms such as a common mailing list and a dedicated Libya Operation webpage maintained on the Logistics Cluster website to disseminate relevant and up-to date logistics information to the humanitarian community: https://logcluster.org/sector/lby18a

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- The mapping and assessment of logistics infrastructures (roads, airports, ports, border crossing points), with a focus on Benghazi port and southern areas, to be circulated and made available on the Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) portal: https://dlca.logcluster.org/.

- The collection and compilation of information on suppliers and market capacity in order to support local procurement in the different response locations.

3. Logistics Services

The services facilitated by the Logistics Sector are not intended to replace the logistics capacities of agencies or organisations, but rather supplement them. The following services will be provided at no cost to the user, access permitting and dependent upon the availability of funds:

- Humanitarian storage facilities in strategic logistics locations based on the gaps identified by responding organisations. The Logistics Sector will monitor the usage and criticality of these hubs, adjust the capacity and scale down/up according to needs. The initial planned capacity is:

  o   Tripoli: 3,000 m^2

  o   Benghazi: 3,000 m^2

  o   Sebha: 3,000 m^2

- Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) in stock will be available for rapid deployment to provide additional storage space outside logistics hubs, where required.

- Fuel availability will be regularly monitored and possibilities for a fuel provision service based on a cost recovery mechanism within the humanitarian community will be explored.

- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be drafted and shared with partners to provide guidance on access to services.

- Should there be a need, a cargo consolidation mechanism will be established to ensure the swift movement of humanitarian cargo to hard-to-reach destinations.

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