

Logistics Cluster Concept and Guidelines

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Logistics Cluster Approach - Definitions

Humanitarian Logistics: is “the process of planning, implementing and controlling the efficient, cost-effective flow and storage of goods and materials, as well as related information, from the point of origin to the point of consumption for the purpose of alleviating the suffering of vulnerable people. The function encompasses a range of activities, including preparedness, planning, procurement, transport, warehousing, tracking and tracing and customs clearance¹.” In the context of the Logistics Cluster and its activities the definition is to be seen exclusive of procurement.

Logistics Cluster: Group of humanitarian organizations and other stakeholders committed to commonly address logistics needs during humanitarian crises on a broad partnership basis (global and Country-level)

Logistics Cluster Participants: Individual organizations engaging at any point at global and/or Country-level in activities related to the Logistics Cluster, including but not limited to participating in meetings, providing logistics services or information to the Logistics or other clusters, seconding staff to the Global Logistics Cluster Support cell and/or LRT roster.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is a permanent invitee to the Logistics Cluster.

Logistics Cluster Lead: The IASC designated WFP to take the lead in the implementation of the Logistics Cluster approach at global- and Country-level.

“Global cluster leads have agreed to be accountable to the Emergency Relief Coordinator for ensuring system-wide preparedness and technical capacity to respond to humanitarian emergencies, and for ensuring greater predictability and more effective inter-agency responses in their particular sectors or area of responsibility. More specifically, they are responsible for establishing broad partnership bases (i.e. “clusters”) that engage in activities in three main areas²: Standards and policy-setting, building response capacity and operational support.”²

At Country-level the cluster lead reports to the Humanitarian Coordinator with the support of the Global Logistics Cluster and is responsible “to facilitate a process aimed at ensuring well-coordinated and effective humanitarian responses(...) and is required to commit to being the ‘provider of last resort’ where this is necessary and where access, security and availability of resources make this possible.”³

Logistics Cluster Meeting: Tool to facilitate communication and decision processes within the Logistics Cluster (global and Country-level).

¹ See: Thomans, A.S and L.R. Kopczak (2005) “From Logistics to supply chain management. The path forward in the humanitarian sector” Fritz Institute:

<http://www.fritzinstitute.org/PDFs/WhitePaper/FromLogisticsto.pdf>

² “IASC Guidance Note on Using the Cluster Approach to Strengthen Humanitarian Response|” Inter-Agency Standing Committee 3 November 2006

³ “IASC Guidance Note on Using the Cluster Approach to Strengthen Humanitarian Response|” Inter-Agency Standing Committee 3 November 2006

Global Logistics Cluster Support Cell (Global Support Cell): Dedicated inter-agency staff in a set-up (physically co-located or in satellite locations) to implement the Global Logistics Cluster work plan.

Country-level Logistics Cluster Support Cell⁴ (Country-level Support Cell): Dedicated inter-agency staff temporarily deployed if and when required to support the Logistics Cluster to identify and address common logistics needs.

Logistics Cluster-specific Common Services: As agreed by the IASC WG UNHAS is a tool of the Logistics Cluster. The governance and activation procedures might in time lie within the cluster activation process but this is yet to be agreed by the Humanitarian Common Services working group and decided by the IASC.

Where a Logistics Cluster is not activated, UNHAS follows its governance and activation procedures.

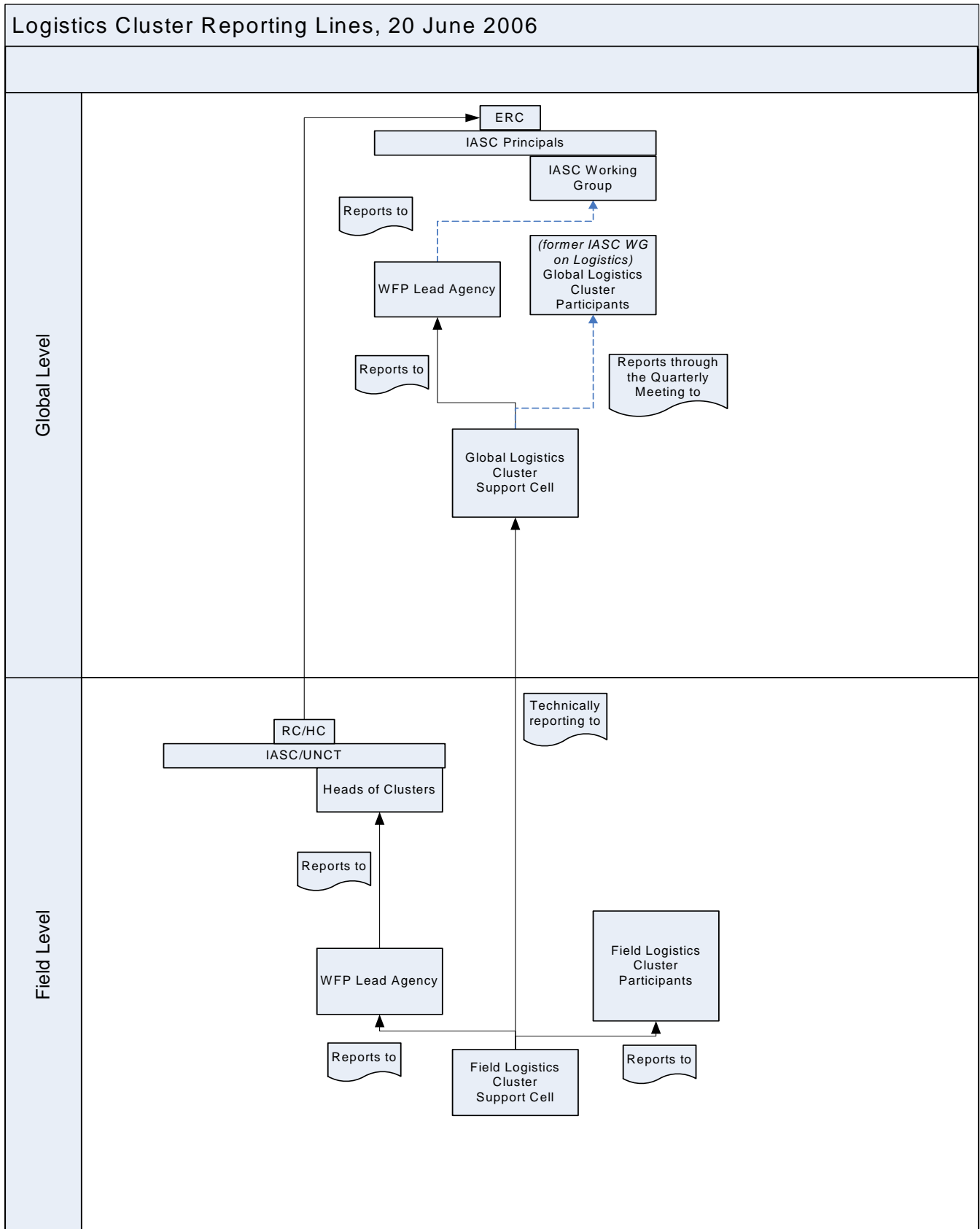
Where a Logistics Cluster is activated UNHAS will provide its services through the Logistics Cluster.

Other organizations or agencies may provide logistics services to the humanitarian community through the Logistics Cluster. They would then also become common logistics service providers.

⁴ Emphasis required clarifying that this does not imply an additional layer of staff or bureaucracy but that the Support Cell has direct time-saving and/or cost saving outputs.

Logistics Cluster Reporting Lines

Logistics Cluster Reporting Lines, 20 June 2006



Logistics Cluster Activation Process

