

Country background

Over the late summer of 2017, South-East Bangladesh, particularly Cox's Bazar District, saw a dramatic increase in the number of people crossing the border from Myanmar seeking refuge. Over a four-month period from late August to mid-December 2017, an estimated 655,000 people all identifying as members of the Rohingya ethnic group made their way from Myanmar into Cox's Bazar District. By December 2017, the estimated total Rohingya population of Cox's Bazar District was 866,000. This situation created a critical and unsustainable pressure on the support systems already in place and on the host communities.

The coordination structures set up for the humanitarian response in Bangladesh was formed by the national policy on the Rohingyas and influenced by the multiple periods of influx of Rohingyas since 1978. In 1992, the Bangladeshi government decided that new arrivals would not be entitled to refugee status. Rohingyas were allowed to take refuge in Bangladesh, but the objective was repatriation. As a result, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is overall responsible for the coordination of the government response and for strategic direction setting. At Capital level, a National Task Force and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) are responsible for different parts of the response. The Task Force sets directions for the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) based in Cox's Bazar, who in turn oversees and is responsible for the camps (Camp in Charges – (CiCs).

The Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), appealed for support and requested key agencies to invest more resources and assume greater roles as sector co-leads to augment response capacity. Thus, the Logistics Sector was activated in September 2017 but there was no formal agreement between the government and the logistics sector, the sector identified coordination, intermediate storage, access to camps and clarification of customs procedures as key logistics gaps, which could hinder the humanitarian response. The Logistics Sector has since then supported the humanitarian actors with coordination, information management and specific logistics services where 8 mobile storage units, 61 containers, 3 refugee housing unit other assets 1124 have been loaned and eventually donated to the cooperating partners.

In 2021, the Logistics Sector phased down provision of common services, based on decreased partner requests, lifting of Covid-19 restrictions and the results from the **Gaps and Needs Assessment 2021** signaling the beginning of a scale-down process of logistics operations in Cox's Bazar.

As the protracted crisis enters its fifth year, the key logistics gaps that were initially identified were either bridged or have changed. During the first half of 2022, a general decline in demands for logistics services has also been noted, this can be attributed to strengthened partner capacity. As such, the Logistic Sector in Bangladesh will by 31st December 2022 be deactivated and transitioned to Logistics Working Group (LWG).

Bangladesh Logistics Working Group

Terms of Reference



The terms of reference has been developed through wider consultations and participation of the MoDMR, Global Logistics Cluster, Inter Sector Coordination Group, as well as the Heads of Agencies in Cox's Bazar. The working group will be accountable for facilitating the following activities aimed at ensuring that there is continued provision of Logistics support to humanitarian partners to support the current 943,529 Rohingya Refugees in Cox's Bazar district.

Inclusion of key humanitarian partners

- Ensure inclusion of key humanitarian partners for the Logistics Working Group, respecting their respective mandates and programme priorities.

Establishment and maintenance of appropriate humanitarian coordination mechanisms.

- Maintain the Logistics network with all humanitarian partners (including national and international NGOs) through regular coordination mechanisms.
- Provide all necessary input to strategic processes and documents of the humanitarian community
- Secure commitments from humanitarian partners in responding to needs and filling gaps, ensuring an appropriate distribution of responsibilities within the Logistics Working Group, with clearly defined focal points for specific issues where necessary.
- Ensure the complementarity of different humanitarian actors' actions.
- Promote emergency response actions as well as prevention and risk reduction concerns.
- Ensure effective links with other working groups.
- Represent the interests of the working group in discussions with other stakeholders.

Coordination with national/local authorities, state institutions, local civil society, and other relevant actors

- Ensure that humanitarian responses build on local capacities.
- Continue capacity strengthening efforts and stronger engagement with national actors, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), Rohingya Refugee Repartition Commission (RRRC) and the National Logistics Pillar.

Participatory Approaches

- Ensure utilization of participatory approaches in Logistics Working Group needs assessment, analysis, planning, monitoring, and response.

Attention to priority cross-cutting issues

- Ensure integration of agreed priority cross-cutting issues in Logistics Working Group needs assessment, analysis, planning, monitoring, and response (e.g. environment, gender, age), contributing to the development of appropriate strategies to address these issues. In the Joint

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Response Plan a section on Logistics, related to the Working Group activities under WFP Supply Chain in line with the strategy will be included.

Emergency preparedness

- Ensure adequate contingency planning and preparedness for new emergencies.

Needs assessment and analysis

- Ensure effective and coherent Logistics Working Group needs assessment and analysis, involving all relevant partners.

Planning and strategy development

- Ensure predictable action within the Logistics Working Group for the following:
- Identification of gaps
- Developing/updating agreed response strategies and action plans for the working group.
- Drawing lessons learned from past activities and revising strategies accordingly.

Application of standards

- Ensure that the Logistics Working Group participants are aware of relevant policy guidelines, technical standards and relevant commitments that the Government has undertaken under international human rights law.
- Ensure that responses are in line with existing policy guidance, technical standards, and relevant Government human rights legal obligations.

Monitoring and reporting

- Ensure adequate monitoring mechanisms are in place to review impact of the working group and progress against implementation plans.
- Ensure adequate reporting and effective information sharing.

Advocacy and resource mobilization

- Identify core advocacy concerns, including resource requirements, and contribute key messages to broader advocacy initiatives.

Training and capacity building

- Promote/support training of staff and capacity building of humanitarian partners.
- Support efforts to strengthen the capacity of the national authorities and civil society.

Roles/ responsibilities and minimum requirements

- All cluster partners have a shared mutual responsibility to meet the humanitarian needs of affected people in a timely manner.

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Humanitarian actors who participate in the Logistics Working Group are expected to be proactive partners in assessing needs, developing strategies and plans and implementing agreed priority activities. Provisions should also be made for those humanitarian actors who may wish to participate as observers, mainly for information-sharing purposes.

The minimum commitments for participation in clusters include:

- Commitment to humanitarian principles, the **Principles of Partnership**, cluster-specific guidance and internationally recognized programme standards, including the Secretary-General's Bulletin on Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse.
- Readiness to participate in actions that specifically improve accountability to affected people, in line with the IASC Commitments to Accountability to Affected Populations and the related Operational Framework.
- A demonstrated understanding of the duties and responsibilities associated with membership of the cluster, as defined by IASC ToRs and guidance notes, any cluster-specific guidance, and country cluster ToRs, where available.
- Active participation in the cluster and a commitment to consistently engage in the cluster's collective work.

Nota Bene: *Without the constant commitment of cluster participants, predictable coordination will not be achieved. The minimum commitments for participation in country-level clusters set out what all local, national or international organizations undertake to contribute. They do not seek to exclude organizations or national authorities from participating in cluster*

