Background

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

Haiti has been severely affected due to storm surge, high waves and hurricane-force winds, and up to 300,000 people might be in need for assistance.

Severe flooding, significant mudslides and flash floods as well as landslides and damage to roads and infrastructure has been reported, especially in rural areas, especially in the departments of South, Nippes, Grande-Anse, South East and West. The main bridge in Petit Goaves, 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 organizations to meet the needs of the affected population in the South West of Haiti.

Initial evaluations indicate a need for support, at Port-au-Prince airport, to manage the influx of the expected large amount of relief items. Storage capacity augmentation is envisaged in Port-au-Prince and specifically in Les Cayes to receive and dispatch commodities to the most affected areas is required to support humanitarian operations. Additionally, coordinated air, sea, road transport will also be necessary to ensure access to the affected populations.

Given the conditions of the road network and the lack of transport means, secondary transport remains a matter of concern. The condition of the road network poses serious constraints especially when trying to access coastal communities, considering the current lack of reliable coastal shipping options.

Objective

Based on a request from the Government and Humanitarian Country Team, the World Food Programme, as the lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, aims to provide logistics coordination and information management support, as well as facilitating the handling of the incoming cargo.

With support from the Global Logistics Cluster in Rome and WFP’s Regional Bureau in Panama, a Logistics Response Team (LRT) has been deployed to assess the requirements and to establish a Logistics Working Group in Port-au-Prince.

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

The primary objective being 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 services as required by the humanitarian community.
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 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, in support of the national Authorities’ efforts, the following coordination services can be provided to minimise duplication of logistics activities during the response:

A Logistics Working Group will be established in Port-au-Prince with support from WFP’s Regional Bureau in Panama and the Global Logistics Cluster in Rome.

Sub-national coordination cells will be established in Les Cayes and Jeremie.

A Logistics Coordinator will be 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 will 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, the Logistics Working Group will focus primarily on logistics operational and strategic coordination for the use of military assets in relief activities. The Logistics Working Group will serve as centralised entry point for the request for support from those assets through the regular service request system.

The overall goal is to channel requests to establish systems for the most efficient use of military resources. Destinations and schedules will be based on need.

Dedicated staff will 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 including the Expanded Joint Operations Center (JOC).

3. **Information Management**

The following Information Management (IM) activities will be undertaken in the interest of promoting and facilitating the sharing of logistics information among all organizations conducting response operations. To ensure an efficient and effective response by the humanitarian community, the Logistics Working Group will collect, consolidate, and share information related to on-going activities, key infrastructure, important procedures, and available storage and transport capacity in the affected areas.

*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.*
An IM Officer based in Port-au-Prince to collect and share relevant information with respondent organisations, government authorities and other stakeholders. Dedicated support will be granted by the Global Logistics Cluster Information Management team in Rome, and by the HQ GIS Unit for the production of maps.

Further information management capacity is envisaged at the regional level to cover other affected countries and to support a coordinated regional response.

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

4. Logistics Services

The services made available by WFP are not intended to replace the logistics capacities of the agencies or organizations, 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 Hub support will be deployed to Port au Prince and relevant forward logistics bases.

Access permitting, the following services may be provided at no cost to the user, depending on the availability of funds:

Set-up of operations and logistics hubs in country

It is expected that a large volume of humanitarian goods will be delivered through Port-au-Prince airport, port and road crossing point with Dominican Republic, thus requiring the augmentation of the storage capacity. WFP will set up a dedicated interagency storage facility.

Storage capacity in Port-au-Prince and forward logistics bases in Les Cayes, Jeremie, will also be made available to support operations closer to the affected areas. Additional advanced logistics bases will be set up on a need basis in collaboration with partners through the quick deployment of Mobile Storage Units and support equipment already available in country.

Transport services

An off-road capable truck fleet will be mobilized to the affected areas and made available to the humanitarian community to provide transport from the regional hubs of Les Cayes and Jérémie. Specialized 4x4 truck capacity is already present in country.

Coastal services

A coastal vessel with roll-on/roll-off capabilities will operate from Port-au-Prince to provide a coastal shipping service to affected areas such as Jeremie and southern coastal communities of Grande-Anse and Les Cayes.

The vessel will provide a predictable and reliable option for onward movement of humanitarian supplies to the coastal affected areas.

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