



LOGISTICS CLUSTER

Led by the World Food Programme

Increasing the efficiency of humanitarian logistics response

The Logistics Cluster supports the humanitarian community to ensure critical aid gets to where it is needed. Due to its expertise in humanitarian logistics and its field capacity, WFP was chosen by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to be the lead agency of the Logistics Cluster. In this role, when necessary, WFP acts as a provider of last resort offering common logistics services to all humanitarian responders.

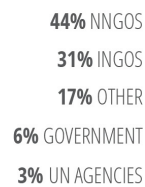
The role of the Logistics Cluster is to provide coordination of logistics activities for the humanitarian response, and information management to support operational decision-making throughout the response cycle. In addition, when the humanitarian response is hampered by gaps in the logistics infrastructure, the Logistics Cluster also facilitates access to logistics services.

A community of partners

Above all, the Logistics Cluster is a community of partners from across the humanitarian sector.

The strength of the cluster approach lies in the humanitarian community working together - sharing resources, information and tools to achieve more, and ensure that humanitarian aid gets from A to B, including hard-to-reach locations, in the most efficient and effective way possible.

2019 ACHIEVEMENTS



715

PARTNERS



1,736

Logistics information updates made available on the website



312

Stakeholders engaged with logistics preparedness activities.



2,245

People trained on logistics coordination and basic logistics skills

HQ support

In WFP HQ in Rome, a dedicated and experienced team makes up the Global Logistics Cluster, whose primary task is to provide direct field support and guidance to cluster operations.

The team deploys as surge capacity to sudden onset emergencies and ongoing operations when needed. It also maintains and updates the Logistics Cluster Website - the primary tool for operational information sharing.

Furthermore, the Global Logistics Cluster acts as a thought leader on new logistics trends and as a broker between the humanitarian logistics sector, the private sector, and the academic sector. The cluster also elaborates needs-based and adapted training content and develops new methodologies.

In the field

At the onset of a crisis, the Global Logistics Cluster deploys an expert team to the field to conduct an immediate assessment to identify logistics needs. The team is also responsible for setting up the first response in case the cluster is activated.

In-country, the Logistics Cluster fosters **coordination**, acting as a liaison between humanitarian actors to streamline logistics activities, avoid duplication of efforts and ensure the optimal use of resources.

The Logistics Cluster also **collects and analyses operational information**, and develops timely and relevant information products, such as Access Constraints Maps. These updates are disseminated through dedicated mailing lists and a website renowned for the quality of its information.

When logistics gaps prevent humanitarian actors from reaching affected populations, the Logistics Cluster coordinates access to **common logistics services**. WFP as lead agency, or any partner with the relevant capacity, can offer services to ensure aid reaches impacted communities. These may be transport services, as well as storage and fuel.

Building a stronger logistics response

As part of its strategy and mandate, the cluster seeks to utilise its operational expertise and wide network of partners, to strengthen national supply chain capacity. Between 2018 and 2021, the Global Logistics Cluster is focusing on preparedness activities in 24 at-risk countries, with a strategy centred on sustainability and driving locally-led actions.

On training specifically, the Logistics Cluster also rolls out an extensive programme, with a curriculum spanning from induction trainings, to large-scale simulation-based exercises. The primary objective of the programme is to enhance the capacity of the humanitarian community, in turn increasing the overall efficiency of humanitarian logistics operations.

Operationally, the Logistics Cluster works regularly to self-assess its relevance and performance, and for each operation, an in-depth Lessons Learned exercise is commissioned to ensure accountability. Globally, the Logistics Cluster also organises biannual meetings with humanitarian partners to address concerns, demonstrate new technology, and tackle the latest operational challenges, such as reverse logistics.



"What I like most about the cluster is its partnership aspect: working together for a common goal which no single organisation could possibly achieve on its own."

- Katja Hildebrand
Logistics Cluster Coordinator, Central African Republic