LOGISTICS COORDINATION – MEETING MINUTES

North Africa Crisis - Cairo, Egypt
16 March 2011

Chair: WFP
Attendees: Cesvi, UNICEF, UNHCR, Save the Children, USAID–DART, OCHA, ICRC and WFP

Action Points:

- WFP to undertake an assessment mission from Marsa Murtuh to Sallum to locate suitable warehousing and will provide the information to humanitarian community.
- Attendees to share lists of suppliers, transport and inspection companies with WFP for eventual inclusion on the Logistics Cluster website.
- WFP to supply the humanitarian community with detailed customs clearance information for Egypt, Tunisia and Libya to help facilitate the movement of relief items in the region. This information will be hosted on the Logistics Cluster website.

1. Logistics Coordination Introduction

- It was agreed by attendees that minutes of the meeting would be taken and would be made public through posting on the Logistics Cluster website.
- There has been no formal activation of the Clusters in North Africa; however WFP has deployed a logistics team to Cairo in order to collect information about, and to begin responding to the North African crisis. As part of this effort, WFP is trying to consult with and share logistical information with humanitarian actors responding to the crisis.
- WFP is planning to hold a weekly logistics coordination meeting to help facilitate this objective.
- The Global Logistics Cluster Support Cell has provided a page on its website for WFP and other interested humanitarian organisations to share information relating to the North Africa crisis: http://www.logcluster.org/ops/northafrica. The WFP logistics team in Cairo will collate and post any relevant logistical information, so other organisations can utilise it.

2. Proposed Structure

- Currently, WFP is responding to the crisis on the Tunisia border and transporting therapeutic foods inside Libya, to Benghazi. WFP currently has no permanent presence at the Egyptian/Libyan border although a Logistics Officer will be deployed there in the coming days.
- Initial reports have also shown that the port in Benghazi is functioning, having already received a shipment of WFP food. Additionally, this week ICRC has also utilized the port. A basic port assessment from Libya can be found at: http://www.logcluster.org/ops/northafrica/libyan-ports-functionality-update.
- WFP is offering the following services to the humanitarian community, as outlined in the Concept of Operations:
  - **Warehousing**: WFP has secured 25,000m² warehouse space in Benghazi. This comprises of a 5,000m² warehouse at Benghazi port, and a 20,000m² warehouse 25 km from the city. WFP is offering the use of this space free of charge to other humanitarian organisations on a first come first served basis. There is a possible provision to establish another inter-agency storage facility in another location (to be determined) should the need arise.
  - **Transport**: WFP has been trucking food from Cairo and Alexandria to Benghazi through Sallum border crossing. This has been relatively easy, as pre-existing agreements between the governments allow for already simplified customs procedures. WFP is also placing a Logistics Officer in Sallum to facilitate the crossing of relief items and monitor the situation in the area. There is good logistical infrastructure available on the Alexandria-Benghazi corridor, and so far the amounts of aid that need to be transported are comparatively low.
Therefore a gap in transport provision has not been observed. As such, WFP does not intend to offer free transport services for the time being, although should the situation change this decision could be reconsidered. WFP is, however, able to transport humanitarian goods from Cairo/Alexandria to Benghazi on a cost recovery basis through bi-lateral agreements. Initially this would only be the Cairo/Alexandria-Benghazi route, however more routes could potentially follow in the future should the need arise.

- **Information dissemination:** WFP is making all logistics related information that is collected, including maps, available to the humanitarian community at: [http://www.logcluster.org/ops/northafrica](http://www.logcluster.org/ops/northafrica). This includes Logistics Capacity Assessments and short-lists for transport, forwarding and clearing companies in Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. Additionally, WFP can use the website to host key information supplied by attendees including short-lists for suppliers.

3. **Comments from Attendees:**

- The attendees stated that the Concept of Operations (ConOps) was agreeable in principle.
- A number of attendees noted that there was a specific need for the pre-positioning of goods on the Egyptian side of the border and wondered if there was a way to add common warehousing in Egypt into WFP’s project plan. As these needs are relatively small and there is no gap in warehousing availability it was agreed that a common EDP would not be pursued for the time being. However, WFP will undertake an assessment mission to Marsa Matruh and Sallum to locate available warehousing which organisations may wish to contract.

**Action Point:** WFP to undertake an assessment mission to Marsa Murtuh and Sallum to identify suitable warehousing and will provide the information to the humanitarian community.

- Another request was made for WFP to share with the humanitarian community organisations’ short-lists of suppliers of NFIs in Egypt, in order for organizations to preposition through the use of local procurement in Egypt. It was felt by the attendees that WFP should utilize the Logistics Cluster website to consolidate as much of the pertinent information as possible – a one stop shop for logistics information for the humanitarian community.

**Action Point:** Attendees to share suppliers, transport and inspection companies with WFP for eventual inclusion on the Logistics Cluster website.

- The participants requested clarification on the specific location of the current WFP logistics teams in Egypt and Tunisia and whether they could be moved to other locations should the need arise.
- WFP stated that the logistics teams are flexible and could be redeployed to other locations if the situation requires it.

**Action Point:** WFP to supply the humanitarian community with detailed customs clearance information for Egypt, Tunisia and Libya to help facilitate the movement of relief items in the region. This information will be hosted on the Logistics Cluster website.

4. **Tour de Table**

- **Cesvi** is currently distributing NFIs in Benghazi, Libya. They are looking to preposition stocks in a secondary location should the situation in Libya deteriorate further. In lieu of this they have shown interest in utilizing some sort of common warehousing.

- **UNICEF** is operational in Egypt and Tunisia. They are primarily working with the returnees and third country nationals (TCNs) fleeing Libya. They have supplied the border areas with WASH items and hygiene kits and are undertaking some limited child protection and education activities.

- **UNHCR** is operational in Egypt and Tunisia. They are currently pre-positioning relief items in Benghazi and are exploring the possibility of prepositioning some relief items in Egypt as they are having stocks flown in to Cairo. They are also hoping to identify some local providers of NFIs for eventual local procurement.
ICRC is currently operating out of Egypt to deliver relief items to Libya. This includes food and medical items. They are also developing their pipeline from Jordan to ensure an uninterrupted supply of relief items to Libya.

Save the Children is operating out of Tunisia, as they are working with the camps on the border. They had been undertaking an assessment mission to Benghazi, however due to the deteriorating situation, they were forced to cut it short. They are looking to pre-position items in Egypt, as well as to identify local suppliers of NFIs for eventual local procurement. They have also started to identify regional suppliers should the local providers lack the necessary capacity.

DART is still assessing the situation in order to see how they may augment the overall response of the humanitarian community. The DART team leader will be returning to Egypt shortly and they would follow up with more information in subsequent meetings.

WFP has an approved Emergency Operation designed to feed 1 million people affected by the North Africa Crisis. This will be primarily done through the distribution of take home rations. A vessel carrying 1,182mt of WFP wheat flour has docked in Benghazi. Additionally, WFP has undertaken two road convoys of food from Cairo to Benghazi and is looking into a third. WFP is also bringing a vessel into the Port of Sfax in the coming days, with 1,182mt of food on board. In Tunisia, WFP is collaborating with the Tunisian Red Crescent to supply hot meals for refugees/displaced peoples.

OCHA is in the process of building up the Libya office, this is composed of the team that is currently in Tunisia and one in Cairo that will move into Libya, once access is granted. OCHA also currently has two people in Sallum. In addition to this, OCHA is participating in some contingency planning in anticipation of the potential arrival of more migrants in both Tunisia and Egypt.

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 23 – 18:00 hrs

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