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## Background

Between 2021 and 2022, humanitarian operations in Yemen experienced a substantial percentage of funding drop. As stated in the 2023 HRP report, while the 2022 HRP was one of the best-funded globally, the 55% coverage impacted the delivery of humanitarian assistance and caused a decrease in the emergency food assistance ratio size. Nevertheless, humanitarian partners reached 10.5 million people in need per month and achieved key successes in food security, malnutrition, and disease (cholera and COVID19) outbreak response. Please click the following link for more information: [Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2023](#).

According to the 2023 HRP report, the total number of people in need in 2023 has decreased from 23.4 million to a projection of 21.6 million compared to the year 2022. The change is due largely to technical changes in cluster-level needs assessments, revised food security projections released in late 2022, as well as limited and fragile improvements in levels of needs. Aforementioned findings are testaments to the concerted efforts of humanitarian organizations and their stakeholders in addressing the needs of affected communities.

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 several critical logistics challenges. Therefore, additional logistical support is required to ensure humanitarian organisations responding to the crisis can deliver efficient and effective assistance to people in need.

The Logistics Cluster will continue to provide and strengthen coordination and information management, to maximise the use of available resources in country and avoid duplication of efforts. Contingent upon availability of resources and continued common need, the Logistics Cluster will facilitate access for humanitarian organisations to common logistics services.

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## Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks

As illustrated on [the Gaps and Needs Analysis \(GNA\) for 2023](#), it becomes apparent that certain common logistics gaps identified in previous years, continue to persist. The major constraints on the ability of humanitarian organisations to respond to the crisis in Yemen, primarily relate to disruptions in access to many parts of the country and are of bureaucratic nature rather than being characterised by physical logistical gaps and constraints. Overall, organisations engaged in the humanitarian response demonstrate relatively high internal logistics management capacity and have developed their own solutions for storage and transport, either through existing commercial providers or by establishing their own internal arrangements. The largest impediments to the flow of material relief supplies originate from complex series of bureaucratic and administrative hurdles.

Specifically, partners have raised the following logistical gaps and constraints they are facing, confirmed through 2023 Gaps and Needs Analyses:

- The change of regulations and importation and customs clearance procedures remain one of the major challenges. Existing customs clearance processes are cumbersome and lengthy for many partners; this is particularly true considering the changing regulations that can add to the complexity of the process. Furthermore, foresaid challenges relate to partners' knowledge of the pre-import and arrival procedures (due to the constant and arbitrary change of regulations). These hurdles lead to uncertainty, delays, demurrage and potentially spoilage of short shelf-life items.

- Administrative impediments to overland transport while transporting humanitarian aid between areas under control of different entities across Yemen, which directly impact both transport lead time and cost.
- Most of the Logistics Cluster partners consider availability of Global Information System and Mapping (GIS) as a gap. GIS provides a comprehensive platform for planning and executing missions in which it enables partners to collect, analyse, and interpret data in a way that makes decision-making easier and more effective. By leveraging GIS, humanitarian organizations can also mobilize and implement field teams quickly, ensuring that aid is delivered to those who need it most.
- Many partners are facing challenges with national logistics staff capacities. This could be attributed to various factors, such as inadequate resources or a shortage of skilled trainers, and/or an inability to send staff for targeted trainings, including those arranged outside Yemen.
- Limited suitable in-country storage capacity in remote key locations to meet humanitarian actors' needs.
- Limited temperature-controlled storage capacity in-country.

## Objectives

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Based on the needs expressed and identified by the humanitarian community, and in close alignment with the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan, which outlines the humanitarian response priorities for the year, primary attention will be focusing on coordination, information management, facilitation of limited common logistics services as per Logistics Cluster core mandate, and collaboration with local authorities for partner capacity strengthening in key areas of concern.

## Planned Activities

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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.

### 1. Coordination

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The following coordination services will maintain provided to minimise duplication of efforts and competition within the humanitarian community:

- Dedicated Logistics Cluster staff based in Aden and Sana'a: a Logistics Cluster Coordinator and a Coordination Officer based in Sana'a and Aden. Other geographic areas will be covered either through targeted missions, or other partners support, as necessary.
- Monthly coordination meetings held at Country Office level in Sanaa, and across key hubs Aden and Al Hodeidah when and where required.
- Coordination with other clusters, agencies, and humanitarian organisations, including regular participation in and contribution to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), Inter-Cluster Coordination Mechanism (ICCM) and the Humanitarian Access Working Group (HAWG).

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## 2. Information Management

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The Logistics Cluster will continue:

- Collect, manage, and disseminate logistic relevant information to support operational decision-making and improve the efficiency of the logistics response.
- Consolidate and share updated operational information, including Access Constrains Map, Meeting Minutes, UNHAS flight schedules, forms, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).
- Maintain information sharing platforms, including a common mailing list and a [dedicated Logistic Cluster webpage](#) to disseminate relevant and up-to-date logistical information to the humanitarian community.

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## 3. Logistics Services

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The services facilitated by the Logistics Cluster are not intended to replace the logistics capacities of agencies or organisations, but rather to supplement them through the access to common services. Depending on funding availability and access requirements, the following services may be coordinated at no cost to the user or on a partial/full cost-recovery basis:

- Mobile Storage Unit (MSU) loaning service, with regular maintenance and flexibility of unit movement to different locations in accordance with needs and operational requirements of service beneficiaries. Priority of the aforementioned service will be given to partners who respond within remote and hard-to-reach areas.
- The Logistics Cluster will maintain facilitating access to common storage facilities in Aden, with storage capacity of 2,100 m<sup>2</sup>, including 600 m<sup>2</sup> temperature-controlled and cold-chain storage.
- Common storage is intended for short-term storage of humanitarian cargo. Should partners need to store commodities for long periods of time they are encouraged to source their own warehouse capacity. It is planned that the existing [limited common storage service in Aden](#) to be under full cost recovery mechanism, i.e. bilateral service provision, by end of 2023.
- Detailed SOPs on how to access temporary common storage services are available [here](#).

### Air Cargo Transport

Ad-hoc airlift service facilitation to Yemen is strictly intended for the transport of urgent life-saving items and commodities in accordance with the priorities set by the Humanitarian Country Team. This is to ensure the best use of available common resources.

- The main route for ad-hoc air cargo transport is from Dubai to Sana'a and Aden. This service will only be activated in the case of a rapid onset of an emergency, backed by service requests submitted by multiple partners.
- Detailed Air Transport SOPs will be made available on the [Yemen Operation webpage](#), in the event of service activation.

*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.*

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.

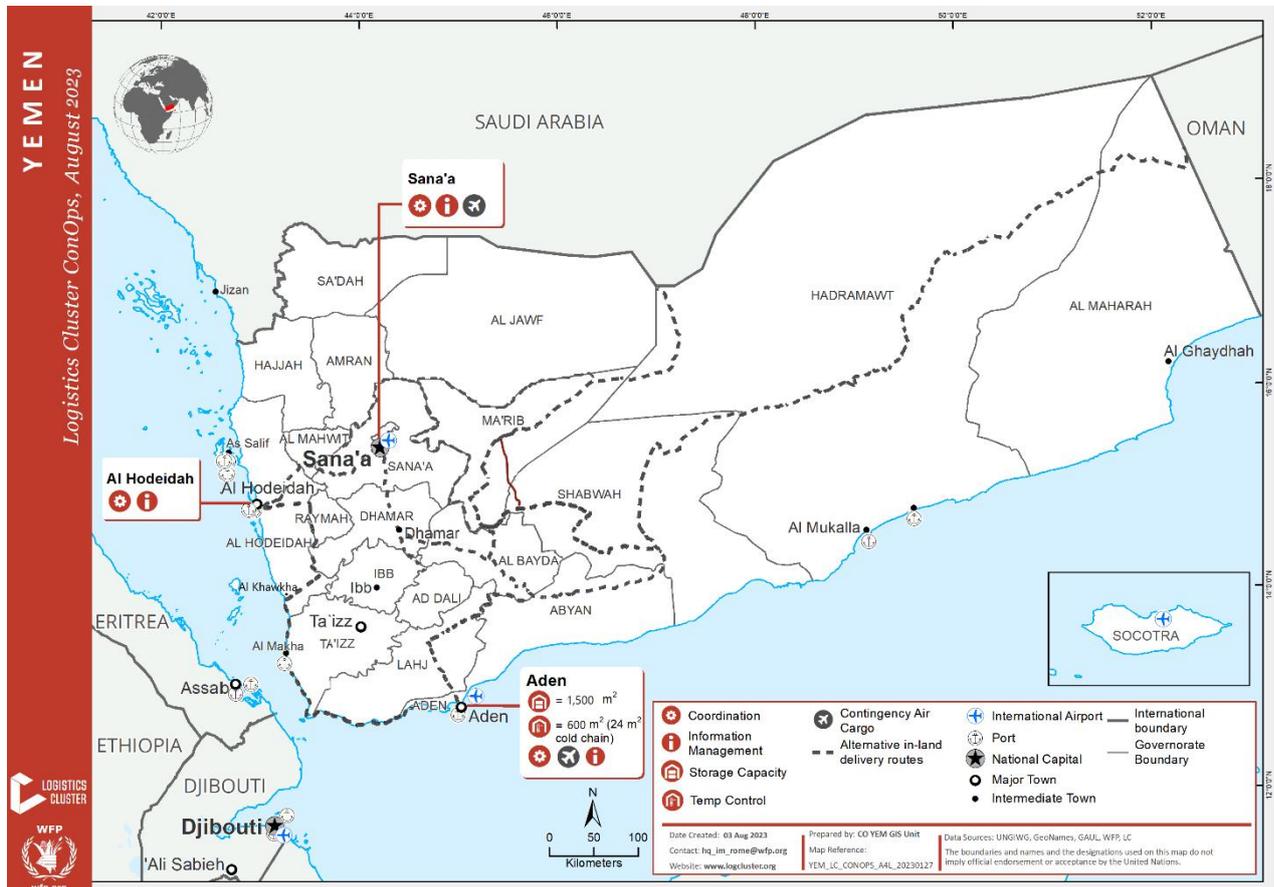
#### 4. Logistics Capacity Building

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With taking 2023 GNA findings into consideration and subject to allocation of funding, the Logistics Cluster will continue addressing existing and foreseen gaps of the humanitarian partners **key and common logistics training requirements** through targeted on-line and on-site training and awareness sessions. Such efforts to be built on through assessments of the capacity needs, and whenever possible, they will be conducted in conjunction with other partners who have a comparative advantage.

A heightened focus on trainings resulted from the strategic reorganization of the Yemen Logistics Cluster in 2022 and 2023. Logistic Cluster is performing capacity development trainings as a part of this objective, paying special attention to NGOs.

## Annex I ConOps Map



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