Background

The Logistics Sector Nigeria provides support to the Government-led coordination of the humanitarian logistics response in north-eastern Nigeria by facilitating access to common logistics services, maintaining regular bilateral and collective engagement in an open forum for discussing and addressing logistics issues as they arise, as well as providing guidance on, and promoting, joint inter-agency logistical planning.

With the end of the rainy season in October, road access to some of the key operational areas has markedly improved, although some localised security and access challenges remain. The Ngala-Rann road, which was closed due to floods, re-opened in mid-January for trucks up to 10 MT.

January Highlights

- In January, the Logistics Sector facilitated the storage of 2,700 m³ (580 mt) of humanitarian relief items at the three common storage sites in Maiduguri, Monguno and Banki on behalf of 19 organisations. The Inter-Agency Logistics Base in Maiduguri (2,460 m²), which is managed by Première Urgence Internationale (PUI) on behalf of the Logistics Sector, facilitated also the consolidation of 3.5 m³ (2.5 mt) of air cargo in coordination with UNHAS on behalf of 8 organisations to 7 locations. The deacrease by 50% in the use of the air cargo service highlights better road access outside of the rainy season. The construction of a training/conference room in the warehouse compound has been finalised and it is now available for use by all humanitarian partners. The common storage site in Banki (480 m²) is managed by INTERSOS, while the site in Monguno (1,280 m²) is managed by Solidarites International (SI).

- In Ngala, the fourth common storage site, became operational on 3 January 2018. The site, managed by eHealth Africa on behalf of the Logistics Sector, comprises of two MSUs (10x32m) totalling 640 m² of storage space. eHealth Africa provides casual labour for truck on/offloading and registers all incoming and outgoing goods. All services are provided on a no-cost-to-user basis for temporary/transit storage (max. three months). Additional remedial actions may be required due to unsatisfactory quality of the established MSU foundations in Ngala.

- In February, the common storage site in Banki will be relocated adjacent to the IOM-managed Humanitarian Hub.

- The preparations to establish common storage sites in other locations (Damasak, Dikwa, Bama and Rann) are ongoing. The site in Dikwa and Damasak will be managed by ACTED, in Bama by INTERSOS, while a Call for Proposals was launched to identify a partner for the management of the future common storage site in Rann.

- The Logistics Sector supports the Civil/Military coordination (CMCoord) mechanisms established by OCHA in facilitating cargo movements and coordination of military escort arrangements where required. In January, the Logistics Sector facilitated 1,312 truck movement requests carrying relief cargo, of which 850 necessitated an armed military escort, on behalf of 19 organisations. This represents an increase of more than 50% in cargo movement notifications facilitated by the Logistics Sector in 6 months (i.e. since August 2017).

- Discussions continue with partners on the recovery service provided by the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), as well as alternative options, for convoys travelling on the eastern route (Mafa-Dikwa-Ngala). The immediate focus is defining the requirement and prioritising services as a first step, which can then be negotiated with the NURTW. As a follow-up to the meeting held on 31 October, the Logistics Sector Coordinator met again with the Director of Engineering Services at the Ministry of Works on 22 January to obtain updated information on a planned road rehabilitation and infrastructure repair in Borno State. It is unlikely that the repairs

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will start before the next rainy season and the Logistics Sector will continue to look into options on how to improve access to Rann. The Sector is already planning to construct a helipad in Rann in support of UNHAS operations and will re-establish discussions with UNOPS.

- In January, the Logistics Sector team conducted five field missions to enhance civ-mil coordination (Dikwa, Bama and Monguno), to assess the site identified for the future common storage (Bama), to setup an MSU loaned to International Rescue Committee (Damaturu) and to setup a prefabricated office in support of the Emergency Telecommunications Sector team (Monguno). The Logistics Sector participated also in a joint inter-agency mission to Damasak with International Humanitarian Partnership/Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (IHP/MSB), Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS), International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to assess progress made at the future Humanitarian Hub and the common storage site.

**Coordination & Information Management**

- **Two bi-monthly coordination meetings were held in Maiduguri,** with 15 participants representing 12 organizations on average, as well as three ad-hoc Logistics Sector coordination meetings to discuss the recovery service provided by the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW). Furthermore, an introduction session was held via video conference call with partners based in Damaturu: 14 participants representing 4 organisations were briefed on the Logistics Sector mandate and ongoing activities in Borno State.

- The Logistics Sector attended several **inter-agency meetings**: RRM meeting, Access Working Group, Inter-Sector Working Group, Humanitarian Hub Task Force, weekly Civil/Military Coordination Forum, all chaired by OCHA; as well as the weekly technical Humanitarian Hub meeting, chaired by IHP/MSB, the monthly CMCoord conference chaired by the Nigerian Armed Forces, the monthly CMCoord meeting hosted by HQ 8 Division in Monguno and the UNHAS User Group meeting, chaired by UNHAS.

- Since September 2016, 17 Logistics Sector maps were produced and 759 map print-outs have been delivered to partners.

- Through its **mailing list**, the Logistics Sector communicates with humanitarian actors involved in the emergency response and serves as a repository of inter-agency logistics information and knowledge. In January, the list had 270 subscribers from various UN agencies, NGOs, Government representatives and donors.

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