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## Background

Somalia faces one of the most complex and protracted humanitarian crises in the world. Climatic shocks, combined with other persistent drivers of vulnerability and food and nutrition insecurity, including armed conflict and protracted displacement, have left over 5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Since 1990, Somalia has experienced a dramatic increase in climate-related hazards, with at least 30 shocks (12 droughts and 18 floods), three times the number of climate-related hazards experienced between 1970 and 1990. The severe drought that left the country on the verge of famine in 2017 was only abated by an above-average Gu rainy season (April-June) in 2018, coupled with a sustained aid operation. In 2019, a delayed and erratic Gu rainy season resulted in the poorest harvest since the 2011 famine and flooding. The spike in incidents of severe drought and flooding is a reminder that Somalia has become increasingly vulnerable to climate change (Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan, 2020).

Additionally, like many countries in the Horn of Africa, Somalia is facing a severe locust outbreak that could spark widespread crop loss and deepen already serious levels of food insecurity, which are even further compounded by conflict in some areas (FAO).

The recent Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has further exacerbated Somalia's existing vulnerabilities and cases have been confirmed within Somalia. The secondary and tertiary consequences of COVID-19 are already having an impact on commercial and humanitarian supply chains, affecting access to areas of operation and creating restrictions on vital cargo and passenger air services. Further delays in cargo clearance due to travel restrictions and other operational impediments have slowed down movement of humanitarian supplies for partners across key corridors.

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## Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks

The operating environment in Somalia remains one of the most hazardous in the world. Regular and sustained access to the most affected areas is a challenge due to conflict, insecurity and deteriorating infrastructure, hampering the ability of the humanitarian community to efficiently and effectively deliver humanitarian relief to vulnerable populations.

About 90 percent of the primary roads require extensive rehabilitation: only 2,860 kilometres (13 percent) of the total 11,434 kilometres of roads are paved and those remaining are earthen or gravel, impeding road access to 42 districts. Seasonal flooding often results in road accessibility challenges. Inter-state transport via road is limited due to insecurity and conflict and in some cases, only possible by sea or by air (Humanitarian Response Plan, 2020).

Before the civil war, Somalia had 15 operational ports and facilities. However, in recent years, only four ports – Mogadishu, Bossaso, Berbera and Kismayo – have been repaired and/or upgraded and are operational. Due to insecurity and piracy threats, there are limited reliable shipping options across the Horn. Overland transport from Kenya to border regions in Somalia has not been possible since April 2019 due to the closure of Mandera border, which has resulted in the requirement to airlift all commodities which could traditionally be delivered by road.

Air services are the only option to deliver relief items to locations that cannot be accessed by road due to infrastructure constraints and/or subnational movement barriers. Access by sea is the most viable option to preposition high volumes of humanitarian supplies in the country, delivering to the few functional Somali ports.

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## Objectives

Based on the needs identified and expressed by the humanitarian community, the Logistics Cluster aims to facilitate access to sufficient and reliable logistics services and consolidated information related to logistics capacities, in order to enhance the capacity of the humanitarian community to deliver relief items to hard-to-reach locations, hence ensuring the timely and uninterrupted supply of life-saving relief items to affected populations.

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## 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 supplement the response of the humanitarian community through the provision of common services, based on need.

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### 1. Coordination

In an effort to address identified logistics gaps, minimise duplication of efforts, and ensure logistics efficiencies, the Logistics Cluster will undertake the following coordination activities in collaboration with partner organisations and key stakeholders across Somalia:

- Hold regular and ad hoc Logistics Cluster coordination meetings to strengthen coordination among organisations, harmonise response efforts, and discuss common supply chain challenges.
- Liaise with authorities and relevant national and international parties on behalf of the humanitarian community, to raise logistics issues of common concern, including customs clearance procedures and humanitarian access.
- Facilitate discussions around preparedness activities in order to mitigate disruption of existing supply chains and anticipate mitigation measures.
- Provide a forum to discuss sector-specific logistics operations, including the facilitation of medical logistics discussions in cooperation with the Health Sector and relevant stakeholders.
- Design and implement tailored capacity strengthening activities on core humanitarian logistics capabilities, focused on national actors.

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### 2. Information Management

To support operational decision-making and improve the efficiency of the overall logistics response, the Logistics Cluster will collect, analyse and disseminate information management products to:

- Consolidate and disseminate information on the overall logistics situation including logistics gaps and bottlenecks, local supply chain capacities, storage and transport capacity and vulnerabilities, existing regulations measures impacting supply chains, and health supply chain information, where possible.
- Analyse logistics operational context and generate support structures to support decision making.
- Update partners with operational updates through the publication of situation updates, meeting minutes, snapshots, and briefings.
- Maintain information sharing platforms including a common mailing list and a dedicated Somalia Operation webpage on the Logistics Cluster website to disseminate relevant and up-to-date logistics information.

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- Map logistics infrastructure through Geographic Information Systems (GIS) services.

### 3. Logistics Services

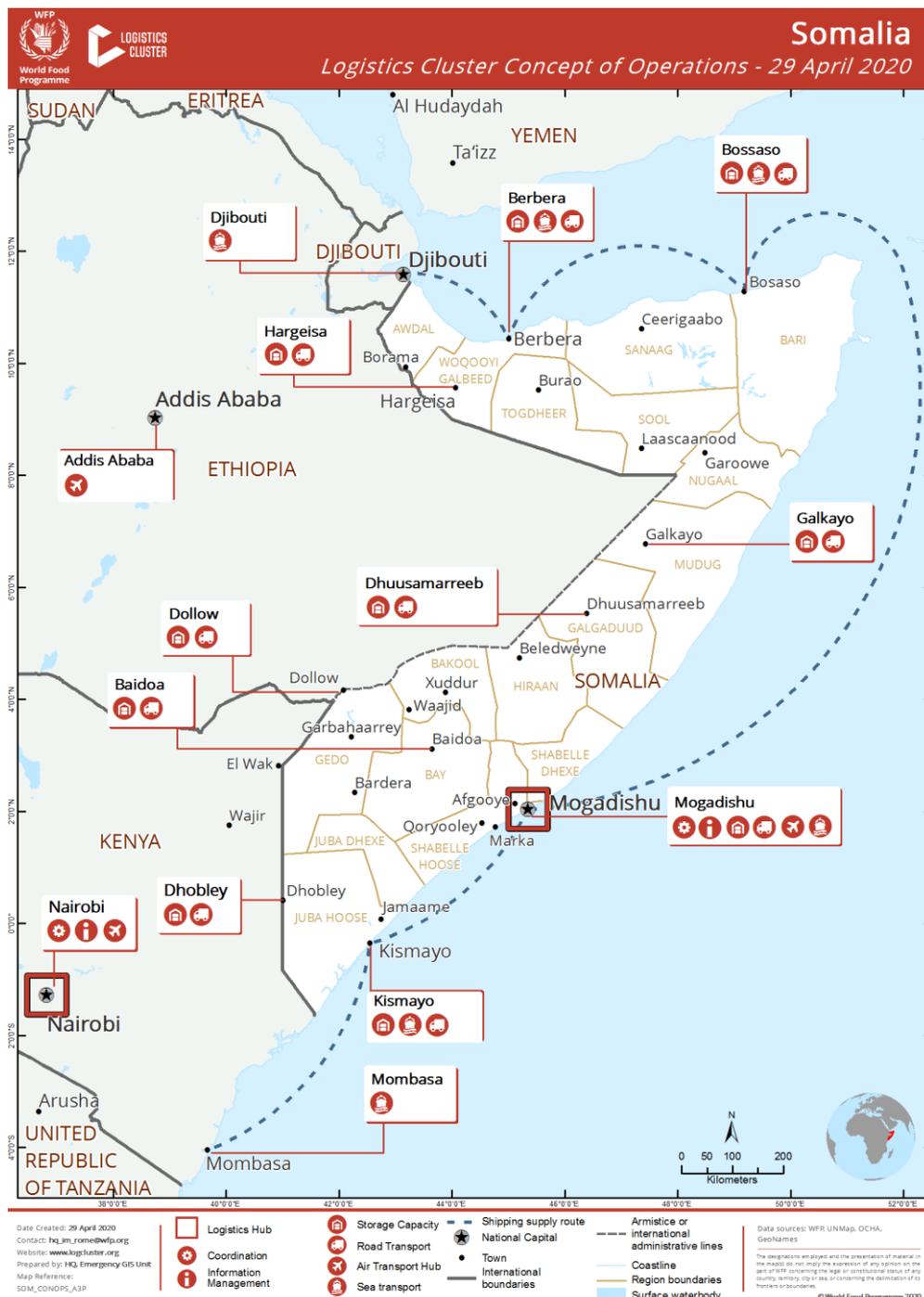
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The services facilitated by the Logistics Cluster are not intended to replace the logistics capacities of the agencies or organisations, but rather to supplement them through the access to common services. Access permitting, the following services may be coordinated at no cost to the user, or on a partial/full cost-recovery basis, depending on the availability of funds. Services will be provided by available service providers or by WFP as the provider of last resort:

- **Storage:** Storage can be made available in 10 locations throughout Somalia on request. Storage services include consolidation, storage and dispatch of cargo on behalf of partners. Storage locations include: Mogadishu, Kismayo, Galkayo, Dhobley, Dollow, Dhushamareb, Baidoa, Bossaso, Berbera, and Hargeisa. Temperature-controlled storage service is available in Mogadishu and Bossaso.
- **Air transport:** Air transport is available from Nairobi (Kenya) and Mogadishu to locations throughout Somalia, based on request. The Logistics Cluster can also facilitate the air transport of cargo arriving in the COVID-19 regional hub in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), if/when required.
- **Road transport:** Road transportation services between key strategic locations are available upon request.
- **Sea transport:** Cargo shipping services are available to the following destinations from Mombasa (Kenya), Djibouti, or other ports within Somalia: Mogadishu, Kismayo, Berbera, Bossaso.

*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



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