KYRGYZSTAN LOGISTICS CLUSTER – MEETING MINUTES

Kyrgyzstan Crisis
Bishkek
June 24, 2010

Participants: USAID/OFDA, ACF, GAA/Welthunger; HelpAge Int., Save the Children, UNHCR, UNICEF, CRS, UN RCO, and IOM

Action Points:
- Interested LC participants are invited to subscribe to the LC mailing list (Kyrgyzstan.logs@logcluster.org) through the LC website to receive regular updates.
- ACTED to provide detailed information about the escorted cargo transport offered by the Spetzsvyaz.
- Organisations are kindly requested to share their relief cargo pipeline information with the LC.
- ACTED and CRS to share the list of local vendors with the rest of LC participants once ready.
- LC to update the Convoy Request Form on the LC website with a bi-lingual version.
- ACTED to provide information on floor space in both warehouses in Osh and Jalalabad.
- LC participants are kindly requested to provide feedback on the location of the LC in Kyrgyzstan.

1. Introduction / new LC officers:
   - All LC information is posted on the website; to receive updates, kindly subscribe to the mailing list through the website.
   - Arrival of the LC Commodity Tracking Officer: Daniel Clarke (Daniel.clarke@wfp.org, 0558-780-873).
   - Arrival of the LC Information Management Officer: Livia Styp-Rekowska (Livia.StypRekowska@wfp.org, 0558-780-871).

2. Information sharing on operational and pipeline updates:
   - First convoy facilitated by the LC left Bishkek on 24 June: the 11 trucks carrying humanitarian supplies were provided with security escort by the Kyrgyz Police.
   - UNHCR has two planes coming in: the first is carrying 800 tents and 7,000 blankets, the second is bringing 8,000 blankets and 6,000 collapsible, 10 litre jerry cans and 3,000 kitchen sets. It may approach LC with request to provide storage space as their warehouse in Osh is full.
   - ACTED received a request from the US embassy to transport relief assistance to the South. ACTED has identified a courier service called ‘Spetzsvyaz’ that can transport goods in smaller quantities with a security escort. The contact point is Mr. Mirbek Toktogulov (tel.: 66-47-57, mobile: 0555-855-777)
   - ACTED and CRS are working on the list of local vendors. This list will be shared with LC participants.

3. Concept of Operations
   - LC can facilitate customs clearance by providing customs information but cannot actually perform customs clearance on behalf of the LC participants.
LC can consolidate requests for security convoys in support of the Office of Humanitarian Aid Assistance of the Kyrgyz Republic. An individual organisation needs to provide & mobilise trucks for their cargo.

- LC is not responsible for renting trucks, however, it will consolidate all convoy requests and coordinate with the government to organized a security convoy.

- Each convoy must have a minimum of 10 and maximum of 16 trucks. It is escorted by the Kyrgyz police. In case the requests are for fewer than 10 trucks, WFP will transport food in-stock in Bishkek, thus guaranteeing that a convoy will always take place. All trucks rented by individual organisations must arrive refuelled and with food for the drivers: the convoy leaves at 9am and arrives at 4 am the following day. Trucks will only stop for refuelling.

- To request a slot on the convoy, LC participants are asked to kindly forward the Convoy Request Form (Please note: the title of the form has been changed to Convoy Request Form) to the LC at least 48 hrs in advance. The form on the website will shortly be replaced with a bi-lingual version (Russian-English). It will require additional information (name of the driver, license plate, phone contact).

- For the time being, convoys are only organised to Osh and Jalalabad.

- As the Government of Kyrgyzstan is continuing with the Referendum on June 27, no convoys will be organized between 25 – 28 June. The convoys will resume on 29 June.

- If an organisation wants to send cargo outside the convoy facilitated by LC, it is free to do so.

- LC has set up storage space available for the humanitarian community free for users.

4. Storage capacity needs in Bishkek

- LC set up two mobile storage units (MSUs) total space 480 m² in the Osh airport.

- LC is planning to set up two MSUs in Jalalabad also with 480 m² capacity.

- Participants agreed that a warehouse facility in Bishkek will be necessary.

- LC has already identified storage premises and will proceed with necessary arrangements.

- Free storage for two days is available at the Bishkek airport. Organizations only pay for handling.

- In all LC warehouses, storage space is allocated based on priorities set by the Humanitarian Country Team and depending on the availability of space.

- ACTED opened a warehouse in Osh (2,000 m² with a surrounding territory of 1 ha) and in Jalalabad (3,000 m²). As both warehouses are almost empty at the moment, ACTED has offered warehouse space to LC participants in need of storage.

5. Location of the Logistics Cluster Cell in Kyrgyzstan

- If the security situation permits, the Logistics Cluster may relocate from Bishkek to Osh, as most of the cargo is arriving there by land.

- For the time being, LC operation is planned for 3 months.

6. AOB

- CRS reported a security incident in Jalalabad: two CRS staff were stopped by the police and interrogated about CRS activities and registration in the country. LC logistics officer advised CRS to forward the incident report to OCHA.
- ACTED reported that its staff move with the escort (police and the Ministry of Emergency); their staff does not move between Osh and Jalalabad, only in and around Osh and only during day time.

- Participants inquired about the conditions for registration in Kyrgyzstan. LC logistics officer advised to contact OCHA with this issue.

- Participants inquired about the requirements for bringing humanitarian assistance from outside to the country (for registered and non-registered organisations). LC will follow up with the Ministry of Labour and Social Service.

- ACTED reported that it received a letter from FEDEX that the invoice must mention the following: “Humanitarian Aid – Not for commercial purposes” and the certificate of origin. The consignee must submit a letter to the State Agency of Social Service which will help with the clearance. Humanitarian aid is exempt from taxes and customs.

Next meeting: Monday, 28 June, 1600 hrs

New WFP office, Bishkek