BACKGROUND
Conflict in northeast Nigeria has left widespread devastation; continuing attacks occur on a regular basis and the crisis is directly affecting more than 14 million people, with an estimated 7.0 million people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. The security situation remains unpredictable, with military and paramilitary response on-going: more than 1.9 million people have left their homes in Adamawa, Borno, Gombe, and Yobe States, host community resources are becoming exhausted, and people living in those areas that have been inaccessible for most of 2015 and into 2016 have unknown needs.

As access to the affected population in the conflict areas improves, humanitarian organisations responding to the crisis are expanding operations across the area.

LOGISTICS GAPS AND BOTTLENECKS
Increased humanitarian activity is placing a growing demand on logistics capacity in the four affected states. While humanitarian actors report no serious issues accessing necessary logistics services through the commercial sector in the majority of these states, in Borno and Yobe States the security situation taken together with the scale of the need is putting more and more strain on the logistics resources available. Several key operational areas are currently only accessible by air and some areas are completely inaccessible due to active hostilities.

The road network in the northeast states is generally favourable for long haul trucking to state capitals with last mile delivery being made along primary or secondary roads which link up the majority of locations hosting affected populations. 4x4 or 6x6 trucks are suggested for harder to reach areas hosting affected populations. As the rainy season continues the use of all-terrain vehicles may likely increase. There are currently flood warnings in several Nigerian states, which necessitates the regular and careful monitoring of road conditions.

There are limited airstrip or aerodrome options in the northeast states. Some field Landing Zones (LZs) have been established through the UNHAS Nigeria operations. Given the prevailing security operation, all existing (or proposed) humanitarian aviation activities are supported by Nigerian Armed Forces (NAF) providing security. The rehabilitation or establishment of further airstrips will also need to be cleared by NAF. Poor weather,
particular during the current rainy season, and the limited supply of aviation fuel make conditions for air operations generally very challenging.

The requirements for safe movement of humanitarian aid out of the Borno State capital, Maiduguri, into the newly accessible Local Government Areas (LGAs) create access limitations. At the same time, as more information becomes available about the needs in these areas, the humanitarian community is responding with a greater level of assistance: the expected volume of aid materials that will flow into Borno, and potentially Yobe States coupled with access constraints arising from insecurity will put an even greater pressure on the existing warehouse capacity in Maiduguri itself (and potentially Damaturu).

OBJECTIVES
This Concept of Operations will aim to address the logistics gaps and bottlenecks identified above through meeting the following objectives:

1. Consolidated Planning – The Logistics Sector Working Group will: facilitate efficient movement of cargo into areas with access limitations; consolidate and share logistics information and promote continuity in operations; monitor changing needs for support and identify potential gaps in operational capabilities.

2. Infrastructure – The Logistics Sector Working Group will put into place temporary transit storage and a transhipment area to enable predictable consolidation of cargo prior to dispatch (including cargo moving under escorted convoys).

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 shall be made available to the humanitarian community for an initial six months.
1. Coordination: The following coordination activities will be undertaken to minimise duplication.

- Regular Logistics Sector coordination meetings in Maiduguri (in Damaturu and Abuja as required).
- Support the Civil/Military coordination mechanisms established by UNOCHA.
- Participation in the Inter-Sector Working Group meetings.
- Provide guidance for cross border movements of aid from Cameroun to Nigeria, and other corridors as may be required.
- Provide support to UNHAS operations as needed to consolidate requests for light cargo movement.

2. Information Management: The following information management systems and products will be maintained to support operations and decision-making.

- Maintain a network of humanitarian logistics personnel working in Borno State and other locations in Northeast Nigeria.
- Consolidate and share information about the operating environment including, but not limited to: current Customs regime and tax exemption procedures; available information on logistics capacity (including monitoring availability of fuel, suitable road transport assets, and storage) and expected humanitarian pipelines; updated information on access, transport infrastructure; and other National and State level regulatory measures affecting the humanitarian supply chain.
- Produce and facilitate access to Geographic Information Systems/mapping tools and products.

3. Logistics Services: The services made available through the Logistics Sector Working Group are not intended to replace the logistics capacities of the agencies or organisations, but rather to supplement them through the provision of multi-lateral services available to all humanitarian organisations. Access permitting, the following services may be provided at no cost to the user, or on a partial/full cost-recovery basis, depending on the availability of funds (for additional details please reference service-specific Standard Operating Procedures – SOPs).

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.
i. **Common Warehousing and Cargo Consolidation:** The Logistics Sector Working Group will make available a limited volume of common warehousing for transit storage to the humanitarian community in the following locations: Maiduguri and Damaturu. The warehousing facilities will also provide a cargo consolidation point for trans-shipment of loads from long haul trucks and trailer combinations to, where necessary, smaller 4x4 or 6x6 trucks which may negotiate flood affected areas with greater ease.

Given the security environment and potential reliance on escorted convoys, the consolidation point will also provide organisations with the opportunity to inspect contracted trucks for load integrity and ‘convoy readiness’ prior to departing the consolidation point and joining pre-determined convoy assembly locations.

Where applicable, the Logistics Sector will support organisations by facilitating trainings in the assembly of organisations own Mobile Storage Units.
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.