
Background

Somalia continues to experience extreme, widespread, and persistent multi-seasonal prolonged shocks and is among the poorest countries in the world, with more than half (54 percent) of the population living below the poverty line. Continuous displacement driven by disasters, conflict, and seasonal and urban migration have exacerbated the socio-economic vulnerability of the Somali people. Hunger and malnutrition continue to remain high with 4 million people expected to face crisis-level or worse food insecurity between January and March 2024. Furthermore, an estimated 1.7 million children aged 6 to 59 months are expected to face acute malnutrition in 2024, including 430,000 who are likely to be severely malnourished. Worsening the already fragile situation, the El Nino phenomenon from October to December 2023 induced devastating floods across Somalia, affecting some 2.4 million people and displacing over a million. Further rainfall is anticipated from April to June and from October to December 2024 with the risk of additional flooding. In addition to climate-related shocks, humanitarian logistics operations in Somalia are consistently affected by security challenges stemming from non-state armed groups that continue to impede air and road cargo deliveries. The ongoing drawdown of the African Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) has heightened the unpredictability of access, particularly in the already challenging regions of Southern Somalia.

Despite these challenges, with ongoing support from the Logistics Cluster in Somalia, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the humanitarian community has been able to provide much needed assistance across the country. While operational demands remain significant, both WFP and the Logistics Cluster are dedicated to maintaining operational capacities to ensure efficient relief efforts. According to the Humanitarian Needs Response Plan (HNRP), an estimated 5.2 million individuals in Somalia will be targeted for humanitarian assistance in 2024. To adequately address these humanitarian needs and support the humanitarian community, the Logistics Cluster's requirements for 2024 amount to 14.7 million.

Logistics Gaps and Bottlenecks

The operating environment in Somalia remains one of the most challenging in the world. Based on the Logistics Cluster Gaps and Needs Analysis (GNA) conducted this year many of the logistics gaps and bottleneck persists (please refer to the full report [here](#)). The following key logistic gaps have been identified:

- **Security and Access:** Security remains the primary challenge for humanitarian operations in Somalia, with non-state armed forces exerting significant influence, particularly in the Central South Regions of the Republic of Somalia. This necessitates heavy reliance on air services by humanitarian organisations to access remote areas. The routes commonly utilized by commercial entities are fraught with volatile security conditions, characterized by rapidly changing checkpoints and controls.
- **Customs and Clearance:** Despite an initial positive evolution seen in 2022 and 2023, import and customs clearance remain a major challenge with organisations reporting delays and rapid changes in procedures that affect the ability of organizations to import. Recently, several new regulations have further diminished the clarity and predictability of customs clearance processes. For instance, the introduction of the Certificate of Conformity (CoC) is a notable example. Despite exemptions outlined in the Somalia Bureau of Standards CBCA Program Operations Manual and Bureau Veritas Ltd datasheets, humanitarian

organizations are required to fulfill the CoC requirements further hampering the import of humanitarian cargo.

- **Infrastructure (road and air):** According to the World Bank (2022), out of the 21,830 kilometers of roads in Somalia, only 2,860 kilometers are estimated to be paved, accounting for 13 percent of the total road network. It has been reported that most of this paved infrastructure is in poor or very poor conditions. Furthermore, there is a pressing need for rehabilitation of numerous airstrips across the country. The occurrence of floods exacerbates these existing challenges by further deteriorating the infrastructure of roads, airstrips, and bridges.
- **Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacity:** Partners involved in humanitarian efforts face constraints (training and resources), impacting their ability to effectively respond to the needs on the ground due to resource and capacity limitations.
- **Funding:** There is a strong need to advocate for increased funding to strengthen logistics operations in Somalia. Currently, logistics operation lacks sufficient financial support, which poses significant challenges to humanitarian efforts in the region.

Objectives

The compounding effect of multiple shocks in Somalia, including expected conflict and floods, demands operational readiness and an efficient coordination mechanism. The Logistics Cluster aims to continue providing coordination, information management support, and common logistics services for the benefit of the humanitarian community. The Logistics Cluster aims to maintain operational readiness and facilitate access to sufficient and reliable logistics services as well as consolidated information related to logistics capacities, to enhance the capacity of the humanitarian community to deliver relief items to hard-to-reach locations in a coordinated and efficient manner, hence ensuring timely and uninterrupted supply of life-saving relief items to affected.

Planned Activities

The following activities and services offered are designed to complement and support the existing logistics capacities of individual agencies and organizations within the humanitarian community. These initiatives aim to address specific gaps in the supply chain, advocate for the community's requirements, and enhance the overall response by providing essential common services based on identified needs. 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 2024**

1. Coordination

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:

- A Logistics Sector coordination cell will be maintained Mogadishu to coordinate the inter-agency efforts in collaboration with national counterparts.
- Regular coordination meetings will be held in Mogadishu, and in other field locations as required and as possible, to facilitate the exchange of information among actors.

- The Logistics Cluster will liaise with authorities and relevant national and international actors on behalf of the humanitarian community to raise awareness around common logistics issues and advocate for solutions.
- The Logistics Cluster will coordinate with other sectors and agencies, including through participation in the inter-sector and inter-agencies fora, on strategic planning and pipeline information to enhance preparedness and response actions.
- Facilitate discussions around emergency preparedness activities to mitigate disruption of existing supply chains and anticipate mitigation measures, including capacity strengthening activities whenever required to alleviate operational needs.
- Technical working groups will be maintained to facilitate focused discussions on import and customs clearances, as well as air transport.

2. Information Management

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

- The collection, consolidation and sharing of logistics information related to ongoing activities, best practices, key infrastructure, fuel prices, customs procedures and available storage and transport capacity across the country.
- The maintenance of information sharing platforms such as a common mailing list and a dedicated Somalia Operation webpage maintained on the Logistics Cluster website to disseminate relevant and up-to date logistics information to the humanitarian community:
<https://logcluster.org/en/ops/som20a>.
- 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/somalia>.
- Maintain evidence generation efforts to support advocacy initiatives including those arising from customs clearance and access.

3. Logistics Services

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.

These services will be provided either by available service providers or by WFP, as the provider of last resort. Partner organisations can access the services through the [Service Market Place](#) webpage and all inquiries shall be directed to somalia.clustercargo@wfp.org email. The following services are available to the humanitarian community:

Common storage

- **Storage:** Common storage is offered at no cost to users in Baidoa to facilitate onward transport to various locations in Juba and South-West.

Common transport

- **Air transport:** Air transport will continue to be available using Mogadishu as the main dispatch hub for

locations in the southern regions of Somalia including, Juba, South-West, and Hirshabelle State. Other dispatching hubs, such as Kismayo and Baidoa may be activated on a temporary basis whenever a need arises for significant cargo movements. The Logistics Cluster facilitates air transport on a no-cost-to-user basis to hard-to-reach locations primarily through fixed-wing aircraft (approximately 200mt a month) and rotary-wing assets (approximately 60 hours a month) based on requirements and funding availability.

- **Road transport:** Road transport services are the prioritized mean of transportation when and where possible. The Logistics Cluster provides road transport on a no-cost-to-user basis only as a last resort when organisations are unable to transport urgently required items and lack the capacity or resources to do so. Particularly, cross-border movement between Kenya and Somalia is critical to relieve the pressure on air operations in southern areas of the country.
- **Sea transport:** Sea transport is designated as an alternative to road or air transport whenever accessibility allows. The Logistics Cluster offers sea transport on a no-cost-to-user basis only as a last resort when organisations cannot transport urgently required items and lack the capacity or resources to do so. Sea transport services are provided to and from the following locations: Mombasa, Kismayo, Mogadishu, Bossaso, and Berbera.

All service requests will be analysed and assigned the most cost-effective means of transport available to ensure delivery within the required lead-time. Services will be provided in accordance with the priorities established by the Humanitarian Country Team, in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Unit. As a guiding principle, priority will be given to requests pertaining to lifesaving and emergency response activities.

4.Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacity

The Logistics Cluster will continue supporting country-led preparedness activities, focusing on but 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 organisations and local authorities (if applicable) on drafting and review of emergency Standard Operation Procedure
- Work with relevant stakeholders to improve processes for the importation of humanitarian/charitable goods in case of emergencies.
- Reinforce communication with Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) units to complement synergies among different units.
- Mapping capacity from partners and facilitated training available from the community.

Annex I ConOps Map

