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## Background

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The conflict in Nigeria's north-east states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY states) has been ongoing for fourteen years. The impact of the conflict in the BAY states, home to some 16 million people, has created a protracted humanitarian and protection crisis affecting millions of people and impacting infrastructures.

Based on the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 2023 an estimated 8.3 million people will need some form of humanitarian assistance in the BAY states. Of these people, 2 million are IDPs, 1.5 million are returnees and 4.8 million are in host communities or communities affected by conflict.<sup>1</sup>

In 2022 large-scale severe flooding affected Nigeria. The flooding coincided with the harvest season, significantly impacting food security. Hundreds of thousands of hectares of farmland were submerged, with food stocks and livelihoods destroyed. Adamawa State was among the most affected, with an estimated 260,000 people potentially exposed to floods and around 1,000 km<sup>2</sup> of land submerged across the state. The floods also devastated the already fragile infrastructure and livelihoods<sup>1</sup>. The frequency and scale of extreme climatic events is expected to continue impacting the populations living in the region.

The 2023 humanitarian programme cycle (HPC) continues to focus on the BAY states, which are the most affected by the conflict in Nigeria's north-east and five themes were endorsed as the key drivers of the humanitarian crisis: conflict and displacement; food insecurity and malnutrition; disease outbreaks (including cholera); climate change; and camp closures, relocations, and resettlements. Despite the high needs in northeast Nigeria, the 2023 HRP has only been funded 36.5% as of October 2023, thus necessitating the need for prioritization of the humanitarian response.<sup>2</sup>

Since its inception in 2016, the Logistics Sector has been working to improve the overall logistics response through coordination and collaboration with its community of partners to overcome common challenges, information sharing and facilitation of common services. The Logistics Sector is mandated for operation in the states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY States), however, most of the attention is focused on operations in Borno, where the operating environment remains extremely volatile, and the needs are generally as severe and large-scale as ever.

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## Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks

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Insecurity and limited infrastructure remain the most significant challenges for the implementation of humanitarian response activities in the three affected states of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY), with Borno State being the most heavily impacted.

Based on the findings of the Gaps and Needs Analysis (GNA) completed in November 2022, the Logistics Sector and partners have identified the following logistics gaps and bottlenecks:

- The security situation in northeast Nigeria limits the ability of humanitarian organizations to deliver aid, with some areas being completely inaccessible to humanitarians.

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<sup>1</sup> [Nigeria Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Financial Tracking Services 2023](#)

- Poor road infrastructure, which is further being damaged by extreme climate events and the ongoing insecurity, constrain humanitarian operations.
- Storage infrastructure in the locations where humanitarian response is being carried out is extremely limited or non-existent. This is especially challenging for temperature sensitive items.
- Getting reliable transport service providers is also a challenge in northeast Nigeria. Most transporters use trucks from a limited pool, which are mostly in poor condition. The cost of transportation has also increased significantly with increase in fuel prices.

## Objectives

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Based on the needs identified by the humanitarian community through the Gaps and Needs Analysis (GNA) conducted in November 2022, the Logistics Sector aims to facilitate access to sufficient and reliable logistics services and consolidated information on available logistics resources, to enhance the capacity of the humanitarian community to deliver relief items to hard-to-reach locations. All activities are intended to ensure the timely and uninterrupted supply of vital items to affected populations.

This Concept of Operations aims to address the logistics gaps and bottlenecks identified in the Gaps and Needs Analysis exercise and discussed with the Sector partners, through the implementation of the following activities:

1. **Coordinated Planning:** The Logistics Sector aims to ensure coordination, consolidation and sharing of relevant logistics information to promote continuity in operations, monitor changing needs for support and continuously identify potential gaps and bottlenecks in operational capabilities and consequently adapt the response as needed.
2. **Capacity Augmentation:** The Logistics Sector aims to facilitate access to common temporary storage, to enable the forward positioning of relief materials, as well as limited equipment and key expertise to increase operational capacities within the humanitarian logistics community in northeast Nigeria.

## 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.

The following services will be made available to the humanitarian community until December 2023

### 1. Coordination

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The following coordination services will be provided to facilitate an efficient and effective response, and to minimise duplication of efforts:

- A Logistics Sector coordination cell will be maintained in Maiduguri to coordinate the inter-agency efforts in collaboration with government counterparts.

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.

- Organize regular Logistics Sector coordination meetings in Maiduguri (and other locations as needed), to facilitate the exchange of information among actors.
- Coordinate with other sectors and organizations on incoming commodities and pipeline information for planning and scheduling. This includes participation in meetings organised by the Operational Humanitarian Country Team, Inter-Sector Working Group, Humanitarian Access Working Group, and the Humanitarian Hub Task Force.
- Liaise with relevant domestic and international authorities and parties on behalf of the humanitarian community to raise any logistical issues of common interest, including logistical access constraints and advocate for solutions.
- Organize a series of specific training events to build capacity in the areas of storage, transportation, and core humanitarian supply chain management to help improve operations of humanitarian actors.

## 2. Information Management

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The information management role will be undertaken in the interests of promoting and facilitating the sharing of logistics information among all humanitarian organisations via:

- Consolidate and share operational environment information such as:
  - Available information on logistical capacities, such as road transport equipment and storage availability.
  - up-to-date information on access, transport infrastructure and other national and state regulations affecting the humanitarian supply chain.
- Produce and facilitate access to GIS/mapping tools and products (as required)
- Maintain information sharing platforms, including a joint distribution list and a dedicated Nigerian operations webpage on the Logistics Cluster website, to disseminate relevant logistics information: [www.logcluster.org/sector/ngr16a](http://www.logcluster.org/sector/ngr16a)
- The mapping and assessment of logistics infrastructures (roads, airports, ports, border crossing points), to be circulated and made available on the Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) portal: <https://dlca.logcluster.org/nigeria>
- Mapping tools and products, including specific maps of the logistics infrastructure, can also be developed on request.

## 3. Common 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.

### Common Storage

- Maintain common storage facilities in Monguno (1,972 m<sup>2</sup>), Banki (718 m<sup>2</sup>), Ngala (1,140 m<sup>2</sup>), Bama (572 m<sup>2</sup>), Dikwa (1,020 m<sup>2</sup>), and Damasak (723 m<sup>2</sup>).

- Maintain temperature-controlled storage facilities in Monguno (44 m<sup>2</sup>), Banki (13 m<sup>2</sup>), Ngala (30 m<sup>2</sup>), Bama (22 m<sup>2</sup>), Dikwa (50 m<sup>2</sup>) and Damasak (36 m<sup>2</sup>)
- Establish and maintain additional common storage facilities in key locations identified by organisations on the ground as operational needs create demand.
- Maintain a limited contingency stock of Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) and prefabricated offices available for loan to organisations requiring additional storage space for their own use, in locations where a larger common storage facility is not necessary, or organisations are not capable of managing such facilities.

### Common Transport

- Maintain a cargo transport and consolidation service in Maiduguri (collection from service users, consolidation in Maiduguri common storage facility, delivery to the Maiduguri Airport) in coordination with UNHAS light cargo deliveries, via helicopter, to key Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Borno State.

## 4. Preparedness

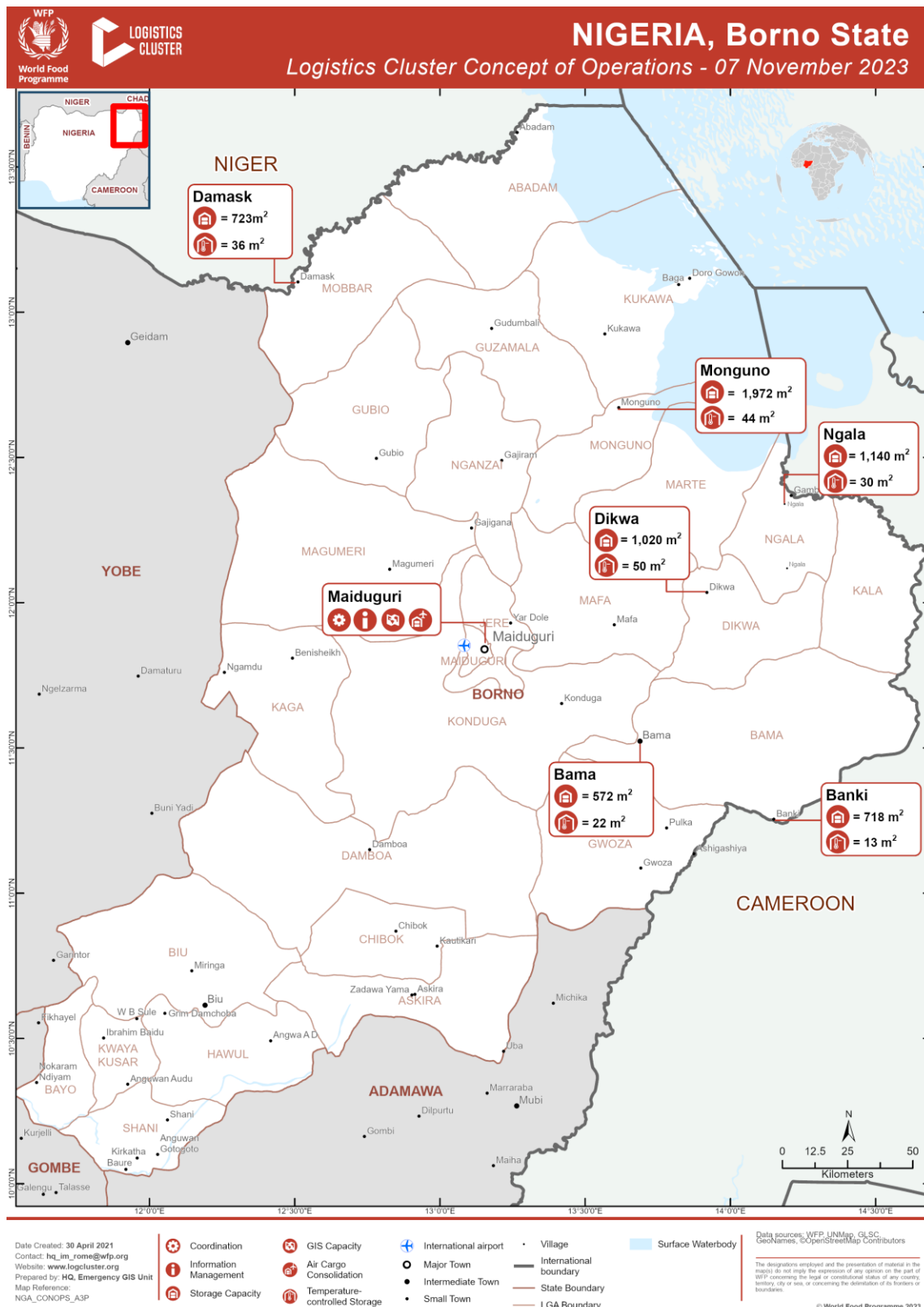
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The Logistics Cluster will continue supporting country-led preparedness activities, and the preparedness focus will include, but is not limited to:

- Work with stakeholders in the region to identify possible natural and manmade emergencies that could occur.
- Identify the associated probabilities and risks, and the mitigation and response required.
- Support to ensure a more efficient and coordinated response to sudden onset emergencies.
- Support sharing of best practices in logistics preparedness through meetings, workshops, and other means.
- Support to the national organizations and local authorities (if applicable) on drafting and review of emergency Standard Operation Procedures
- Work with relevant stakeholders to improve processes for the importation of humanitarian/charitable goods in case of emergencies.

*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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