ZIMBABWE CLOSURE REPORT
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OVERVIEW

Led by the World Food Programme, the Logistics Cluster was activated in Zimbabwe in early April 2019 in response to the flooding and destruction caused by Cyclone Idai in the eastern part of the country. Cyclone Idai first crossed the coast of Mozambique on the evening of 14 March, making landfall in Beira before leaving a trail of destruction across Central Mozambique. Idai then crossed over into Malawi and Zimbabwe as a Tropical Storm on 16 March where it caused severe flooding and landslides. The storm caused significant damage in Chimanimani and Chipinge provinces in the Manicaland district, rendering approximately 90% of the roads and bridges in the affected areas unusable.

The World Food Programme (WFP), as lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, was requested to support the government-led response, following the humanitarian community’s identification of common logistics gaps and the demonstrated need for cluster activation. A Logistics Cluster Coordinator and Information Management Officer were deployed to Mutare in the country’s east, which had been identified as the main coordination hub for the response, while WFP, as part of its mandate as lead agency, also acted as ‘provider of last resort’, offering logistics services to fill identified logistics gaps in the humanitarian supply chain. Overall, 24 organisations were supported through coordination, information management and facilitation of access to crucial logistics services over the course of the response.

As the situation improved and the response transitioned from emergency to early recovery, the Logistics Cluster scaled down its operational activities and began working towards rolling out preparedness initiatives, designed to build on lessons learned as part of the response to foster continued collaboration and communication within the humanitarian community in Zimbabwe.
In order to support humanitarian actors responding to the impacts of Cyclone Idai, the Logistics Cluster provided coordination in order to mitigate the duplication of efforts and to maximise the use of available logistics assets and resources. Coordination activities included:

• Weekly coordination meetings held firstly in Harare, and then Mutare;
• Participation in a range of fora, including the Inter-Cluster Working Group;
• Identification of available operators’ logistics capacity with the support of the WFP Country Office; and
• Coordination of discussions between partners regarding access constraints and issues to work towards common solutions.

CoODINATION
The Logistics Cluster supported responding humanitarian organisations with the collection, analysis and dissemination of critical information to support operational planning and decision-making. Through a dedicated page on the Logistics Cluster website, the Logistics Cluster in Zimbabwe supported humanitarian actors involved in the emergency response with information to support operational decision-making. The page served as a repository of key logistics information including minutes of coordination meetings, templates for service requests, situation updates and access constraints maps. Critical information was also disseminated via a dedicated mailing list and informal information sharing was conducted through other channels.

Throughout the duration of the Logistics Cluster’s activation in Zimbabwe, 56 information updates were published on the dedicated webpage.

- **56**
  Information updates shared on operation page

- **2,365**
  Page views of the Zimbabwe Logistics Cluster operational documents

- **3**
  Blog pieces published
AIR TRANSPORT

With overland transport significantly impeded due to damage to road infrastructure and ongoing wet weather, air services were the most viable option to transport relief items to areas inaccessible by road, as well as to conduct assessment missions and identify needs in affected regions. The Logistics Cluster, in collaboration with the WFP Country Office and UNHAS, facilitated access to air transportation services on behalf of the humanitarian community, via one Mi8 helicopter from Mutare to 15 locations throughout the affected districts of Chimanimani and Chipinge. Over the course of the response, 88 mt of relief items were transported by air.

88 mt
Cargo transported by helicopter

Humanitarian cargo delivered by helicopter to Chikukwa, April 2019

STORAGE

In order to support the airlifting of relief items to affected areas from Mutare Aerodrome, common storage was made available to humanitarian community through two Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) erected at the airfield primarily for the purposes of air cargo consolidation. A total of 541 m³ of humanitarian cargo was stored on behalf of Logistics Cluster partners throughout the operation.

541 m³
Humanitarian cargo stored