



WFP
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Inter-agency Logistics Support

Due to its expertise in humanitarian logistics, WFP is the global lead agency for the Logistics Cluster and a 'provider of last resort' offering common logistics services, like transportation and warehousing, when critical gaps hamper lifesaving operations. The Cluster supports national authorities and global, regional and local actors to overcome constraints to the delivery of lifesaving relief supplies in emergencies.

Cluster staff offer efficient and effective logistics solutions and technical support to organizations responding to sudden onset emergencies to support the predictability, effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of an emergency response. Before crises, the Logistics Cluster strengthens humanitarian response capacity. Where local response capacities have been exceeded, it leads field-level coordination meetings to streamline activities, and information management activities to ensure the optimal use of resources. After crises, the Cluster evaluate the response, identifies areas for improvement, shares good practices and solutions, and invests in learning and preparedness for future emergencies.

STRENGTHENING CAPACITY IN BANGLADESH

Together with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), WFP is co-lead of the National Logistics Cluster, which supports the Government of Bangladesh in logistics coordination, information sharing and emergency preparedness.

From 2020, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and national lockdowns, WFP worked with local authorities and humanitarian partners to establish effective coordination and information sharing mechanisms as cluster co-lead. The Cluster ensured rapid cargo release and customs clearance once it arrived in Bangladesh, and facilitated the movement of vehicles carrying critical supplies to where they were needed most around the country.

In 2022, the Cluster developed a post-disaster rapid logistics needs assessment in consultation with National Logistics Cell (NLC) members. The finalized questionnaire will be used by the NLC following future large-scale emergencies in Bangladesh, such as earthquakes. The Cluster also continues to support the future development of a Humanitarian Staging Area given the country's vulnerability to natural hazards.

MATURED LOGISTICS CAPACITY IN COX'S BAZAR

From 2017-2022, the Logistics Sector had a crucial role in the scale-up and implementation of the Rohingya refugee response, providing logistics coordination, information management and common logistics services to the humanitarian community in Cox's Bazar. During this period, the sector facilitated capacity strengthening, prepositioned assets and equipment ahead of severe weather, and provided partners with gap assessment tools as part of emergency preparedness. Following the massive March 2021 fire, the Logistics Sector supported partners with light towers, mobile storage units, ablution units, prefabs, generators, skilled labour, and overall coordination in the camps, and launched an interactive map enabling humanitarians to report access constraints.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Logistics Sector addressed unprecedented needs, especially for the Health Sector. Under strict lockdowns, it coordinated the international transport of partner items for COVID-19 medical treatment via a chartered flight, and established a special COVID-19 storage facility for the cold storage of vaccines and medicine for isolation and treatment centres.

In response to movement restrictions, the Sector developed a fully digital system to validate approved humanitarian vehicle access to the camps. This not only helped contain the spread of the virus, but also reduced delays and bottlenecks at checkpoints with some 700 vehicles checked at eight security checkpoints every day.

Together with Humanity & Inclusion/Atlas Logistique, the Sector also made a dedicated humanitarian fleet available to transport COVID-19 response materials to isolation and treatment centres, and other locations within the camps.

Due to increased logistics capacity among its local actors and humanitarian partners, the Sector began implementing a planned scale-down started in 2021, and common services were phased out in 2022 with the closure of the Madhuchara logistics hub. In January 2023, the Sector transitioned into a Working Group, chaired by the National Logistics Cluster together with Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. The Working Group continues to focus on coordination and information sharing under the Inter Sector Coordination Group.

Annual requirement: US\$0.52 million
(US\$0.12 million for the National Cluster
and US\$0.4 million for Bhasan Char)

COMMON SERVICES ON BHASAN CHAR

As sector lead for Common Services, WFP has been working to establish shared logistics services for humanitarian actors on Bhasan Char since late 2021.

On behalf of the UN, WFP coordinates with Government through movement plan requests to support passenger movements twice a week; the Government provides a Landing Craft Utility vessel to support official travel to and from the island. WFP also assists with the coordination of cargo transport, and has established commercial transport contracts, which are available for use by other humanitarian agencies.



Within Bhasan Char's four warehouses, WFP has promoted standardization, ownership and continuous improvements to maximize the use of space, harmonize actors and extend the shelf life of perishable goods. In 2022, IT conducted palletisation and has since introduced a standard warehouse documentation system and deep cleaning exercises. The Sector provides hands-on training on standard warehousing, inventory management and handling, both to government personnel and NGOs. It has also reorganized and restacked stock, as needed, and segregated and treated unusable commodities.

Every month, the Sector arranges an inter-agency coordination meeting to identify logistical gaps and challenges, and provide support to partners. Going forward, WFP plans to absorb warehouse management from Government, continue improving storage facilities, and establish a standard warehouse management system for Bhasan Char.

Photo 1 (WFP/Sayed Asif Mahmud): The Madhuchara Hub is now mainly used to store WFP food commodities (particularly emergency preparedness and response stocks) and non-food items, including 12 MSUs available for loan on request

Photo 2 (WFP/Sayed Asif Mahmud): WFP staff observe as refugee labourers shift food commodities to the temporary

