LOGISTICS CLUSTER – MEETING MINUTES

HAITI - CHOLERA RESPONSE

Date/Time: Tuesday, 30 November 2010 / 09:30-10:45
Location: UNFPA meeting room, LogBase, Port-au-Prince

Chair: Logistics Cluster Deputy Coordinator
Participants: Caritas – Swiss, CBM, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, US Gov), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Heart to Heart International, HUMEDICA, International Dispensary Association (IDA Foundation), IFRC, International Management Group (IMG, European Commission), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), International Relief and Development (IRD), MINUSTAH, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Omega Kingdom Ministry, Plan International, Tearfund, Union des Jeunes pour le Developpement Humain Reel et Durable (UJDHRD), UNFPA, UNOCHA, and USAID/OFDA.

Present:

1. REVIEW OF LAST WEEKS’ ACTION POINTS

ACTION POINTS for the LOGISTICS CLUSTER:
• to circulate new customs clearance procedures.
  ➔ New Customs clearance procedures for non-registered organizations for the cholera response have been published on the Logistics Cluster website: http://www.logcluster.org/ops/hti10a/customs_clearance_procedures_for_non-registered_organisations/view. This custom clearance process will be managed by the Direction de la Protection Civile (DPC).
  ➔ The usual procedures remain in place for all registered organizations.

ACTION POINTS for Logistics Cluster PARTICIPANTS:
• to inform about expected cargo movements / pipeline information.
  ➔ Pipeline information has been received by UNICEF, IFRC, WHO/PAHO and USAID

REMINDER:
The Logistics Cluster is encouraging all participants to use private/commercial transporters, and to use the Logistics Cluster transport services as a means of last resort.

2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

• The Logistics Cluster team has been further reinforced with one more staff. Ms Pauline Comtesse, who worked with UNICEF in Haiti earlier this year, joined the Logistics Cluster this week and will be supporting the Cholera response efforts.

3. SITUATION UPDATE

• Updated figures from the Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population (MSPP) are available at http://www.mspp.gouv.ht
• The latest figures are as follows: the death toll reached 1,721 (377 more than last week); the number of hospitalized (severe) cases increased to 33,485 since the outbreak (10,200 more than last week), and altogether 75,888 people (almost 10,000 more than last week) have sought medical attention.
• Since 17 November all ten Départements in Haiti are affected by the Cholera epidemic.
4. OPERATIONS UPDATE

2.1 Transport

- Transport provided in response to the Cholera epidemic (22 Oct – 29 Nov): UNICEF: 77.8mt; WHO/PAHO: 146.8mt; UNFPA: 75.1mt; Croix Rouge Française: 22.5mt; Logistics Cluster 35.5mt; MdM France: 14.1mt; Other 21.8mt; in TOTAL: 3693.6mt

- The Transport Dashboard – Overview of Deliveries is available at: http://www.logcluster.org/ops/hti10a/deliveries-overview

- Commodity Tracking Officer Cristina Graziani is leaving the country on 01 December. Until her replacement arrives in country later this week, Harinda Katugha will cover her tasks. Please continue to write to haiti.cargo@logcluster.org for all cargo movement and temporary storage requests.

2.2 Storage

- A long-term storage site (2ha) is still available outside Port-au-Prince in Croix des Bouquets;

- 1 Mobile Storage Unit (MSU) was erected in St Marc.

- 5 additional MSUs have been transported to Cap Haitien. These will be erected and used as Cholera Treatment Centres. (2 MSUs have been erected already to increase storage capacity in the city).

- 4 MSUs have been erected at WHO/PROMESS in order to increase the reception capacity for incoming air cargo.

- 12 MSUs have been procured for additional storage needs at the department level.

2.3 Geographic Information System (GIS)

- Upcoming map projects: General Logistics Planning maps for various departments; UNHAS cargo deliveries, and locations of Cholera Treatment Centres (update).

- The GIS unit is on standby for mapping requests from Logistics Cluster participants; and continues to provide mapping support to the Health Cluster.

- Logistics Cluster map products are available from the Map Centre on the website: http://www.logcluster.org/ops/hti10a/docs?doctype=Maps%20%26%20Geograph.

2.4 Preparedness

- 2010 Cyclonic Season: The Way Forward

  30 November marks the end of the cyclonic season that started on 01 June. Time to look at lessons learnt with the objective of improving the Logistics Cluster’s capacity in contingency planning. Requested is feedback from Cluster participants related to emergency preparedness (information sharing, pre-positioning strategy, overall coordination) as well as emergency response, especially in relation to the storm that hit Haiti on 24 September as well as Hurricane Thomas. The information can be sent to: viviana.deannuntiis@wfp.org. Feedback will be useful for the Inter-agency Emergency Preparation and Response Working Group which has been established by OCHA. Among the working group core tasks: prepare and examine lessons learnt for 2010; engage earlier and more consistently with the SPGRD (Secretariat Permanent Gestion de Risqué et de Disaster), the DPC and other relevant Government authorities; expand contingency plan to include multi hazards and risks; add to contingency plan detailed operational guidelines for the activation of inter-agency coordination mechanisms (EJOINT) and the deployment of inter-agency assessment teams.

  ➤ ACTION POINT: Logistics Cluster participants to provide feedback in regards to emergency preparedness response activities for the lessons learnt document.
2.5 Civil/Military Liaison

- During the week 22-27 November 2010, Josiah Kaplan from the Asia Pacific Center of Civil Military Excellence (APCOCME), visited Haiti and conducted interviews with key stakeholders: OCHA, Logistics Cluster, JOTC, U3, U4, U9, JLOC, Civil Affairs, UNDSS, NGOs. The objective of the interviews was to evaluate the relevance and the impact for Haiti of field based guidance drafted on 22 January 2010 by OCHA: Best Practices and Principles of Civ-Mil engagement in Natural Disaster. A final round table was held with all participants on 26 November to share preliminary findings and outline the way forward. One of the key finding of the evaluation was that the joint Operations and Tasking Centre (JOTC) is, in itself, a key example of best practice from the Haiti Country Operation as an effective coordinating platform for incoming requests for military assets in support of humanitarian operations.

- JOTC: Humanitarian organisations should first seek support from the Logistics Cluster or through local commercial channels. If the request can not be met, it can be submitted to the JOTC to access military or police assistance. A specific form has to be filled in and send to the Logistics Cluster, and the Cluster Coordinator needs to endorse the request. This ensures that priorities are set by the humanitarian coordination mechanism rather than by military or police forces and helps avoid duplication of support efforts. For Logistics Cluster participants, the request can be submitted to the Logistics Cluster Civil Military Liaison Officer (Viviana De Annuntiis) who will present and discuss it during the daily JOTC meeting. The JOTC places a 72 hour advance notice.

5. Q&A

- IOM is enquiring if the Logistics Cluster could have a representation at the entry points to help speeding up the customs process.  
  ➔ It is expected that the DPC will establish a cell at the entry points, being the only ones with the authority to sign papers directly.

- CDC is asking – as the fast track procedures are not going to be endorsed – how long it takes to get goods cleared.  
  ➔ All documentation will have to be given to the DPC. If the organisation has a dedicated Customs focal point, then clearance especially for health and wash items, can be done in 1-2 days. For support equipment it takes longer.

- HUMEDICA would like to know if any reasons were given for not implementing quick procedures.  
  ➔ The DPC is in charge of the custom clearance now and they will do their best to react quickly and link with the other Ministries involved.

- USAID is pointing out that organisations are not obliged to consign their shipments to the DPC.  
  ➔ The Logistics Cluster confirms, but in this case they will have to pay import taxes.  
  ➔ It is advisable to obtain customs clearance in advance and to be able to collect cargo upon arrival and avoid last minute issues.

- Heart to Heart International would like to receive the new customs document for non-registered organisations in English.  
  ➔ ACTION POINT: The Logistics Cluster to submit an English version of the customs procedures endorsed for non-registered organisations.

- Plan International is pointing out that the normal customs clearance procedures can be time-consuming, because a number of documents have to be presented, including distribution plans.

- IFRC is requesting assistance with the release of containers at the port.
WFP encounters the same difficulties. Even if documentation is in place, the problem is that there are not sufficient chassies at the port, and organisations are not allowed to bring in their own container handling equipment.

- USAID is enquiring if WFP could negotiate with port authorities and discuss the issue on behalf of the Humanitarian Community.

  **ACTION POINT:** The Logistics Cluster will try to address the issue by meeting the port operators.

- HUMEDICA is raising concern about meetings (e.g. Health Cluster) taking place at the Presidential Palace, because areas around (or on the way to) the Palace are often affected by movement restrictions.

  ➤ Special measures will be implemented by UNDSS to allow organisations to access the Palace; and UNFPA is pointing out that one has to be invited in order to attend a Health Cluster meeting. Further instructions are available at the Health Cluster website.

- Plan International is looking for warehouse space in Port-au-Prince.

  ➤ Four Mobile Storage Units have been erected at WHO/PROMESS warehouse for the reception of incoming air cargo.

- Plan International found a supplier for acquatabs, but until these arrive in country, is there any other organisation that can provide them in the meantime.

  ➤ USAID is advising that the Direction Nationale de l'Eau Potable et Assainissement (DINEPA) received 100 million acquatabs, but is facing difficulties with the distribution. DINEPA can be contacted through the Wash Cluster. And also USAID is expecting more acquatabs to arrive in country soon and hence will be able to help.

- CBM is still looking for soap.

  ➤ Plan International offers support.

- TEARFUND is planning an assessment mission to Cap Haitien and would like to link up with organisations already working there.

  ➤ **ACTION POINT:** The Logistics Cluster to share contact details for organisations working in Cap Haitien.

- Caritas - Swiss is encountering difficulties to get registered with Haitian Government.

  ➤ The DPC has been tasked to provide support and to liaise with the Ministry of Planification. Contact details for the DPC can be obtained through the Logistics Cluster.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, 07 December 2010, at 09:30h, UNFPA Conference Room, LogBase, Port-au-Prince.

End.