

Libya Logistics Cluster

Operational Overview

Background

Libya has been experiencing an unprecedented level of upheaval and violence since anti-government protests began on 17 February 2011. While the fighting has now eased, the general situation in Libya is still volatile and unpredictable. Access to food, water and other essential humanitarian supplies remains a matter of concern, particularly in Libya's coastal areas and the Nafusa Mountains.

The humanitarian community is responding with relief assistance, however logistical obstacles are limiting organizations' capacity to quickly access the affected population.



General Logistics Planning Map for Libya

Given the current situation, there is an identified need for the Logistics Cluster to support the movement of humanitarian cargo and personnel into Libya.

Logistics Coordination

To ensure the logistics coordination of operations into and within Libya, Logistics Cluster cells were established in Cairo, Egypt; Zarzis, Tunisia; Benghazi, Libya; and there is now a cell in Tripoli. Logistics coordination meetings have been taking place since early March, with many UN agencies, NGOs and donors in regular attendance.

At the outset of the crisis, WFP logistics officers were deployed to Salloum and Marsa Matruh along the Egypt/Libya corridor, to facilitate the crossing of relief items, monitor the situation in the area, and assess warehouse capacity for interagency use. The Logistics Cluster also deployed a staff member to Malta for the initial phase of the operation. As soon as access to Libya became possible, assessments were conducted

of the accessible ports, airports and other logistics infrastructure.

The Logistics Cluster has a dedicated Shipping Officer to manage port operations who is deployed to ports across the region on an ad-hoc basis to facilitate cargo movement for humanitarian organizations. A civil-military coordinator has been posted with NATO from the start of the operation to ensure the deconfliction of humanitarian cargo and personnel movements.

Information Sharing

To support operational decision-making, relevant logistics information products, including maps, are distributed to the humanitarian community through a dedicated Libya operations page on the Logistics Cluster website and a moderated mailing list. This includes information on logistics infrastructure such as ports, airports, roads, customs, and suppliers covering Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Malta. All information products published to date and a link to subscribe to the NorthAfrica.Logs email list can be found at: <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/lby11a>.

U.N. Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS)

To ensure access and evacuation capacity while regular commercial flights are not available, on 1 May WFP launched a regional UNHAS flight service into Libya. The current flight route includes Malta, Benghazi, Misurata, Tripoli, Cairo and Djerba. Further details about accessing these services, along with the updated schedule, are available at: <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/lby11a/unhas-schedule-and-forms>.

Services Available to the Humanitarian Community

Road Transport

The Logistics Cluster has been facilitating the delivery of relief cargo by offering trucking services to the humanitarian community on a cost recovery basis. Road transport has been provided on routes from Cairo and Alexandria into Benghazi and Tobruq, and from Benghazi to other locations within Libya. Capacity is also available from Tunis and Zarzis into Tripoli and the Nafusa Mountains.

Sea Transport

Due to a substantial drop in regular commercial sea transport to Libya, the Logistics Cluster has been providing shipping services for the humanitarian community from Mediterranean ports to Libyan ports free of charge to the users. Initially cargo was delivered on ad hoc ships chartered by WFP or other organizations. As of early July, WFP chartered a ship, the MV Fehim Bey, to ensure regular rotations between Malta, Benghazi, Misurata, and now Tripoli. Passenger transport is also provided on this vessel. The service has been extended until the end of September.

WFP contracted vessel MV Fehim Bey



Storage

In order to maximize storage capacity for relief items at Libya's main entry points, free storage services have been made available to humanitarian organizations in the 20,000 m² WFP warehouse in Ganfuda, 25 km from Benghazi.

The Logistics Cluster is also providing free bonded storage of up to 1000m² in Malta Freeport for transit cargo, and interagency storage remains available in Tunisia in the WFP warehouse facility in Zarzis and at the WFP operated, bonded warehouse in Tataouine.

Capacity Building

In Tunisia, WFP has provided supply chain and warehouse management training for the staff of various NGOs operating in Tunisia. The Logistics Cluster is currently in the process of organizing customs workshops for organizations bringing relief supplies from Tunisia into Libya in order to familiarize partners with basic customs clearance procedures and provide a reference tool for the continuing operation.

Geographical Information Systems

The Logistics Cluster maintains a GIS capability in order to provide logistics maps, as well as to coordinate with OCHA on the development of maps specific to the crisis. These include:

- Regional Overview Map
- Libya Logistics Corridors
- Logistics Cluster Concept of Operations
- Benghazi, Tripoli, Misurata Area Maps
- Nafusa Mountains Map

The maps are available for download at <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/lby11a/docs?doctype=Maps%20%26%20Geograph>. Additional maps can be produced based on demand from the humanitarian community.

Achievements

- Transported by road over 2,000 m³ of relief cargo for 10 other organizations from Egypt to Benghazi and Tunisia to Tripoli.
- Transported by sea 7,324 m³ of relief cargo from Mediterranean ports into Benghazi, Misurata and Benghazi, as well as 401 passengers from 51 different entities on the Fehim Bey.
- Stored 2,947 m³ for 12 organizations.
- Transported 2,775 passengers from 142 UN agencies, NGOs and diplomatic corps on 71 flight days between Malta, Cairo, Djerba, Benghazi, Heraklion and Misurata.
- Established civil-military coordination with NATO to assist with the deconfliction of humanitarian movements.
- Deployed more than a dozen Logistics Officers across the region in support of Logistics Cluster operations.
- Distributed 300 hard copy maps, and posted 152 information products on the website.



Con-Ops map for Logistics Cluster activities

Logistics Cluster Contacts:

General Inquiries: northafrica.logs@logcluster.org

Cargo Movement: northafrica.cargo@logcluster.org