

PAKISTAN LOGISTICS CLUSTER - MEETING MINUTES

Islamabad

22 March 2011

Chair: Hamza Mohmand (OIC for Logistics Cluster Coordinator)

Participants: Logistics Cluster, WFP, UNICEF, Save the Children, UNOPS

Action Points:

- **Logistics Cluster to coordinate potential mapping exercise with Save the Children to map participating organisations stocks/supply chains.**

1. Introduction

- The chair welcomed participants and asked them to introduce themselves and state any issues or challenges faced by their organisations.

2. Air Operations Summary

- The Logistics Cluster has airlifted more than 12,250 mt of cargo, including both food and non-food items (NFIs) since operations began on 5 August 2010.
- UNHAS delivered over 3,300 mt in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Sindh and Punjab during the Flood Emergency Operation in Pakistan. In KPK, 67 percent of the cargo delivered was NFIs.

3. Logistics Cluster User Evaluation Results

- The chair delivered a presentation on the Logistics Cluster user evaluation results based on the Online User Survey conducted over December 2010/January 2011.
- The results were very positive overall. Some of the highlights included:
 - 97 percent of respondents felt that the Logistics Cluster had been useful for their organisations' humanitarian operations in the country.
 - 100 percent of organisations felt that their views had been given equal weight in decision-making within the Logistics Cluster.
 - 94 percent of respondents found the mapping services useful for their operations.
 - Information sharing (36 percent) and collaboration to solve constraints (38 percent) were seen as the two major benefits of attending Logistics Cluster meetings.

4. Guidelines on Infant and Young Child Feeding

- Save the Children presented the issue of infant and young child feeding. It was stated that during emergencies, large amounts of infant formula and powdered milk are often donated. This artificial feeding, when provided to infants, greatly adds to their health risks. It is extremely important that babies who are already being breastfed continue to be. For infants with deceased parents, infant formula may be taken but only in a highly controlled fashion.
- The guidelines set by the World Health Assembly (WHA) were stated, including:
 - No free donation of Breast Milk Substitute and Powdered Milk.
 - Breast Milk Substitute and Milk Products should never be distributed as part of general (non-targeted) or blanket distribution.
 - Bottles and teats should NOT be donated to mothers during an emergency.
 - Dried milk products should not be given out unless mixed with other foods.
 - When needed supplies of infant formula must be targeted, given only to those infants that require it based on strict criteria (set by the lead agency/UNICEF) by trained personnel, and in accordance to the 'code.'
- It was reiterated by WFP and UNICEF representatives present that UN agencies, as well as most INGOs abided by these principles very strictly.

- Save the Children expressed concern about whether certain donors were aware of these guidelines, and that some organisations could be unintentionally storing products such as infant formula at various flood-hit areas across the country.
- The chair suggested a potential mapping exercise for participants whereby different organisations could map their stocks/supply chains and ensure that no such items were being distributed/stored.
- It was also suggested that Save the Children contact OCHA, as all organisations (local and international) participating in the clusters on the flood emergency response are registered with OCHA. All organisations could be made cognizant of the above guidelines.
- It was also suggested that organisations could possibly sign a statement that no infant formula/breast milk substitutes would be distributed/stored in a future emergency. This would serve as a guideline for future disaster responses, particularly for national NGOs.

5. Update roads & mapping

- The GIS team distributed an Air Operations Summary map, as well as a District Hazard Profiling Map with three proposed locations for strategic warehouses.
- All updated maps are made available on the Logistics Cluster website at: <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/pak09a/>

6. Strategic Warehouses

- The strategy for the Logistics Cluster is to build strategic warehouses for the Government. One plot of land has been identified in Lahore in conjunction with the Punjab Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) for the first warehouse. A second plot of land has been identified by Gilgit PDMA. The third location is under assessment (planned for Islamabad).
- There is a possibility of constructing further warehouses in other locations. However this will remain contingent on funding and availability of land.

The time and location of the next meeting will be communicated via email.

CONTACTS

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