Background

The situation in Yemen has deteriorated significantly since March 2015, with a dramatic escalation of violence and armed conflict, further compounding the already precarious humanitarian situation. OCHA estimates that as many as 18,8 people are in need of some kind of humanitarian or protection assistance, including 10,3 million who are in acute need[1]. The scale of the needs and the scope of the emergency response have required a large, multi-agency and multi-sector response to be undertaken.

With the rapid deterioration of the security situation across the country, the increase of humanitarian needs, the dire economic crisis and the limited infrastructure available, additional logistical support is required to ensure humanitarian organisations responding to the crisis can deliver efficient and effective assistance to the people affected.

The Logistics Cluster will facilitate access to common logistics services (temporary storage; air, sea and overland transport; fuel distribution), as well as assuming a coordination and information management role to maximise the use of available resources in-country, and avoid duplication of efforts.

Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks

The major constraints on the ability of humanitarian organisations to respond to the crisis in Yemen are: the lack of access due to insecurity, a rapidly changing security situation, and limited or much damaged infrastructure. Specifically, the following logistics gaps have been identified:

- Congestion at main entry points (POD – port of discharge);

- 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;

- Poor overland transport capacity from neighbouring countries.

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[1] "Yemen: Humanitarian Needs at a Glance" (OCHA, November 2016)

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Objectives

Based on the needs expressed and identified by the humanitarian community, and in close alignment with the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), the Logistics Cluster aims to facilitate access to sufficient and reliable logistics services and operationally relevant information, to ensure a timely and uninterrupted supply of life-saving relief items to affected populations.

Planned Activities

The following range of activities and services are not intended to replace the logistics capacities of individual agencies or organisations, but rather to fill identified gaps in the humanitarian supply chain and enhance the response of the humanitarian community through the provision of common services, based on needs expressed by all humanitarian organisations operating in Yemen.

1. Logistics Coordination: The following coordination activities will be undertaken to minimise duplication of efforts and competition by the humanitarian community:

- Dedicated Logistics Cluster Coordination staff will be based in Sana'a, Djibouti and Hodeidah, where regular Logistics Cluster Coordination meetings will take place;

- Coordination with other clusters, agencies and humanitarian organisations, including regular participation to Inter-Cluster Coordination Meetings (ICCM);

2. Information Management: to support operational decision making to improve the efficiency of the logistics response, a dedicated Information Management Officer (IMO) will be based in Djibouti to:

- Consolidate and share updated operational information, including Meeting Minutes, Operational Overviews, Situation Updates, UNHAS flights and sea Passenger schedules, forms and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs);

- Maintain information sharing platforms including a common mailing list, and a dedicated operation webpage on the Logistics Cluster website to disseminate relevant and up-to date logistics information to the humanitarian community: www.logcluster.org/ops/yem10a

- Produce and share logistics infrastructure Geographic Information Systems/mapping tools and products.

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3. Logistics Services

The services made available by the Logistics Cluster are not intended to replace the logistics capacities of organisations, but rather to support the humanitarian community through common services. *Access permitting and pending availability of resources, the following services will be provided at no cost to the user - for more details, see the relevant Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).*

Cargo Transport

The Logistics Cluster, will facilitate access to the following services provided by WFP, as a Provider of Last Resort:

- **Overland Transport:** based on the organisations' needs, access to overland transport will be facilitated. The Logistics Cluster will also facilitate the necessary permissions for the movement of cargo inside Yemen on behalf of the requesting organisation. Detailed SOPs on how to access road transport services are available at: www.logcluster.org/document/standard-operating-procedures-yemen-transport-temporary-storage-april-2016

- **Sea cargo transport**

  o Monthly dhows from Port of Djibouti (Djibouti) to Ports of Aden and Hodeida (Yemen), and to other accessible ports in Yemen, will be facilitated;

  o For sea transport from Djibouti to Aden port, the Logistics Cluster shares space availability on a WFP chartered vessel. This vessel operates on a weekly rotation, and to Aden only.

- **Air Transport:** the Logistics Cluster will facilitate:

  o "Light cargo" transport on board the UNHAS passenger plane rotating three times a week between Djibouti and Sana'a;

  o Bi-monthly (every two months) airlifts from Djibouti to Sana'a.

Detailed SOPs on how to access sea and air transport services are available at: www.logcluster.org/document/standard-operating-procedures-sops-djibouti-sea-air-transport-services-july-2016

A tentative schedule for the upcoming dhows and airlifts is also available on the Yemen operation page, at: www.logcluster.org/ops/yem10a

Common Storage

To support temporary storage of humanitarian cargo, the Logistics Cluster will facilitate access to the following storage facilities:

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- Aden: 640 m^2;

- Sana'a: 320 m^2;

- Hodeidah: 640 m^2.

Detailed SOPs on how to access storage services are available at:
www.logcluster.org/document/standard-operating-procedures-yemen-transport-temporary-storage-april-2016

Fuel Provision Service

To enable organisations responding to the crisis to establish an uninterrupted supply chain that supports the delivery of humanitarian relief items to the affected population, the Logistics Cluster will facilitate access to WFP-managed fuel distribution points in Aden, Hodeidah and Sana'a. This service is not intended to replace the logistics capacities of other organisations, nor is it meant to compete with the commercial market. Rather, it is intended to fill identified gaps and provide a last resort option in case other service providers are not available. *The service will be provided on cost recovery.*

Detailed SOPs on fuel provision are available at:
www.logcluster.org/document/standard-operating-procedures-sops-yemen-fuel-provision-july-2016

Sea Passengers Service

Due to the inaccessibility of the city of Aden via air, the Logistics Cluster facilitates access to passenger transport on board of a WFP-chartered vessel, at no cost to user. The vessel, which also serves as an emergency rescue and evacuation vessel, operates on a regular weekly schedule between Djibouti and Aden.

SOPs on how to access the service are available at:
www.logcluster.org/document/snapshot-passenger-sea-transport-november-2016

As "Provider of Last Resort" (PoLR) WFP, through the Logistics Cluster, is responsible only to provide 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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Annex I - ConOps Map

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