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**OVERVIEW**

**The Logistics Cluster** enables global, regional and local actors to meet humanitarian needs.

Before crises, we work with the stakeholders in high-risk countries and regions to strengthen local capacities working with governments and local actors on system-wide preparedness and contingency planning.

In crises, where local capacities have been exceeded, we provide leadership, coordination, information and operational services.

Globally, the Logistics Cluster is a community of partners actively working to overcome logistics constraints, develop and share best practices and solutions.

Because of its expertise in humanitarian logistics and its field capacity, the UN World Food Programme was chosen by the IASC to be the lead agency of the Logistics Cluster. In this role, when necessary, WFP acts as a provider of last resort offering common logistics services, to all humanitarian responders, ensuring an efficient emergency response, reducing duplication of humanitarian efforts and saving costs.

The Global Logistics Cluster support team, hosted in WFP Headquarters in Rome, provides logistics surge capacity for emergency response and support to the humanitarian community reinforcing operations on the ground.

The team is also responsible for several trainings aimed at developing the logistics response of the humanitarian community, providing to NGOs and UN staff the skills and tools necessary during an emergency. Logistics Cluster Coordinators, Logistics Officers and Information Management Officers, key figures in charge of the emergency response, are formed through these trainings.

At the field level, the Logistics Cluster is responsible for coordination and information management of the logistics response. When necessary, the Logistics Cluster coordinates access to common logistics services, facilitating the delivery and storage of supplies.

Throughout 2017, the Logistics Cluster has been supporting 327 organisations, including national and international NGOs, UN agencies, foundations, civil society organisations and government agencies.

This support includes hosting coordination meetings to discuss gaps and bottlenecks and develop common operational solutions; producing and sharing Information Management products to assist in day-to-day activities, as well as strategic planning; coordinating humanitarian interagency convoys, and facilitating the delivery and storage of relief supplies.

Current field operations include Bangladesh, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen.
Since 1992, Cox’s Bazar continues to experience an intermittent influx of refugees from Myanmar, periodically escalating to life threatening levels when their movement, access to services and livelihoods are restricted. A new influx of Undocumented Myanmar Nationals (UMN), estimated at 540,000 as of mid-October 2017, has eroded already compromised resources in the existing makeshift settlements and refugee camps at Kutupalong and Balukhali.

In line with the Government of Bangladesh National Strategy on Undocumented Myanmar Nationals and Refugees, the humanitarian community is scaling up its operation to support the government’s response.

WFP, together with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), is co-chairing the Logistics Sector in Bangladesh, and as lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, is coordinating the Logistics Sector in Cox’s Bazar to support the logistics needs of the entire humanitarian community.

The main logistics constraints faced by humanitarian organisations responding to the emergency are the lack of available storage facilities and clear customs procedures, as well as the ability to prepare for the potential damages and impairments which the upcoming cyclone season may cause.

**The Logistics Sector is setting up a Logistics Hub** in the space allocated by the Government; 15 Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) are being assembled for a total of 2,184 m2. The space is made available for all humanitarian organisations as well as for the government, on a free to user basis.

The Logistics Sector is also coordinating with the different governmental actors involved in the response, including the military, and managing and sharing information on customs procedures, access constraints and other key operational data. Eighteen Information Management products have been published on the dedicated Bangladesh webpage, which, set-up at the end of September 2017, has produced 1,570 page views.

The Logistics Sector is also gathering and compiling information on market assessments, price monitoring and local procurement to feed into the Bangladesh Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA).

As Bangladesh is planning to build a refugee camp able to properly host 800,000 people, the humanitarian community will require more support in storing relief items and bringing them to the final delivery point.

Provided funding, the Logistics Sector is planning to extend its assistance until the end of March 2018. However to date, only US$ 1 million, out of the US$ 3 million requirement, was received.

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Save the Children Hygiene Kits arriving to the Logistics Hub in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, 20 October 2017.

(Photo Credit: Logistics Cluster)
The Logistics Cluster is active in Central African Republic since 2013, in support of the humanitarian community. Significant logistics constraints, poor infrastructure and the fragile security context, make it difficult for humanitarian assistance to reach the beneficiaries.

In 2017 conflict intensified in the East, Center and West of the country – particularly in the areas Haut-Mbomou (Zemio), Mbomou (Bangassou), Ouham (Batangafo) and Ouham Pendé (Bocaranga) – further hindering access and putting additional strain on the logistics capacity of the humanitarian community.

Despite many challenges, the Logistics Cluster has been providing significant support to several infrastructure rehabilitation projects carried out by ACTED (9 bridges), Handicap International-Atlas Logistique (3 airstrips) and Fondation Suisse de Deminage (1 barge). These projects benefited local and international actors allowing for safer and easier operations.

Furthermore the Logistics Cluster has been fostering a logistics setup that represents a best practice in inter-agency collaboration; 70 humanitarian organisations actively participate in coordination meetings and other cluster activities, share valuable operational information – consolidated in access constraints maps and other Information Management products – and take charge of service provision for the entire humanitarian community.

The Logistics Cluster also ensures an adequate representation of humanitarian logistics concerns in main decision bodies such as the Inter-Cluster Committee, the Rapid Response Mechanism, Civ-Mil coordination meetings and the UNHAS User Group.

Common transport of relief items from Bangui and from Bambari is led by Handicap International-Atlas Logistique, while Première Urgence Internationale is in charge of storage in Bangui and Action Contre la Faim, Solidarités International and Handicap International manage mobile storage units loaned from WFP in Bambari, Kaga Bandoro and Bossangoa.

Since August, the Logistics Cluster is also facilitating a common air cargo service to deliver life-saving items in difficult-to-access areas. As of mid-October, seven rotations where performed which delivered more than 25 mt of WASH, Shelter, Health and Logistics items to Bangassou and Zemio.

To better monitor the integrated services, starting this year, partners have been using the Logistics Cluster run Relief Item Tracking Application (RITA), ensuring transparency and accountability of cargo handled for both service users and donors.

Going forward, the Logistics Cluster plans to further expand support at provincial level, identifying regional logistics hubs providing common storage services and transport in areas where humanitarian actors are present and support them in accessing hard to reach locations.

This integration of services is creating unprecedented synergies and collaboration among organisations, as well as an optimal use of resources. The Logistics Cluster in CAR sets an example in inter-agency collaboration, with humanitarian actors taking charge of service provision.

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Conflict and general insecurity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have created one of the world’s most complex and long-standing humanitarian crisis.

Access remains a key challenge in the country. The delivery of relief items to vulnerable populations is deeply affected by the challenges related to covering a vast geographical area with limited logistics infrastructure and networks, often in poor condition, paired with growing insecurity and conflict.

The Logistics Cluster is operational in Kinshasa and in the provincial capitals of Bukavu, Goma, Bunia, Kalémie and Lubumbashi to coordinate the logistics response and to provide critical information improving access and reach to the affected population.

Since last year violent clashes erupted in Kasai, causing a severe humanitarian crisis in the region and major displacement – mainly towards Kananga and Tshikapa – the Logistics Cluster has been stepping up operations.

Two staging areas for the humanitarian community have been set up for in Kananga (960 m2) and Tshikapa (640 m2) and are managed by Handicap International-Atlas Logistique. Logistics Cluster staff are present in Kananga to help manage the supply chain and provide technical assistance to partners.

Road transport services have been also made available to humanitarian organisations by Handicap International-Atlas Logistique and a civil-military expert is being deployed to the Logistics Cluster to facilitate civil-military coordination.

These common logistics services have been managed using the Logistics Cluster-run Relief Item Tracking Application (RITA) to ensure full accountability of the cargo handled.

In 2017, the Logistics Cluster has been also supporting the response to the Ebola outbreak in the Bas Uele Province with logistics coordination and Information Management at national and provincial levels, as well as facilitating air cargo movements to the affected zones.

In addition, the Logistics Cluster has continued to work with national authorities to build institutional capacity in disaster response and mitigation, as well as to strengthen local capacities in data collection and data management with dedicated trainings, through which, over 15 organisations in Kananga, Bukavu and Kinshasa have been trained.

More capacity building activities are also foreseen, including trainings on supply chain management, data collection and analysis, logistics capacity mapping, risks management and civil-military coordination.

Going forward the Logistics Cluster is planning to set up additional logistics hubs in key provinces such as Tanganyika, North Kivu and North Ubangi, strengthen coordination within the humanitarian community and with local authorities and reinforce Information Management at national and provincial level.
IRAQ

The Logistics Cluster has been active in Iraq since 2014 to support the humanitarian community in responding to the country’s growing needs. Logistics constraints, mainly caused by limited access, an unstable security situation and damaged infrastructure, remain a leading cause triggering the need for the Logistics Cluster intervention.

Since the operation to retake Mosul began in October 2016, the Logistics Cluster has significantly scaled up activities across the country, mainly in the Ninewa Governorate. The Logistics Cluster has been conducting a range of activities to address bottlenecks and gaps and to enhance the response capacity of the humanitarian community.

In the previous quarter, the cluster was facilitating 26,100 m² of common storage space in 18 locations in key operational areas for the use of humanitarian actors in Iraq. Common storage facilities have also been established inside camps, such as the Qayyarah Jad'ah camps, housing more than 90,000 displaced people. These facilities are being managed by local and international cooperating partners: Mercy Hands, the Barzani Charity Foundation, Qandil, Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and ACTED.

The Logistics Cluster has recently extended activities to cover the responses in Telafar, Hawija and West Anbar. In light of the recent changes to the operating environment and potential arising access constraints, the cluster also continued to compile details of all international border crossing points into both the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and Federal Iraq, as well as the southern seaport, Um Qasr. Working closely with OCHA, the Civil Military Coordination unit, government counterparts and key logistics organisations, the Logistics Cluster has been providing key access information and updates.

In addition, throughout 2017, the One Stop Shop (OSS) for customs clearance, established in close collaboration with the Joint Crisis Coordination (JCC) Centre in December 2016, has been providing a free-of-charge service for all agencies and local and international NGOs. These services include the facilitation of customs clearance for incoming cargo into the KRI, and coordination with all relevant authorities for the smooth movement of humanitarian aid into and throughout the KRI. Over the first eight months, the OSS processed more than 700 requests, representing $117 million of humanitarian cargo (6,785 mt). Prior to the establishment of the OSS, clearance requests for the KRI were taking from three weeks to months to process; clearance time has since been reduced to four to ten days.

The Logistics Cluster plans to extend the support to the humanitarian community in Iraq into 2018, with a renewed focus on access infrastructure, and bottlenecks on the importation of critical humanitarian items, such as medicines. As a reflection of the changing response, the cluster will be scaling down the in-camp common storage facilities, while encouraging MSU loans (and trainings) to partners. The main logistics hubs in Erbil, Dahuk, Tikrit and Baghdad will be promoted for cargo consolidation and contingency stocks.

(Photo Credit: Logistics Cluster)
The Logistics Sector in Nigeria provides support to the Government-led coordination of the humanitarian logistics response in the North-East of the country.

Security risks along main supply routes and poor road infrastructure, combined with the scale of the need, have created a significant strain on the logistics capacity of humanitarian responders in the affected states: Adamawa, Borno and Yobe.

The Logistics Sector has been supporting the humanitarian community by facilitating access to common logistics services and maintaining regular bilateral and collective engagement in an open forum for discussing and addressing logistics issues as they arise. The Logistics Sector has been also providing guidance and promoting joint inter-agency logistical planning, also ahead of the rainy season.

The Logistics Sector in Nigeria represents best practice in the inter-agency collaboration, where humanitarian actors not only actively participate in the sector activities, but also take charge of the management of common storage facilities.

The Inter-Agency Logistics Base in Maiduguri has a storage capacity of 2,140m², which includes a temperature-controlled storage area, a dedicated timber shed, a kitting area and air cargo consolidation services in support of UNHAS operation, while a training room is under construction. The site is managed by Première Urgence Internationale on behalf of the Logistics Sector and to date has served 25 organisations with 24,000 m³ of cargo stored.

Another common storage site of 1,280 m² in Monguno is managed by Solidarités International (SI), while preparations to establish four additional common storage sites are ongoing. These will be in Banki (280 m²), to be managed by INTERSOS, in Ngala (640 m²) to be managed by eHealth Africa, in Damasak and in Dikwa, both to be managed by ACTED.

Along with facilitating common storage, the Logistics Sectors also actively supports the Civil-Military coordination mechanisms established by OCHA. This support includes facilitation of cargo movements and coordination of military escort arrangements where required. Since November 2016, the Logistics Sector has facilitated, on behalf of 21 organisations, 7,267 truck movement requests for relief cargo, 4,252 of which, required a military escort.

The Logistics Sector also works for reinforcing the logistics expertise of the humanitarian workers operating in the northeast. As of 15 October, the Logistics Sector trained 130 people in the course of six trainings covering MSU setup, warehouse management and customs procedures.

The Logistics Sector really plays a pivotal role in the Northern Nigeria response – 230 organisations are currently subscribed to the mailing list used to share all the relevant operational information related to the sector activities – and is planning to extend and expand this support into 2018.

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Cargo arriving at the Inter-Agency Logistics Base in Maiduguri, June 2017.

(Photos Credit: Logistics Cluster)
In February 2017, following a prolonged drought, the humanitarian situation in Somalia rapidly deteriorated. Levels of malnutrition and drought-related disease outbreaks rose throughout the country and by May 6.7 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance (source: OCHA).

The operating environment in Somalia remains one of the most hazardous in the world, regular and sustained access to the hard hit areas and the delivery of humanitarian aid represent a challenge due to surging insecurities, capacity limitations and deteriorated infrastructure.

In response to the emergency, a Drought Operations Coordination Centre (DOCC) was established in Mogadishu. All clusters, including the Logistics Cluster, are represented within the DOCC and engaged in daily planning for the multi-sectoral response.

The Logistics Cluster provides essential coordination and information management to mitigate duplication of efforts by humanitarian actors and maximize the use of available logistics assets and resources. Regular logistics coordination meetings are held in Mogadishu and Nairobi to foster dialogue with other clusters and organisations, assessment missions are carried out to key locations to identify logistics gaps and bottlenecks and gather data, and relevant operational information is shared through the publication of route accessibility maps, supplier/transporter lists, situation updates, flash news and briefings.

The Logistics Cluster facilitates access to sea and road transportation; humanitarian supplies are being transported by sea on a monthly basis from the Port of Mombasa to Mogadishu, Berbera, Bossaso and Kismayo, and by road into and throughout Somalia. In addition, three cargo planes are positioned in Mogadishu to facilitate the airlift of critical humanitarian supplies; since the start of the scale up in February, 507 mt of cargo were transported on behalf of 13 humanitarian organisations to 18 destinations.

To complement transport services, WFP has also made available storage facilities throughout the country, as well as two refrigerated units in the WFP complex inside of the Mogadishu International Airport, on behalf of Save the Children and UNICEF, for the storage of heat-sensitive relief items. Plans are underway to install an additional storage facility for heat-sensitive cargo in Mogadishu, to meet the special storage needs of all the humanitarian organisations responding to the drought emergency.

In 2018, the Logistics Cluster will continue to provide logistics coordination, information management and fill identified logistics gaps through facilitation of logistics services on behalf of the humanitarian community in Somalia. In addition, there will be a focus on capacity building for the Government and members of the humanitarian community through implementation of logistics training, optimising logistics capacities to respond to shocks in the future.
Facilitating access to air transport within Somalia for delivery of relief items, July 2017.

(Photograph credit: Logistics Cluster)
Over the past three years the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan has deepened and spread, affecting people in areas previously considered stable and exhausting the coping capacity of those already impacted.

The ongoing insecurity in conjunction with an extremely poor transport infrastructure have left the humanitarian sector with limited options to deliver lifesaving cargo to the displaced populations scattered across the country. Air and river transport are often the only means to deliver humanitarian cargo to remote locations cut off from any road access.

The Logistics Cluster facilitates air transport to priority locations with dedicated air assets, made available by WFP Aviation, bringing large quantities of relief cargo to hard-to-reach locations. From January to September this year, approximately 4,500 mt of cargo has been delivered to various locations in South Sudan. Air services are complimented by IOM which provides shunting services to and from the airstrips.

The Logistics Cluster has also been coordinating access to trucking services and river transport via barge to move larger payloads of NFIs and, working closely with OCHA and WFP Access Units, facilitated 22 convoys on behalf of the humanitarian community.

To complement transportation services, WFP, as the lead of the Logistics Cluster, has made available to the humanitarian community common storage warehouses in several locations across the country – Akobo, Aweil, Bentiu, Bor, Juba, Koch, Malakal, Melut, Minkgaman, Nyal, Pibor, Rumbek, Torit and Wau – and provided MSUs for the strategic prepositioning of relief items based on organisations’ needs.

Beyond the facilitation of common logistics services, the cluster plays a key role in South Sudan providing support and coordination to 120 humanitarian organisations on the ground, fostering cooperation and best practices to overcome common logistics constraints. Sixty-three coordination meetings have been held at central and provincial level and 147 Information Management products have been published on the South Sudan dedicated page on the Logistics Cluster website.

In 2018, the Logistics Cluster will focus on dry season planning and the use of cluster coordinated road convoys to maximize pre-positioning at strategic locations using the most convenient transport modality available in country. River transportation will be strengthened expanding the use of smaller boats to enable a more regular supply chain.

For areas that are neither accessible by road or river, air transport will be maintained with a combination of a fixed wing aircraft and helicopters to respond to organisations’ requests in a timely manner.
The scale of the humanitarian crisis in Syria continues to require a large-scale, sustained and comprehensive response from the humanitarian community to provide the affected population with critical cross-sectoral assistance.

The Logistics Cluster facilitates access to crucial logistics services for operations across the region, following the UN Security Council Resolution 2165, which established the Whole of Syria (WoS) approach, bringing together regional separate operations – Turkey, Jordan and Syria – into a single framework.

The Logistics Cluster works relentlessly with relevant organisations active in the region to enhance coordination and the effectiveness of the overall response, through the provision of a set of tailored logistics services including warehousing, surface transportation, contingency fuel provision and storage, cross-border coordination and transhipment services.

The Logistics Cluster provides coordination for UN agencies’ cargo that is being transported cross-border into Syria through UN Security Council Resolution-authorized border crossings. These cross-border activities are the key operational enablers of the WoS approach.

Air operations, using WFP assets, were facilitated to Deir ez-Zor (airdrops) until September 2017 and to Qamishli (airlifts) until June 2017 when land access was resumed. In light of the newly established land access to these previously cut-off locations, air operations were discontinued and replaced with free to user road transport, which has been complemented with increased warehouse capacity; storage is currently available in six locations across the country for a total of 16,429 m².

Alongside the facilitation of common services, to foster the discussion on logistics bottlenecks and the development of common solutions to improve the humanitarian response among the actors active in the region, the Logistics Cluster holds regular coordination meetings in Damascus, Aleppo, Amman, Gaziantep and Antakya.

Throughout 2017, the Logistics Cluster maintained its commitment to strengthen local capacities training 144 people from 45 different organisations in Turkey, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

In 2018, priorities will remain facilitating access to logistical services across the WoS, maintaining a strong regional information management and coordination system, and continuing to enhance the capacity of humanitarian actors through dedicated logistics trainings.

Furthermore, in 2018 the Logistics Cluster will explore the possibility of establishing transport and storage services in newly accessible areas, to allow for prepositioning and to enable the humanitarian community to conduct prompt response operations.
Due to instability and conflict, areas primarily in the eastern part of Ukraine have experienced a deteriorating humanitarian situation. A number of challenges such as damaged infrastructure, restrict the movement of humanitarian staff and the delivery of relief items to the affected populations.

The Logistics Cluster has been coordinating humanitarian logistics to facilitate the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance to the affected populations in eastern Ukraine, namely Donetsk and Luhansk non-government controlled areas (NGCA) and works in close cooperation with the Humanitarian Coordinator and OCHA to advocate for improved humanitarian access and to overcome logistics bottlenecks.

The Logistics Cluster has been assisting humanitarian actors working in Ukraine by streamlining the complex procedures required for transport across the conflict line, advising on the required paperwork, facilitating access by providing a UN umbrella for organisations and coordinating humanitarian convoys.

In addition, the Logistics Cluster has been consolidating and sharing information on customs procedures, road access and on available logistics capacity to facilitate cargo movements and in-country access.

Finally the cluster has been coordinating access to warehousing and cargo consolidation facilities in Dnipro (former Dnipropetrovsk) and to transport services to support the delivery of relief items to the non-government controlled areas.

In 2017 the Logistics Cluster has been supporting the organisations working in Ukraine mostly by facilitating humanitarian convoys. The cluster is planning to scale down operations and eventually deactivate by the first quarter of 2018.

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The ongoing conflict in Yemen makes access extremely difficult both for humanitarian staff and relief goods. Responding organisations have been facing a number of logistics constraints, including congestion at main entry points, unreliable and unpredictable access to sufficient quantities of fuel as well as high volatility in its price, limited international shipping options to Yemen, especially by air, limited in-country storage capacity, and poor overland transport capacity from neighbouring countries.

In 2017, the cholera outbreak has been adding to the scale of the response and significant logistics support has been necessary to ensure humanitarian organisations responding to the crisis could deliver efficient and effective assistance to the affected population.

To ensure timely and efficient emergency logistics response, the Logistics Cluster has been supporting *inter-agency logistics coordination establishing hubs inside Yemen and in Djibouti* and providing information management including mapping/GIS services.

The Logistics Cluster has also been facilitating access to common logistics services to maximise the use of available resources in-country, and avoid duplication of efforts. Throughout 2017, the Logistics Cluster has been facilitating sea transport of relief items from Djibouti to Aden and Hodeidah, storage in the three hubs of Sana’a, Hodeida and Aden and overland transport inside Yemen, ensuring an *integrated supply chain of humanitarian cargo* in support of over 30 organisations (including organisations accessing emergency fuel made available by WFP).

The Logistics Cluster has also been coordinating access to *combined chartered airlifts* from Djibouti to Sana’a offered to the humanitarian community by WFP Aviation. Regular monthly airlifts have been integrated in response to the cholera epidemic with dedicated rotations (up to four a week) for the transport of urgent Health and WASH cargo. Until mid-October 2017, 15 organisations have been using the airlifts transporting 1,490 m3/401 mt of relief items into Yemen.

The Logistics Cluster also coordinates a passenger movement service between Djibouti and Aden on the WFP-chartered vessel VOS Apollo, which is also used for emergency rescue and evacuation purposes, as well as for cargo transportation. Over 100 passengers are transported each month and as of October 2017, 37 organisations (14 UN agencies, 19 INGOs, 4 NNGOs) used the service.

The Logistics Cluster will extend its activities into 2018 to ensure a continued support to the humanitarian community responding to the dire situation in Yemen, to ensure that relief items will continue to reach people in need.
LOGISTICS CLUSTER
YEMEN OPERATION
July - September 2017

8 MEETINGS IN SANAA, ADEN AND DUBAOUI
30 ORGANIZATIONS
35 LOGISTICS COORDINATION AND INFORMATION SHARING

WFP, as the lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, provides common logistics services to humanitarian organizations in Yemen.

1,188 m³ OF HUMANITARIAN CARGO BY SEA
42 20’ CONTAINERS

375 PASSENGERS BETWEEN DUBAOUI - ADEN - DUBAOUI
(from April to June)

4,608 m³ OF HUMANITARIAN CARGO BY ROAD
165 20’ CONTAINERS

1,243 m³ OF HUMANITARIAN CARGO BY AIR
44 20’ CONTAINERS

2,624 AIR PASSENGERS TRANSPORTED BY UNHAS

FUEL DISTRIBUTED IN YEMEN

24 ORGANIZATIONS
281,420 liters

6,000 m³ OF CARGO STORED
214 20’ CONTAINERS

WHO ambulances destined to Yemen being loaded in Djibouti on WFP-chartered Vox Apollo, 28 May 2017.
(Photo Credit: Logistics Cluster)