Afghanistan Logistics Working Group
Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: Remote meeting

DATE: 25 Aug 2020

CHAIR: WFP and PUI

ACTION POINTS

• Ascertain if any other organisation is being asked by the NMHRA for certificates for consumables. Occasionally they also request quality certificates, which are not available.

• Continue to inquire about guarantee letters with regards to medical equipment and pharmaceuticals being released early to await clearance so they can be safely stored.

• Collect data on actual storage and transport capacity so that organisations with excess can be put in contact with those that require more. This can be done through a circulated spreadsheet to be filled or by sending Ben or Sylvain the details directly.

• Look to do a quality assessment of locally purchased PPE and share a contact list of quality suppliers. Partners are asked to contact Sylvain in order to centralise a list of suppliers.

• Reach out to partners who have used the WHO platform to import, in order to hear their feedback.

• Karachi based US Embassy meeting to be conducted in the coming week. An email has been sent to them, however, they are yet to reply.

• Encourage partners to detail their temperature-controlled storage and transport needs.

• Ben and Sylvain will reach out to all participants to encourage better attendance on the calls

• New invite will be sent out. Next meeting will be on the 8th of September at 3pm.

AGENDA

1. Previous Action Points
2. Border update
3. Storage and Transport discussion
4. Access Issues
5. Customs issues
6. PPE update
7. AOB

1. Previous Action Points

• Update given on the viability of Chabahar as a Port.
• No further information given on Cold Chain capacities. However, there is a desire from airport authorities for more temperature-controlled facilities at the airport, in particular for a morgue. WFP is also upgrading its temperature-controlled capacity.
• Border issue update for all crossing points was given.

2. Border update
• All border crossing points are open and operating

3. Storage and Transport discussion
• Some organisations have surplus storage and transport capability and are willing to assist others who have need.
• Is there a possibility to map storage and transport capacity around the country, which would include location, capacity and availability.
• WFP are increasing their temperature controlled storage capacity at the airport, however, though they could assist in the future with temp controlled storage and transport around the country through an increased capacity and cost recovery model, the first step would be to gauge the needs of other organisations. This would include knowing the locations, the temperatures required.

4. Access issues
• Discussion had on preparation and winterization with regards to access. However, the LWG needs more information from partners in order for this conversation to be valuable.

5. Customs issues
• One partner has been asked for certificates for consumables from the NMHRA and they were wondering if any other organization has had the same request. Discussions within the LWG deliberated on the cause, e.g new legislation, quality control or the commercial intermediary used? PUI will contact NMHRA in order to know if new rules have been put in place. One of the partners has been requested in the past to produce certificates for medical equipment which are never provided by the companies.

6. PPE update
• There has been an increase in the local purchase of PPE in Kabul. Most items, aside from specific masks are available domestically. Is the increased local competition driving up prices?
• There is a need for a market assessment of locally purchased PPE
• Could anyone share a list of quality suppliers of PPE in Kabul and is anyone interested in sharing import loads?
• With the increase in communicable diseases, PPE will not go to waste. Donors can support PPE needs prior to Winter, therefore, it’s better to invest in PPE now.
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