Minutes of Logistics Cluster in Kenya

Nairobi, Kenya, 29 June 2006 - 11:00 hours

Participants: Action Against Hunger, USAID, MSF-S, Save the Children, MSF-B, WFP Kenya

a) Introduction
   • Max Baussan as the new head of the Logistics Cluster Support Cell introduced himself and chaired the Kenya Logistics Cluster meeting.
   • Minutes of the previous meeting were adopted.

b) Logistics Cluster Field Visits to N-E Kenya
   • A presentation was given to the members of the cluster meeting on the outcome of the field visits to North East Kenya. The mission started on 28 May 06 and included Tana River & Garissa, Dadaab & Wajir, El Wak & Mandera, Moyale & Marsabit and Isiolo. The main objectives of the mission were to extend the Horn of Africa Logistics Cluster Support Cell activities from the Nairobi base and to develop a presence at a number of specific and critical locations where partners are conducting humanitarian relief activities, to identify logistics gaps and enhance coordination between participants. The following actions were taken:
     ➢ Convening Transporters meeting to discuss rates in Garissa
     ➢ Locating replacement canvases for mobile warehouses and bags for re-bagging activities in Garissa
     ➢ Creating mapping solutions for all 6 districts (water resources, FDPs and unofficial settlements all at district levels)
     ➢ Arranging the sharing of communication systems in Isiolo (Save the Children and WFP)
     ➢ Discussing and arranging with Kenya Roads Dept for maintenance to key transport corridors
     ➢ Facilitating multiple relief organisations to harmonise monthly distribution plans for transport synergies
     ➢ Advocating and assisting with increased storage capacity in Wajir
     ➢ Sourcing of engineers for airstrip runway re-surfacing in Elwak
     ➢ Providing training materials for Storage and Handling of commodities in Mandera

   • Road condition reports (Garsen–Hola–Garissa Road) prepared, which are vital to the smooth movement of the flow of relief items. The reports are available on Logistics Cluster website www.logisticscluster.org.

c) South Kenya Field Visit Overview
   • Logistics cluster is planning to organize another field mission to South Kenya starting Monday 3 July 06. Various meetings have been arranged with different NGOs in the field to understand the logistics functions being conducted and the problems being faced by key humanitarian actors.
   • The tentative plan is to visit Kajaido & Makueni, Kitui & Machakos, Maragua & Mwingi, Embu & Meru and Narok to meet a number of agencies/NGOs such as: AMREF, NIA, GAA, World Vision, Action Aid and World Concern).
   • Should other NGOs/Agencies interested to meet Logistics Officer of the Cluster Cell in his mission to South Kenya, please contact Alastair Cook (alastair.cook@wfp.org).
d) Update on reclassification of therapeutic Food

- A letter has been sent by Logistics Cluster Cell to Ministry of Health for reviewing the final decision for change of the code for therapeutic items. These commodities need to be reclassified from food to drugs in order to be tax exempted. Waiting feedback from Ministry of Health and Finance for their approval.

e) Security Briefing on North East Kenya

- Chief of UN Security and Safety Service was invited to the meeting to brief and update the cluster members on the security situation of the N-E Kenya.
- The situation in North East Kenya is calm and stable and insecurity has reduced significantly from the last 10 years; however the phase 3 of security is applied for this region.
- The missions destined to these areas should be properly planned in advance.
- It was recommended by the chief of UN security that NGOs/UN agencies are encouraged to collaborate closely on security issues on cost sharing basis. The security facilities should be available for the entire community.
- An Emergency Security Meeting will be held at the end of July 06 for the whole region of the HoA to discuss the impacts of the current fights in the region.
- The main areas covered are:
  - Garissa: WFP and UNICEF are active there.
  - Dadaab: 3 hours driving from Garissa. There is UN camp accommodation available. UNHCR and WFP are the main agencies active in this area for refugees. The status of refugees living condition (health care and food) is getting better than the local residents which may cause movement of people from other places to Dadaab.
  - Wajir: There is lack of accommodation in these places. UNICEF and WFP (6 staff) have their offices in Wajir. The place to stay overnight is Nerus Hotel.
  - Elwak: is located right on the border with Somalia. A number of refugees are coming across to Elwak.
  - Mandera: is on the border with Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya. It’s an unattended border and no authorities could be found at the border.
  - Moyale: Almost located in Ethiopia. At Kenyan side there are no facilities (Restaurants, Hotels, etc). Complete travel documents are required.
  - Marsabit: There is a conflict in Turbi due to the existence of water borehole in this area with possible solution of adding another borehole
  - Isiolo: The only place to stay over night is Transit Hotel
- For more information you can contact: Security & Safety Service- United Nations Office at Nairobi, Room G-216, Tel: (+254) 20-7623336, Fax: (+254) 20-7623939

f) Current logistics concerns of humanitarian actors

- WFP Logistics Officer expressed his concern about recurrent long haul shortage of transport capacity ex Mombasa. The logistics cluster cell is invited to launch a quick transport market study to analysis overall transport capacity and constrains and to identify possible solutions.

g) AOB

- The next cluster meeting will be held on Thursday, 13 July 06.