



LOGISTICS
CLUSTER

SOMALIA CLOSURE REPORT

PHOTO

Offloading at Bossaso Port

-- Logistics Cluster, Somalia, 2013

PUBLICATION DATE

August 2019

OVERVIEW

Led by the World Food Programme, the Logistics Cluster was activated in Somalia in June 2006 to respond to flooding in the central and southern regions of the country. The Logistics Cluster remained active and continued to support the humanitarian community as it responded to the effects of the ongoing civil war, which at one time affected as many as 5 million people, and then scaled up activities in response to the drought of 2016-2017 which further compounded the already difficult humanitarian situation.

Throughout its presence in-country, the Logistics Cluster enabled the humanitarian community to respond by addressing the main logistics gaps and bottlenecks faced by humanitarian actors to reach people in need. The first example of a cluster working remotely, coordination and information management functions were undertaken from Nairobi in neighbouring Kenya at times throughout its activation due to the security situation within Somalia. Access to common logistics services, including storage and transport by road, air and sea, was provided with the assistance of the World Food Programme. The Logistics Cluster also worked to build the capacity of local actors through the provision of a number of trainings.

In early 2018, a review was undertaken by the Global Logistics Cluster to assess the current logistics situation within Somalia and to establish whether there was an ongoing need for a cluster presence. Based on the considerable improvements to the logistics situation in-country, the review concluded that there was sufficient reasoning for the deactivation of the cluster. With the support of the local humanitarian community, the World Food Programme (WFP) recommended the official deactivation of the Logistics Cluster to the Somalia Humanitarian Country Team on 30 October 2018.

Following the official deactivation of the cluster, coordination and information management activities transitioned to the newly established Logistics Working Group, led by WFP, to ensure the continuation of the built network of humanitarian logisticians and operational information sharing, as well the preservation of the institutional knowledge developed over the length of the response.

COORDINATION

Due to the security challenges posed by the ongoing conflict and the larger partner presence outside of Somalia, coordination was conducted from both Mogadishu but also at times from neighbouring Kenya, a first for the Logistics Cluster. In order to support humanitarian actors, 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:

- Regular inter-agency coordination meetings in Mogadishu and Nairobi, and in Mombasa as required;
- Identification of available operators' logistics capacity;
- Coordination of agreed transporter rates amongst partners;
- Development of contingency plans;
- Coordinating discussions between partners regarding access constraints and issues to work towards common solutions; and
- Participation in a range of fora, including the Inter-Cluster Working Group.

 **105+**

Coordination meetings



Warehouse Training, Baidoa – December 2017


INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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 Somalia 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.

Throughout the duration of the Logistics Cluster's activation in Somalia, **over 630 informational updates were published** on the dedicated webpage.

 **630+**

Information updates shared on operation page

 **11,802**

Views of the Somalia Logistics Cluster webpage

 **2**

Blog pieces published

COMMON SERVICES

Disruptions to local commercial markets due to Insecurity, as well as a lack of transport services and infrastructure posed continual challenges to humanitarian actors responding in-country across multiple emergencies. The Logistics Cluster supported these humanitarian actors, as well as the Government of Somalia, at different periods throughout its activation through the facilitation of access to common services, supported by WFP, as identified through assessments of common logistics gaps and needs. Air, sea and road transport as well as common storage services were offered to the humanitarian community on both a free-to-user and cost recovery basis at different periods throughout the activation of the Logistics Cluster in Somalia.



Humanitarian cargo is loaded for airlift in Somalia, August 2014

AIR TRANSPORT

With overland transport significantly impeded and limited options to deliver lifesaving cargo across the region, 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 WFP, UNHAS and commercial transporters, facilitated humanitarian access to air transportation services from Mogadishu to locations throughout Somalia during the Logistics Cluster's activation in Somalia. Airlifts were conducted to locations including Baidoa, Wajid, Huddur, Garbaharey, Kismayo, Beletwejn, Elberde, Luuq, Dinsoor and Bulo Burte.

SEA TRANSPORT

Due to insecurity and the subsequent difficulties faced by humanitarian organisations in transporting relief items by road, the Logistics Cluster, through WFP Shipping, facilitated access for the humanitarian community to vessels for the safe transport of cargo by sea from the port of Mombasa in Kenya to the key ports of Somalia including Mogadishu, Berbera, Bossaso and Kismayo. Sea transport was also provided between Somalian ports.



Goods being offloaded from a ship at the port of Mogadishu, November 2012

ROAD TRANSPORT

Ongoing insecurity, road blocks and disruptions to commercial markets made the transportation of relief items by road extremely challenging. Where road transport was possible, the Logistics Cluster supported responding humanitarian organisations by facilitating access to road transportation services between key strategic locations on an ad hoc basis.

STORAGE

Due to a lack of commercially available storage, or issues with accessing storage facilities due to insecurity, the Logistics Cluster facilitated access for the humanitarian community to common storage in nine locations throughout Somalia, including a temperature-controlled facility in Mogadishu.



A Mobile Storage Unit is erected in support of the humanitarian community in Somalia.



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