LOCATION: Remote meeting

DATE: 7 July 2020

CHAIR: WFP and PUI

ACTION POINTS

- The PPE spreadsheet will be shared one more time. Members are encouraged to complete and return to Sylvain or Finne
- The JOPs for access across the country will be shared
- If the access processes are not clear, a simplified summary of the JOPs will be drafted
- ACBAR will be conducting JOP training in the near future. Lisa will keep everyone informed
- Anyone with details for vehicle insurance agents to share contacts with Sylvain or Finne
- Karachi based US Embassy staff details to be shared
- Finne to reach out to UNICEF for an update on their MOPH distributions
- Share NGO Commissioners list by province
- Anyone with details of transport companies with cold chain capacities please share with Finne for forwarding to the group
- Please report any access incidents to ACBAR for further action
- Meetings every two weeks from now on?
- Finne and Sylvain will reach out to all participants to encourage better attendance on the calls

AGENDA

1. Previous Action Points
2. Border update
3. PPE group
4. AOB

1. Previous Action Points

- More EU flights are not planned but if there is an interest, please contact EU colleagues to discuss. It has also been raised that some embassies have their own charters coming into AFG. If you have a home country or donor who is bringing in flights it could be an opportunity to add cargo to it
- WFP provided contacts for WHO to follow up on importation of Security PPEs.
- No questions were forwarded to PUI to discuss with MOPH. PUI will continue to engage with MOPH regarding PPE distribution plans.
2. Border update

- Chanam border has been closed for one week due to demonstrators blocking the roads. Over 3,000 trucks are stranded. Local authorities met with protesters on Monday but no solution was agreed. The protesters want foot traffic to be allowed cross 7 days a week same as trucks.
- All other borders are operating normally
- Karachi port operations and clearances continue to be very slow. Inspections are sporadic and the PAK authorities are short-staffed leading to long delays. If you are having difficulties and have US funded cargo waiting clearance, there is a US Embassy staff member based in Karachi who may be able to assist. His contacts will be shared.

3. PPE Update

- An e-mail was shared on Monday detailing a distribution plan given to UNICEF by MOPH for delivering PPE packages to Provincial health facilities. UNICEF were not on the call to provide further information. Finne will reach out separately to them to get a better overall picture on the ongoing distribution plans
- The general feeling was that these items are not all going to facilities operated by the members of this group on behalf of MOPH. They are still having difficulty sourcing PPEs locally and are reluctant to share details of what they are procuring as the quality of the local items is in question.
- The shortage of supplies and overall use of the acquired PPEs will be taken into consideration by donors if they know now. Members are encouraged to keep donors and other major stakeholders appraised of all activities and challenges along the way. ECHO emphasized that most donors are concerned that organisations are not fully equipped and need to get as much PPE to their facilities to mount a robust response using ALL the resources at their disposal. If anyone is concerned, they should discuss this with their donors now as having this kind of conversation further down the line will be difficult. She also stressed that donors understand the issues being faced globally and want to help use their influence to push forward solutions.
- It was noted that there had been a lot of mixed messages from donors regarding procurement of PPEs at the beginning. This led to a delay in identifying the quantity required. At this stage, however, organisations will have a better estimation of requirements and clearer guidance from donors.
- As a minimum action, organisations could complete the PPE requirements spreadsheet so this group can look at what the overall needs are. Then, as logisticians, we can plan further steps together. This could mean a consolidated order with the UN Procurement consortia with the help and support of donors or to take another path which we can identify together.
- Members of the group have been concerned since the beginning about the leadtime for stocks procured via the UN Portal. It is still recommended that everyone register with the portal at the very least. This is NOT a commitment of funds. It is just a preparatory measure to ensure a quicker ordering service if required. The leadtimes for all countries are long and so need to be monitored.
- ECHO is currently communicating with senior management of MOPH and need facts, figures, information on bottlenecks and constraints and also any distributions which they can raise. If we want more open cooperation from MOPH, we need to provide ECHO with information for their discussions.
- We are all in this together but if we don’t keep open communications going, we may not be sufficiently prepared for an upcoming peak of the virus in AFG.
4. AOB

- The Gaps and Needs Exercise (GNE) done in April May this year by the Global Logistics Cluster (GLC) will be reviewed early July. Interviews with members will be scheduled over the coming week. This exercise will define the way forward, whether we continue to use this forum, if it has been useful to your operations in AFG but also to assess if there is a need to change the approach to add more value.
- NRC wanted to get input from members on challenges they face delivering in AOG areas. Are there a lot of issues, what are the processes others use?
  1. The letter from the NGO Commissioner is sometimes used but not everyone knows nor uses them. We will try to get contact details for these Commissioners
  2. There are JOPS which give guidance on how to access AOG areas. ACBAR will be providing JOP training in the future.
  3. Some agencies ask local Elders to assist with negotiations. Some transporters with experience in the area can get through as they are known and accepted. Some agencies have access focal points in sub-offices who are tasked with contacting all stakeholders along the route to ensure trucks are allowed through.
  4. Rescue has had these issues in a few locations and have used contacts in the field and sent another transporter to negotiate for release of the trucks. They also provide a letter to explain the purpose of the cargo and that can work but not always. If they have demining projects in the area, it’s success can be used as leverage to get programme critical cargo to final destinations
  5. JOPs will be shared and if they are not clear or relevant to organisations, a simplified summary with input from the group will be drafted
  6. All organisations have a policy not to pay levies on humanitarian goods
  7. Organisations are asked to report access issues to ACBAR and they will bring these up at the Humanitarian Access Group (HAG) meeting to work on solutions

- SCI would like contacts for any transport company delivering with cold chain capacity on their trucks.
- A mail will be sent to establish if meetings can move to every two weeks from now on.
- Finne will leave soon and the replacement Ben, should arrive in the next ten days.
- IT has been noted that the attendance on these weekly calls has dropped off. As more information is being shared some organisations do not see the need to participate it seems. Finne and Sylvain will reach out to the contact list individually to request better attendance

Contacts:

Finne Lucey  
*Logistics Officer*  
Finne.lucey@wfp.org

Sylvain Sanhueza  
*LWG Co-lead*  
afg.logco@pu-ami.org

Belkacem Benzaza  
*Head of Supply Chain*  
belkacem.benzaza@wfp.org