Whilst the activities of the logistics cluster support cell are almost fully funded, DFID has made a contribution of £500,000/US$1,000,000 which needs to be distributed amongst others who have submitted appeals. In order to do this we will require a small panel of four to decide how the funds can be fairly apportioned according to the needs of all of the logistics cluster participants. We would invite anybody who is prepared to participate in this process to get in contact with the logs cluster support cell no later than Wednesday 24th October.

CHAD MISSION REPORT

The Chad logistics cluster is active and will focus on:
- Logistics coordination among cluster participants
- Information management (including information tools and various channels)
- Conduct an Inter-agency Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA); NGOs and UN organizations will be actively involved in the process
- Monitoring logistics issues that may arise with the arrival of EUFOR, DPKO, rainy season, security...

Staffing will be one cluster coordination and one UNJLC. The logistics cluster CAP 2008 for Chad will be finalized next week. Jean-Francois Milhaud has just returned from Chad. His mission report is attached.
A Chad logistics cluster webpage is now available at: http://www.logcluster.org/chad

UGANDA LOGISTICS CLUSTER UPDATE

As logistics cluster participants asked for support with information on customs and clearance procedures, the Logistics Cluster has been in contact with the Ugandan Revenue Authority and the Office of the Prime Minister seeking information. According to the information gathered to date, organizations importing goods for the flood response should not need to pay duty. Attached you will find a brief on procedures and contact details.

Due to operations shifting to Soroti, Logistics Cluster meetings in Kampala are no longer needed every week. Thus the next meeting will be convened when the operation demands. Please find the latest minutes attached.

The WFP led Logistics Cluster is currently funded with 1.7 million USD confirmed contributions, out of 4.9 million USD sought. That leaves the operation only 36% funded. WFP is exploring funding sources and might be able to take a loan from WFP. At the same time an ECHO proposal has been submitted asking for 1 million EUR. With the air operation in full swing money is being spent fast and thus additional resources are needed.

The latest Logistics Cluster Road Matrix, Weather update, Transportation Overview Maps, and the logistics cluster bulletin (attached) has been published on the logistics cluster webpage: http://www.logcluster.org/uganda-floods

On 17th October IOM informed that 5 x IOM 8t Scania trucks will be transferred from IOM JUBA to IOM SOROTI. Vehicles and drivers will be available to ANY DDMC/IO/NGO requiring relief effort ground transportation assistance. Trucks will be available on a subsidized all-inclusive daily rate / cost reimbursement basis. IOM preference is to establish cluster-based prioritization of use, however since this may take several days to organize they intend making them available on a first come - first served basis to any agency currently coordinating their activities with the appropriate thematic cluster. Fleet can be expanded if demand rises; however current demands are not clear.

IASC COMMISSIONED CLUSTER EVALUATION:

The IASC commissioned an evaluation of the cluster approach which was recently completed and has been shared with a steering committee in draft. The evaluation team has gone back to correct some factual errors in the report and has indicated that the corrected version of the report will be ready early next week. Once it is ready we will share it with the logistics cluster participants.
CLUSTER LEADS MEETING

A global cluster leads meeting was chaired by OCHA and co-chaired by WFP earlier this week in Geneva. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss cluster planning parameters (number and scale of emergencies to use for preparedness), the future of capacity building (how cluster leads can mainstream this work into their core budgetary requirements) and how clusters can engage with cross cutting issues (HIV, gender and environment).

This was a chance to point out that there are several policy issues relating to cluster which are still unclear and are causing the cluster approach to be less affective than it should. The logistics cluster is clear that there needs to be not only a defined activation process but also a deactivation procedure written into the cluster guidelines. We have also expressed the opinion that the cluster approach is too closely aligned with the appeals process.

In terms of mainstreaming, WFP is committed to keep the logistics cluster support cell running well beyond 2008 although it is yet to be decided how this can be done.

There will be a donor consultation on 30th October in Geneva to discuss the fund raising for the global capacity building appeal.

UNJLC TO CO-CHAIR CODATA WORKING GROUP

The UN Joint Logistics Centre was asked to co-chair the CODATA Working Group that is being proposed to steer the development of a Global Roads database. The objective of this project, initiated by the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) of Columbia University, is to produce an updated global roads database for mapping at 1:200,000 scale or better (5 times the accuracy of the current open source global database) and make it freely available to the humanitarian, environmental, developmental, and scientific communities. The data model used for this project will be based on the UNSDI-T standards. More information on this initiative will be available here: http://www.ciesin.columbia.edu/confluence/display/roads/Global+Roads+Data, and feel free to contact us at maps@unjllc.org with any further queries.

PLANNED INTER-AGENCY LOGISTICS CAPACITY ASSESSMENTS (LCAS)

Following the global logistics cluster meeting in Copenhagen in September this year, please see the 2007 last quarter LCA schedule:
Chad: WFP has started updating its LCA. UNICEF is expected to actively participate and support especially the section on local market, customs, more detailed “distribution” road assessment (East Chad), transporters, NGOs and other agencies capacities,… Continuity and momentum is key.
CAR: WFP is in process of updating inter-agency LCA, taking into account NGOs identified needs (customs, road tolls, transport and local market). In response to last weeks call for identification for a Logistics Information Management Officer might be identified next week.
Zimbabwe: WHO on board. Waiting for their availability dates. Still to decide who could join.
Pakistan: WHO on board. Initial schedule was December 2007 - Feasibility to be confirmed following latest news.

MISSIONS AND EVENTS

→ Second Logistics Response Team training planned 4-11 November 2007 in Brindisi, Italy.
→ Kevin Howley and Hugo VanVuuren are on mission in Uganda stationed in Kampala and Soroti respectively.
→ Anastasia Lubkovskaya has arrived in country to take over from Hugo.
→ Jean-François has returned from Chad, his mission report is attached.