

## Background

Since March 2015, the conflict in Yemen has exacerbated the already precarious humanitarian situation and according to OCHA, an estimated 22.2 million need of humanitarian assistance as of December 2017, including 11.3 million who are in acute need<sup>1</sup>. Against this backdrop, Yemen faced the worst cholera outbreak in 2017 with more than one million suspected cases reported by the end of December; a resurgence of the outbreak is likely in 2018 due to prevalence of risk factors (rains, eruption or escalation of conflict, lack of safe water and sanitation)<sup>2</sup>.

In addition, since December 2017, Al Hudaydah Governorate has been witnessing an escalation of military operations. In June 2018, the conflict reached the city of Al Hudaydah, and in November 2018 it approached the populated areas of the city. This intensification of the conflict has led to a huge displacement from and within Al Hudaydah Governorate, with a parallel increase in restriction in humanitarian access.

The scale of the needs and the scope of the emergency response has required a large, multi-agency and multi-sector response. However, the humanitarian community continues to face a number of critical logistics challenges; therefore, additional logistical support has been required to ensure humanitarian organisations responding to the crisis can deliver efficient and effective assistance to affected people.

The Logistics Cluster will continue to ensure coordination and information management services in Sana'a, Aden, Hodeidah and Djibouti to maximize the use of available resources in country, and avoid duplication of efforts. Pending availability of resources, the Logistics Cluster will facilitate access for humanitarian organizations to common logistics services such as overland transport, air cargo transport from Djibouti to Sana'a, and sea cargo transport from Djibouti to Aden and Hodeidah; sea passenger transport between Djibouti and Aden, as well as Djibouti and Hodeidah; access to temporary storage facilities; fuel distribution.

## Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks

The major constraints on the ability of humanitarian organisations to respond to the crisis in Yemen include damaged road infrastructure, disruptions in access to many parts of the country in terms of both cargo and staff, and fuel shortages. Specifically, the following logistics gaps have been identified:

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<sup>1</sup> OCHA Humanitarian Needs Overview, December 2017

[https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/yemen\\_humanitarian\\_needs\\_overview\\_hno\\_2018\\_20171204\\_0.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/yemen_humanitarian_needs_overview_hno_2018_20171204_0.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2018

[https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/20180120\\_hrp\\_yemen\\_final\\_0.pdf](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/20180120_hrp_yemen_final_0.pdf)

- Congestion at main entry points (POD – port of discharge);
- Limited international transport options into Yemen, especially by air;
- Unreliable and unpredictable access to sufficient quantities of fuel, as well as high volatility in its price;
- Limited in-country storage capacity;
- Poor overland transport capacity from neighbouring countries;
- Limited cold chain capacity for the needs of the cholera response.

## Objectives

Based on the needs expressed and identified by the humanitarian community, and in close alignment with the 2018 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, Aden and Djibouti, where regular Logistics Cluster coordination meetings will take place; a Logistics Cluster Coordinator will be based in Sana'a, with one Deputy Cluster Coordinator based in Aden;
- Coordination with other clusters, agencies and humanitarian organisations, including regular participation to Inter-Cluster Coordination Mechanism (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 Sana'a to:

- Consolidate and share updated operational information, including Situation Updates, Operational Snapshots, Meeting Minutes, 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](http://www.logcluster.org/ops/yem10a)
- Produce and share logistics infrastructure Geographic Information Systems/mapping tools and products.

### 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. While services are accessible regularly for all organisations implementing assistance programmes in Yemen, in case of sudden crisis such as a potential resurgence of cholera, cargo will be prioritized based on the needs identified by the Humanitarian Country Team.

*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:

##### **A. Air Transport**

- Combined chartered airlifts from Djibouti to Sana'a, tentatively scheduled twice a month until the end of 2018 depending on needs and availability of funding.
- [Tentative schedule](#) and [detailed SOPs](#) are available on the website.

##### **B. Sea cargo transport**

- The Logistics Cluster facilitates access to a WFP chartered vessel that operates a weekly rotation from Djibouti to Aden, VOS Apollo. Tentative schedule for 2018 is available [here](#).
- Dhows can be requested to transport cargo from the Port of Djibouti (Djibouti) to any accessible ports in Yemen, including Al Hudaydah.

- Refrigerated containers providing cold chain and temperature-controlled transport (one each) are available on the VOS Apollo, and are expected to be installed on VOS Theia shortly.
- Detailed SOPs are available [here](#).

### C. Overland Transport

- Based on the organisations' needs, the Logistics Cluster facilitates access to overland transport from Sana'a, Aden and Hodeidah to any accessible location in Yemen.
- The Logistics Cluster will also facilitate the necessary permissions for the movement of cargo inside Yemen on behalf of the requesting organisation, including deconfliction. Detailed SOPs on how to access road transport services are available [here](#).
- The Logistics Cluster may also facilitate access to reefer trucks for cold chain and temperature-controlled cargo transport.

### Sea Passengers Service

- The Logistics Cluster facilitates access to passenger transport on board the WFP-chartered VOS Apollo, providing a regular weekly transportation between Djibouti and Aden. This service, complementary to the UNHAS Djibouti – Aden route, further ensures that humanitarian staff can maintain their presence in Aden. A regular schedule and booking system is in place, with booking and penalty fees for late cancellations. The vessel also serves as an emergency rescue and evacuation vessel, and passengers may be accommodated on board.
- The Logistics Cluster facilitates access to the WFP-chartered VOS Theia, which serves as an emergency rescue and evacuation vessel.

Detailed SOPs on how to access the service are available [here](#).

### Common Storage

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

- Aden: 5,740 m<sup>2</sup>;
- Sana'a: 1,850 m<sup>2</sup>;
- Al Hudaydah: 3,500 m<sup>2</sup>.
- Bajil (outside Al Hudaydah city): 320 m<sup>2</sup>.

*This Concept of Operations is a live document and the activities will be adapted and revised as the situation unfolds and further assessment results become available, including the possible provision of additional logistics common services as required by the humanitarian community.*

Commercial capacity for temperature-controlled and cold chain storage in Djibouti is considered sufficient to meet all current and projected needs.

Detailed SOPs on how to access storage services are available [here](#).

### **Fuel Provision Service**

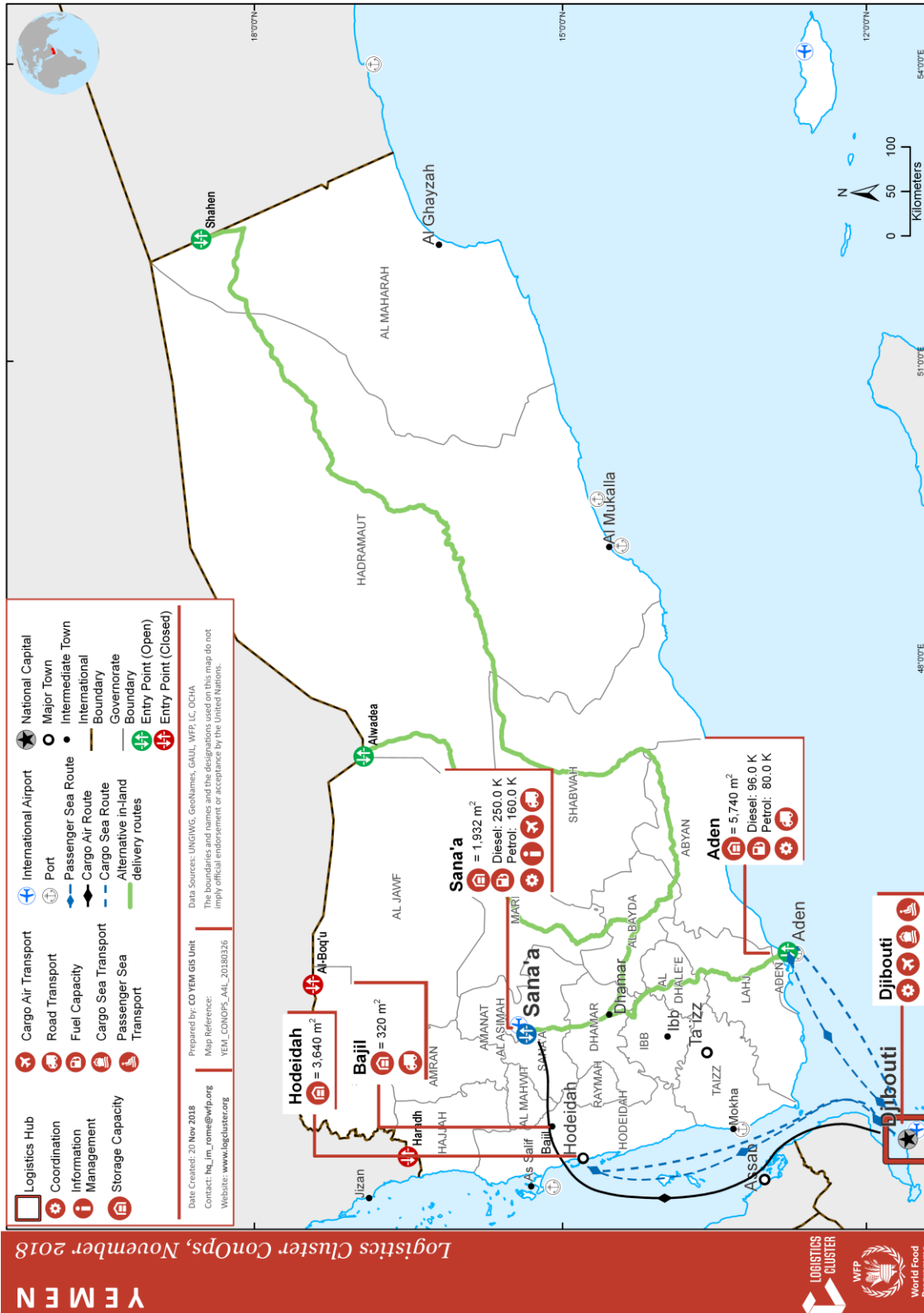
To enable organisations responding to the crisis to establish an uninterrupted supply chain that supports the delivery of humanitarian relief items to the affected population, the Logistics Cluster will facilitate access to WFP-managed fuel distribution points in Aden, Hodeidah and Sana'a. This service is intended to fill identified gaps and provide a last resort option in case other service providers are not available, therefore it does not aim to compete with the commercial market nor replace the logistics activities of other organisations. Tanks capacity is as follows:

- Diesel
  - Aden: 96,000 litres;
  - Sana'a: 250,000 litres
  - Hodeidah: 222,800 litres.
  
- Petrol
  - Aden: 80,000 litres;
  - Sana'a: 160,000 litres;
  - Hodeidah: 190,000 litres.

**The service is provided on cost recovery.** Detailed SOPs on fuel provision are available [here](#).

*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.*

ANNEX I – CONOPS MAP



Yemen Logistics Cluster ConOps, November 2018

YEMEN



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