Background

In Ethiopia, recurrent natural hazards, primarily drought and flooding, result in humanitarian needs. Several consecutive years of drought in southern and southeastern Ethiopia have led to worsening food security and disrupted the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of farmers and herders. In northern Ethiopia, ongoing conflict has resulted in the displacement of more than 2.1 million people and high levels of humanitarian need. More than 23 million people in Ethiopia are estimated in need of humanitarian assistance due to internal conflict, displacement, recurrent natural hazards, and the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19. Nearly 4.23 million people are living in displacement across Ethiopia and the country hosts more than 817,000 refugees from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan. Ethiopia has one of the world’s largest internally displaced populations, with displacement risks remaining high in 2022. In 2022, the Humanitarian Response Plan has reported 25.9 million people in need and the humanitarian community is targeting to support 22.3 million people in-country through 3 strategic objectives.

Following discussion with the relevant stakeholders the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) has decided to enhance its leadership role in the field of logistics coordination and information sharing to ensure humanitarian organizations have access to useful and up-to-date logistics information to set up and maintain an uninterrupted supply chain of humanitarian assistance. Support in this field of activity was officially requested to the World Food Programme (Global Cluster Lead Agency of the Logistics Cluster). The Logistics Cluster was activated in April 2020 in response to the COVID-19 outbreak and later in 2020 maintained active as the situation in-country worsen with the crisis in Tigray. The principal objective of international humanitarian action, and the purpose of coordination, is to meet the needs of affected people by means that are reliable, effective, inclusive, and respect humanitarian principles. The WFP co-led Logistics Cluster is supporting the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) in its coordination role in the field of Logistics.

The implementation of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) in the Tigray was hampered by humanitarian access challenges and increasing pressure on already limited available logistics capacity. As a consequence, the WFP as Cluster Lead Agency of the Logistics Cluster has stepped in to provide common logistics services in several locations to respond to the current on-going emergency response operation and act as provider of last resort to fill identified common logistics gaps. The Logistics Cluster facilitates access to these common logistics services (transport and storage) based on the priority set by the Humanitarian Country Team and as advised by the Inter-Cluster Coordination cell.

Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks

The main logistics related challenges faced by humanitarian organisations in Northern Ethiopia are (i) humanitarian access constraints (ii) lack of commercial logistics services providers capacity (iii) limited access to sufficient quantity of fuel (iv) competition over available limited local market logistics capacity.

Following consultations with partners, the Logistics Cluster has identified the following logistics gaps:

- Gap in coordination due to the increasing number of partners/organizations operating in country and the increasing needs of the affected population.
- Gap of storage capacity in key locations where the HRP has planned to deliver the humanitarian assistance in Northern Ethiopia.

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• Gap of land transport capacity to meet the increasing demand of humanitarian organizations to transport the humanitarian assistance to the affected population.

**Objectives**

The principal objective of the active Logistics Cluster is to meet the needs of affected people by means that are reliable, effective, inclusive, and respect humanitarian principles. The Logistics Cluster aims (i) to ensure effective inter coordination to support the implementation of the HRP (ii) to identify solutions to overcome common logistics gaps in capacity in the field of Logistics to ensure the set up and maintain of an uninterrupted and effective supply chain of humanitarian assistance (iii) to strengthen the capacity of the local responders (iv) ensure when and where possible the responsibility undertaken by the WFP as co-led are transferred to local partners.

**Planned Activities**

The Logistics Cluster proposed range of activities are not intended to replace humanitarian organizations’ capacity, but rather to fill identified common logistics gaps in capacity in the humanitarian supply chain and supplement the response of the humanitarian community. The following services will be made available to the humanitarian community as long as they will be needed and funds allowing. This ConOps will be revised during the course of the year through sectoral logistics capacity assessment and analysis.

1. **Coordination**

The Logistics Cluster will support the implementation of the cluster approach through the set up and participation to coordination platforms through:

- The set up of Coordination platforms available to partners in Addis Ababa, Adama, Kombolcha, Gondar, Semera, Mekele, Bahir Dar and Shire
- Organization of coordination meetings in the above listed locations – on needs basis – to (i) ensure delivery is driven hy the HRP and strategic priorities (ii) develop mechanism to eliminate duplication of service delivery (iii) prepare needs assessments and analysis of gaps to inform setting priorities (iv) plan and implement cluster strategy (v) identify solutions for gaps and challenges
- Sharing with HCT/ECC priorities based on sectoral gaps and needs analysis, defining funding requirements helping to set priorities
- Identification of concerns and contributing to key information and messages to HC and HCT/ECC messaging and action. Undertaking advocacy on behalf of the cluster, cluster members and affected people
- Supporting the coordination of inter-agency road convoys

2. **Information Management**

The Logistics Cluster will implement the “Coordination” activities mentioned hereabove through the implementation of information management activities. the Logistics Cluster will collect, analyse and disseminate information through dedicated tools and products, covering the following:

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Annex I ConOps Map