Minutes
Logistics Cluster Meeting

Date: Monday, 6th October
Time: 1600 - 1700
Venue: UNHCR office, Vavuniya

Meeting Agenda:
1. Updates from participant organizations
2. Brief on the first Vanni convoy
3. Logistic issues
4. Prioritization of items

1. Updates from participant organizations on their current activities:

**Save the Children** - Child support activities in IDP communities, 4 500 education kits ready for distribution in stock.

**OXFAM** - Office and store have been closed and all material have been shifted to the AGA office at Dharmapuram and PTK. Watsan and other assets have been handed over to the respective GA. 29 staff still on the ground. Staff will meet with the GAs to discuss operational modalities.

**UNICEF** - Prepositioning of child protection items in Vavuniya ongoing.

**HANDICAP** – Current project is to support the Kilinochchi hospital with items for the disabled. Stocks are prepositioned in Vavuniya in WFP warehouses.

**SOLIDAR** - Still assessing staff/assets left behind in Kilinochchi and organizing the operation further. Most assets are moved out of the Vanni. In Vavuniya, 1 700 kits prepositioned, ready to be sent.

**CARE** – 49 staff still present in the Vanni. Assets handed over to the local authorities.

**ZOA** – Distribution stopped on 29 September, still standby. 20 staff still present in the areas and some assets.

**GAA** - 67 staff still present in the Vanni. Stock of paddy seeds to be distributed end of October/beginning of November through the local authorities.

**OCHA** – The inventory of UN assets left in the Vanni is finalized. Talks to be held in Colombo on how to take them out.

**UNOPS** - All staff to relocated to Vavuniya, only 3 remain in Kilinochchi. Stocks ready, waiting for approval to move the kits (300 next week). Approximately 3 truckloads needed.

**FORUT** – All assets moved from Vanni to Vavuniya, inventory in course. 36 staff still in the area assisting the GA on voluntary basis.

2. WFP briefing on the outcome of the first humanitarian relief convoy into the Vanni:

1. WFP briefed the present on the outcome of the first humanitarian relief convoy which delivered WFP food into the Vanni last week (Thu 02 Oct – Sat 04 Oct).
2. WFP briefed on the route taken, the convoy formation, security status, clearance procedures and challenges.
3. A situation report on the first convoy was shared with the participants and will be also distributed electronically.
4. A second convoy is planned for Friday 10 October. Again, only food will be moved because of lack of clearance to move non food items.
5. The preferred route would be the same as the first convoy. However, the military is pushing for the use of the Puliyamkulam-Oddusuddan route which still needs DSS clearance.
6. GA trucks will be used also in the second convoy. WFP Logistics is looking into more sustainable transport solutions, such as organizing a fleet of commercial trucks dedicated to the convoy, or take into consideration transporters from the south.

7. Participation of other organizations needed – especially in terms of staff - to support weekly convoys with international staff.

8. WFP specified that it will look to increase its truck capacity to meet the needs of other organizations, but pointed out that a twice-a-week convoy is unrealistic due to security clearance procedures (especially the Omanthai return clearance process).

3. Logistic issues raised by participants:

1. Interest was expressed in joining future convoys and therefore there is a need to know what are the correct procedures to follow in order for staff to obtain clearance. WFP welcomes additional international presence on the convoys. WFP underlined that it cannot take on the overall responsibility of providing clearance. This is to be followed up by organizations and their respective clusters. A roster for travelling with the convoy will be set up.

2. There is a strong interest in the date of an Inter Agency joint assessment mission in Vanni. WFP confirmed that talks are being actively held in Colombo and that there is a strong support for such a mission.

3. Questions were made in relation to staff still present on the ground in Vanni being able to participate in the distribution. WFP informed that it was actively exploring possibilities of working through implementing partners.

4. Concerns were expressed with regards to the future working conditions of the NGO staff located in Vanni. The meeting on Saturday 11 Oct mentioned above should clarify their position.

5. A need was expressed to use the convoy also as a pouch service to exchange documents with the staff in Vanni.

4. Prioritization:

1. Although still not officially confirmed, priority items as of now are food, followed my medication, shelter and watsan.

2. It was pointed out that the assessment mission will also consent a more accurate prioritization of needs.

3. The transport of non food items is dependant of approvals and clearance is to be obtained by respective organisations.

4. WFP can increase its truck capacity to transport NFIs up to a certain limit, always making sure the convoy reflects the order of priority items established as well as convoy security/management considerations.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday 13 October at 4pm.

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