MEETING MINUTES

TRIPOLI, Libya

21 March 2012

Chair: Logistics Cluster

Participants: WFP, IMC, MSF, UNHCR, Handicap International, Mercy Corps

Agenda:
1. GENERAL UPDATE AND REVIEW OF ACTION POINTS
2. SECURITY UPDATE
3. TOUR DE TABLE
4. VISA UPDATE
5. AVIATION UPDATE
6. LOGISTICS COORDINATION

GENERAL UPDATE / REVIEW OF ACTION POINTS

- The Logistics Cluster coordination meetings in Libya, after this last meeting, will continue on a bilateral, case by case basis. The Logistics Cluster cell in Tripoli will continue with its coordination and advisory role and will be operational until the end of June.
- Libya’s land borders with Egypt and Tunisia have been subject to closure with little or no notice. The road to the Egyptian land border has been recently closed. The Tunisian border area has been reinforced with a new checkpoint.

SECURITY UPDATE

- As the security situation remains unstable across the country, the importance of an NGO security focal point has been clearly identified by the participants. In the previous months, the Save the Children appointed security officer acted as the security liaison between NGOs and other international organisations, provided information on incidents occurring in Libya, advised on movements and precautions as well as disseminated and gathered information via the mailing list. Organisations will further discuss who will take on this role in the future, on a bilateral basis.

TOUR DE TABLE

WFP
- If needed, participants will be able to store non-voluminous and non-contaminant Non-Food Items (NFIs) in the WFP warehouse in Tripoli until the end of June 2012, when the warehouse will be handed over to the Libyan government.
- WFP successfully obtained diplomatic plates for all its vehicles. The process was reported to be swift and straightforward.
- WFP informed participants that liaising with the Transport Handling Association facilitates operations at Tripoli port, as stevedoring and demurrage is now carried out by the Port Union only.

UNHCR
- UNHCR obtained the waiver for terminal handling fees for NFIs following WFP procedures and advice. Following a bid, UNHCR appointed a custom clearance agency – the majority of their NFIs are now being imported via sea rather than air.
- Telecommunications equipment is still being cleared on a case-by-case basis; laptops have been released and tax exempted.
- UNHCR is importing soft vehicles which will be shipped to Benghazi.
- UNHCR has currently two warehouses, one in Tripoli and one in Benghazi and plan to close the latter in July 2012.

MSF
- MSF reported to be negotiating with the Ministry of Health to have medicines and other related medical goods released which are planned to be sent to Haiti.

HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL
- Reported to have closed their base in Benghazi and opened one in Sirte.
- The internet connection at their new base in Sirte was set up by a provider from Benghazi that installed a VSAT.

MERCY CORPS
- Have closed their project in Misrata, but are still based there, and have offices in Tripoli, Zintan and Benghazi.
VISA UPDATE

- Various NGOs and organisations have been reported to be dealing with diverse and numerous visa issues; No standard or official procedures are yet in place for any visa or residency permit. The visa processing period and issuance varies for different organisations, sometimes depending on the nationality of the applicant. Few organisations reported an easier process in Benghazi compared to Tripoli. Support from local counterparts has eased some of the processes for various organisations.

AVIATION UPDATE

- KLM and British Airways have announced they are resuming operations to the capital for 01 May 2012. Austrian and Emirates Airlines will renew flights as of 25 and 26 March respectively.

LOGISTICS COORDINATION

- The Logistics Cluster cell in Tripoli will continue with its coordination and advisory role and will be operational until the end of June. From 01 April 2012, the Logistics Coordinator will act as the logistics focal point.

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