Background

Hurricane Matthew, a category 4 storm has hit the Caribbean region and the Government of Haiti has requested for International Assistance.

Haiti has been severely affected due to storm surge, high waves and hurricane-force winds. 2.1 million people are affected throughout the country and 1.4 million people need urgent lifesaving assistance.

Severe flooding, significant mudslides and flash floods, as well as landslides and damage to roads and infrastructure have been reported, especially in rural areas. More is expected all over the country, especially in the departments of Grande-Anse and Sud. The main bridge on Route Nationale 2 Petit Goave, which links the southern departments with Port-au-Prince, collapsed, severely impacting access to affected areas.

Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks

Lack of access to the affected areas, due to blocked roads and damaged infrastructure, including bridges, is a significant constraint on the ability of responding organisations to meet the needs of the affected population in the Grande-Anse and Sud departments, as well as other affected regions. Some towns have been completely isolated and remain unreachable via land for large vehicles two weeks after the storm made landfall. The extensive damage to an already weak transport infrastructure is hampering the relief efforts.

Insecurity and lootings poses an additional layer of complexity to the movement of supplies and distribution.

Port-au-Prince airport has not been damaged and is fully functional, however support is needed to manage the rapid influx of large amounts of relief items.

Storage across the affected areas to receive and dispatch relief items to the most affected areas is required to support humanitarian operations.

Due to the number and variety of actors involved in the response, coordination structures at field level, particularly in Jéremie and Les Cayes, are necessary to facilitate and disseminate operational information and to align priorities and response activities among the different stakeholders.

Objective

Based on a request from the Government of Haiti and the Humanitarian Country Team, the World Food Programme deployed a Logistics Response Team (LRT) to assess the requirements and to establish a logistics coordination structure in Port-au-Prince.

The Logistics Sector Working Group has been working in support of the Directorate of Civil Protection (DPC) to coordinate logistics relief operations facilitating access to common logistics services, providing information management, and cargo tracking, as well as GIS/mapping services.

The purpose of the Haiti Logistics Working Group is to support the humanitarian community in their efforts to deliver life-saving relief items across affected areas in Haiti.

The primary objective is to support the Government and coordinate with International and National NGOs, Donor countries, the UN system and the private sector, in order to optimise the use of logistics assets and logistics
efforts, and by association, the delivery of various humanitarian assistance programmes for the populations affected by Hurricane Matthew.

This objective will be met through the execution of the following activities in response to the hurricane:

**1. Coordination**

In order to facilitate a unified response effort on behalf of the humanitarian community and minimise duplication of efforts, the Logistics Working Group, in support of the national authorities’ efforts, is providing:

Coordination mechanisms in Port-au-Prince, Les Cayes and Jérémie to facilitate alignment of priorities and response activities among the different stakeholders. Coordination Meetings are held in the three locations jointly with the DPC.

A Logistics Coordinator based in Port au Prince to coordinate the interagency efforts in collaboration with the national counterparts, in particular the Centre Operation D’Urgence National (COUN).

A surge team of logistics officers deployed to the different hubs to manage the provision of services.

Coordination support, concerning information on customs procedures, and liaison with the Directorate for Civil Protection (DPC) for the “One-Stop-Shop” and/or other relevant mechanisms established in Port-au-Prince for Humanitarian Customs Facilitation.

**2. Civil-Military Coordination**

In terms of civil-military coordination, dedicated staff manage civil-military relations with national and international military entities, including the Peacekeeping mission (MINUSTAH), and the bi-lateral military support through the standard coordination mechanisms established for Haiti with the Expanded Joint Operations Center (JOC).

The overall goal is to channel requests through a single point of entry into established systems for the most efficient use of military resources.

**3. Information Management**

In the interest of promoting the sharing of information among all organisations responding to the emergency, the Logistics Working Group is leading the Information Management (IM) of the logistics response.

The Logistics Working Group is collecting, consolidating and sharing information related to ongoing activities, key infrastructure, important procedures, and available storage and transport capacity in the affected areas to ensure an efficient and effective response by the humanitarian community.

An IM Officer is based in Port-au-Prince to collect and share relevant information with responding organisations, government authorities and other stakeholders. Support is provided by the Global Logistics Cluster Information Management unit for web publication and mapping support.

A dedicated webpage has been created, where access maps, situation updates, schedules of events, meeting minutes, and other key documents are made available daily: [www.logcluster.org/sector/hurrimat16](http://www.logcluster.org/sector/hurrimat16)
4. Logistics Services

The services made available by logistics providers through the Logistics Working Group are not intended to replace the logistics capacities of the agencies or organisations, but rather to supplement them through the provision of common services.

The cargo moved by these services will be dispatched based on the priority set by the Humanitarian Coordinator. Logistics Officers and support staff are deployed to Port-au-Prince and logistics hubs in Les Cayes and Jéremie.

The Relief Item Tracking Application (RITA) will track and share all the information on the cargo moved or stored through the Logistics Working Group on behalf of the humanitarian community.

The following services are being provided at no cost to the user, for two months. Extension of services will depend on needs and availability of funds:

**Logistics hubs**

A large volume of humanitarian goods is being delivered through Port-au-Prince airport, thus requiring the augmentation of the cargo handling and transit storage capacity. Personnel have been deployed in support of airport operations and equipment is arranged for if needs arise.

An interagency storage space of 4,000 m² near Port-au-Prince airport has been set-up by WFP with the support of Agility through the Logistics Emergency Teams (LET) mechanism.

An interagency logistics base with a capacity of 1,250 m² has been set up in Les Cayes, allowing for consolidated pipeline management of cargo destined to the affected areas of the Sud department. Dedicated space has been available in support of the Shelter, Health, WASH and Food sectors. The capacity can be further augmented according to the needs.

A logistics centre will be setup in Jéremie in cooperation with IOM and the Departmental authorities. A temporary logistics staging areas has been established in the city while engineering works are on-going to set-up the Logistics base on government provided space. Additional capacity will be established by 24 October with an initial target of 2,000 m².

Mobile Storage Units and prefabricated offices will to be deployed at communal level to support national authorities as required in the South West and if needed, in the North West of the country to support the logistics requirements of unattended communities. Assets available in country will be complemented with additional ones called forward through the UNHRD Network.

**Road Transport**

WFP deployed a fleet of fifteen off-road trucks to the affected areas. These are positioned in Les Cayes and Jéremie and are available to support interagency distribution in the affected areas. Further commercial assets are being secured to strengthened capacity on the ground.

IOM has also secured transport capacity in support of the shelter response and can avail these services to other partners through the same tasking mechanism.
Handicap International/Atlas Logistique will also contribute to augment secondary transport capacity for humanitarian actors in close collaboration with the Logistics Working Group at the department level.

Using commercial actors and global partners such as UPS, trucking capacity for primary transport from PaP into Les Cayes and shunting operations in PaP has been provided. This service is only intended to assist humanitarian actors and the Government for the initial phase of the response.

**Air Transport**

The Logistics Working Group is coordinating the use of WFP air assets (1 helicopter 9-seater, 0.7 mt cargo) for responding organisations to transport personnel and light cargo to the affected areas.

A second helicopter (Bell 212 4 Pax + 1.5 MT cargo) will be based in Les Cayes to allow for fast deployment to the most affected areas.

The Logistics Working Group has also been consolidating requests for the use of US DoD assets for the transport of humanitarian aid to the affected areas and hard-to-reach destinations. As those assets are now being retrograded for operations to end on 19 October, WFP is deploying additional assets.

An additional third helicopter for cargo delivery is on standby and will be mobilized if required.

The air assets above will be maintained for two months, extension is envisaged depending on needs.

**Coastal services**

The Dutch Navy has deployed two vessels to support emergency operations. Operations planning is coordinated closely with the DPC. One vessel (50 m³ capacity) is based in Les Cayes to serve remote coastal areas inaccessible by land for large trucks, such as the coastal strip between Roche à Bateaux and Tiburon. A second vessel, (450 m³) which can produce 36 mt of fresh water per day, will support the Grande-Anse coastal deliveries out of PaP.

Sailing time from Port-au-Prince to Grande-Anse is approximately 12 to 16 hours – weather permitting – hence sea transport is a viable option compared to road transport considering damage to road infrastructure, and security concerns. Current support provided by the Dutch military will be withdrawn on 26 October.

To maintain this critical delivery option, WFP will establish a regular service using a landing craft sailing between PaP and the coastal areas between Les Abricots and Les Anglais until road access is restored for large trucks to support humanitarian supplies delivery. This service will provide a predictable and reliable option for onward movement of humanitarian supplies to coastal affected areas.

**Fuel**

Fuel will be made available through a partner, in remote areas as required for the initial phase of response to ensure sustained operations for local actors and health institutions while the commercial sectors get back on its feet. In support of the air operations out of Jéremie, provision of Jet A1 fuel will be arranged in Jéremie on a costs recovery basis.

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.
**Integrated Food/NFI Pipeline Management**

Thanks to the collaboration between WFP, IOM and DPC and OFDA, a central clearing house has started to process all requests from humanitarian organisations for urgent food and shelter requirements to respond to the needs of out of reach communities.

A dedicated interagency team working from the UN LogBase is managing the requests for Logistics Services and Humanitarian supplies, enabling local partners to access immediate support.

Organisations can submit ad-hoc requests for food and non-food items (NFIs) to reach unattended communities, by submitting one single form to the Logistics Working Group. Following and expedite procedure, the Logistics Working Group will receive the supply request and will validate it with IOM, DPC and WFP.

**Cholera Response Readiness**

WFP and the Logistics Working Group will develop a rapid response mechanism to assist health responders to assess and deliver to remote areas by air in support of prevention and containment activities related to possible cholera outbreaks.

In partnership with UNICEF and WHO/PAHO, temperature controlled storage will be established in Jéremie and Les Cayes starting 25 October in support of a large scale vaccination campaign for cholera.

**IHP Camp**

An accommodation camp is being set-up in Jéremie to support partners because of a lack of suitable accommodation. The camp will be available for a 2 month period. The camp can accommodate 35 people and is intended to provide essential support to the humanitarian community working in the areas most affected by Hurricane Matthew in order to assure the means to maintain their presence to respond adequately to the needs of the affected population.

As “Provider of Last Resort” WFP, through the Logistics Working Group, is responsible only for providing 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.
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