Kyrgyzstan Crisis

Concept of Operations

KYRGYZSTAN

Background
Following ethnic clashes between Kyrgyz and Uzbeks in southern Kyrgyz Republic, the security situation has deteriorated rapidly since 11 June as ethnic tension and violence against civilians spread to southern parts of the country. The outbreak of violence has caused destruction of infrastructure in Osh, the second largest city in the country as well as Jalalabad and neighbouring areas. It is estimated that there are approximately 300,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in addition to some 75,000 refugees in Uzbekistan fleeing ethnic violence who urgently require shelter, food, and medical assistance. Reports suggest that tens of thousands of people are still waiting to cross the border to Uzbekistan.

In general, humanitarian access to beneficiaries in Kyrgyzstan remains a key concern. In the view of this recent development the humanitarian community has called for the activation of clusters including the Logistics Cluster.

Gaps and Needs
With the request from the Government of Kyrgyz Republic for international assistance, humanitarian organizations are delivering their life-saving relief supplies into the country with aims to support those affected by the ethnic violence. There is a clear requirement to ensure strong coordination between the various actors assisting the affected population in order to mitigate any duplication of efforts and maximise the sharing of logistics assets.

Transport and access in and out of southern Kyrgyz Republic remain challenging due to the prevailing security situation. Congestion at entry and transit points is expected once the surge of relief supplies arrives at the borders and the airports.

The main gaps and bottlenecks identified that may hamper the smooth delivery of life-saving relief items to the affected population are:

- A requirement for logistics coordination and information sharing.
- Cargo consolidation and transit storage capacity at points of entry and transit locations.
- Safe passage of humanitarian supplies to the most severely affected and remote areas.

Activities of the Logistics Cluster Kyrgyzstan
The Logistics Cluster activities aim to provide the humanitarian community with adequate logistics capabilities and coordination mechanisms to deliver life-saving relief aid to the affected population in Kyrgyzstan. Based on the current gaps and bottlenecks identified, the activities of the Logistics Cluster will include:

1. Logistics Coordination
   - A Logistics Cluster coordination cell has been established in Bishkek to coordinate the logistics response. A satellite cell may be set up in Osh if required. The cell in Bishkek will include a dedicated Logistics Cluster Coordinator and a dedicated Information Management Officer.
The cell will work closely with the government and wider humanitarian community to identify gaps and bottlenecks in the relief response as well as secure and manage common logistics assets for use by the government and the humanitarian community to ensure the uninterrupted supply of life saving relief items to the affected population in Kyrgyzstan.

- The Logistics Cluster coordinator will facilitate regular Logistics Cluster meetings and publish records of decisions taken.
- Optimization of the logistics resources available locally and regionally, awareness raising and consolidated fundraising efforts.

2. Information Management
The Logistics Cluster will provide information management services, including GIS / mapping services with the aim of supporting operational decision making to improve the efficiency of the logistics response. These services will include the following:

- Consolidate information on the overall logistics situation from the humanitarian community and local authorities, identifying logistics gaps and bottlenecks.
- Provide updated information on operational data, such as road closures and entry points, through the publication of sitreps, bulletins, snapshots, flash news and briefings.
- Provision of logistics infrastructure Geographic Information Systems/mapping tools and products.
- Provide a platform for the sharing and dissemination of logistics information at http://www.logcluster.org/ops/kgz10a as well as through a moderated email circulation list.

3. Logistics Common Services

- Setting up of logistics hubs with temporary storage capacity in Osh, Bishkek and Jalalabad to ensure an unimpeded flow of relief items to the affected populations.
- Provision of handling, consolidation, storage and tracking services for humanitarian cargo received at hubs/entry points.
- Cargo consolidated and stored will be handled as per the priorities set by the Humanitarian Coordinator and services will be provided at no cost to humanitarian actors.
- Border crossing and customs facilitation at Osh and Jalalabad for relief cargo if required.
- Liaison with the national authorities and UN Security entities to facilitate logistics and operational interaction for the use of military assets for the safe and secure protection of humanitarian convoys if the prevailing security situation deems such convoys necessary.

This Concept of Operations is a living document and these activities will be adapted and revised as the situation unfolds and further assessment results become available, including the possible provision of additional logistics common services as required by the humanitarian community.