

MEETING MINUTES

Nairobi, Kenya

19 December 2011

Chair: Logistics Cluster Coordinator

Participants: Logistics Cluster, PAH, Future for the African Woman, SRDF, SOSES, Save the Children, WFP, CESVI, AFRO, Islamic Relief, WARDI

Action Points:

- The Logistics Cluster will revise the Shipping Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) based on the comments from the Advisory Group.

Agenda:

1. SITUATION UPDATE
2. LOGISTICS CLUSTER OPERATIONAL PLANNING
3. AOB

Situation Update

Ports Situation

- Mogadishu Port is becoming increasingly busy; the average waiting time has increased to about two days. There is increased trade between the Middle East and Somalia, with an increasing number of dhows being seen. All berths are occupied as of today (19 December). The port has also experienced interruptions in power supply.
- Bossaso Port is congested at present. There is vessel currently discharging cargo while two other ships are waiting to berth. The port will remain busy and congested as more vessels (including humanitarian vessels) are expected in the near future. Waiting time generally depends on the cargo type and volume involved.
- Berbera Port has been reported as congested: six vessels are currently discharging cargo, two livestock vessels are waiting to berth. The port will remain busy and congested in the coming weeks as more vessels are expected. Containerized cargo receives priority berthing. Mombasa Port is presently very busy and congested with containerized cargo. One conventional berth may soon close for repairs. Additionally, an increased demand for shunting trucks from all sectors is causing further delays. The port will also be closed on Christmas day.
 - The bulk silo berth has four vessels waiting, and the waiting time is currently 18-22 days.
 - The conventional berth has two waiting vessels and the average waiting time is 3-4 days.
 - The container berths have nine vessels waiting and the average waiting time is 5-8 days.
- Dar Es Salaam Port's container terminal is congested. This will hold into the future as more containers are expected. Other berths are less busy.
- Djibouti Port is presently very busy and congested: two vessels are discharging cargo, and three vessels are waiting to berth. This situation is not expected to improve, as more vessels are due to arrive this week. Currently, in order to accommodate fertilizer season, one berth is dedicated to fertilizer.

Weather/Access

- Reduced rainfall was seen in Somalia (and the general region) in the past week, leading to an improvement in road conditions. Additional information on physical road conditions are available at: <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/som11a/somalia-physical-road-conditions>
- Mombasa currently faces a shortage of trucks, partly due to the reduced turn-around of trucks during the rainy season. The situation is expected to improve in the coming weeks.
- For delivery to Liboi and onwards, the physical condition of the Mombasa-Dadaab-Kulan-Liboi road has greatly improved and is currently usable for all vehicles.
- Road conditions in the area of El Wak have also greatly improved since 14 December, and trucks are arriving in El Wak for onward humanitarian dispatches.

Logistics Cluster Operational Planning

Shipping

- The charter vessel arrived at Mogadishu Port on 18 December after departing from Mombasa on 14

December with approximately 330 mt of humanitarian cargo. The vessel is currently at anchorage, waiting to berth. Cargo includes mixed porridge, Corn-soya Blend (CSB), teaching kits, and mixed NFIs. This brings the total cargo transported to date to 1,115 mt on behalf of 13 organizations (8 INGOs, 5 UN agencies).

- The latest feedback from Mogadishu Port is that most of the Cluster participants with cargo on board the vessel have lined up their trucks to receive it. Those who have not yet done so are encouraged to follow up with focal points in Mogadishu. Participants were reminded that any delays will hinder the overall discharge of the vessel.
- The Logistics Cluster will revise Shipping Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) based on the comments from the Advisory Group.
- Shipping focal points from WFP Mombasa and Nairobi were introduced to participants, to discuss lessons learned and the way forward for shipping operations.
- It was stressed to participants that receiving the cargo on time is crucial. After CMRs have been received and accepted, a stowage plan is prepared and the port staff establish the order in which various cargo should arrive to facilitate the loading of the vessel. Delays in the presenting of shipping documents and problems delivering cargo in a timely manner have negatively impacted operations to date. Participants are requested to be in regular contact with their C&F agents, especially when there are bottlenecks.
- The Logistics Cluster is working closely with partner organisations to eliminate wasted space (Dead Freight) resulting from cargo being cancelled at the last minute, but must rely on participating organisations to present their cargo as requested, on time, at the vessel.
- The time charter has a perfectly square hull (storage area), and has the flexibility to carry bulk cargo, break-bulk cargo, and containers.
- Participants were advised to inform the Logistics Cluster if they have a need to ship cargo into Northern Somali ports. It may be possible to accommodate such requests on WFP vessels operating in these areas.
- Organizations interested in further information on shipping/port operations were requested to advise the Logistics Cluster so that a dedicated session could be arranged based on interest.
- The next Logistics Cluster sea transport is expected to load and depart Mombasa in the first/second week of January, based on CMRs received.

Storage

- The Logistics Cluster is finalizing management contract arrangements for inter-agency storage space in Mogadishu Port (Approximately 1,000 m³ storage capacity via two Mobile Storage Units).
- The 5 additional MSUs ordered are expected to arrive in Mombasa this week. Storage SOPs will be published for their use. These MSUs are all un-marked. Organizations are free to put their own logos on these if required.
- Regarding a question on storage, the Cluster informed participants that the Cluster was not providing storage in Kenya; but that, depending on requests, some of the incoming MSUs could be made available if required.

AOB

- A replacement Logistics Cluster Coordinator is arriving this week. Contact details will be provided to participants via email.
- The time and date of the next meeting will be left open at present, as the Christmas season is approaching and a large number of staff members will be unavailable. Once a time for the next meeting is confirmed, participants will be informed via email.
- Regarding a question on livelihood interventions in Somalia, the Logistics Cluster advised participants to consult with the Agriculture and Livelihoods Cluster.

Contacts:

Website: <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/som11a>

Nairobi, Kenya

John Myraunet
Hamza Mohmand

Logistics Cluster Coordinator
Logistics Cluster Information Management Officer

john.myraunet@wfp.org
hamza.mohmand@wfp.org