SITUATION REPORT

SAHEL CRISIS: MAURITANIA, NIGER, MALI

11 September 2012

Contents:
1. SITUATION UPDATE
2. LOGISTICS COORDINATION
3. CIVIL MILITARY COORDINATION
4. TRANSPORT SECTOR
5. STORAGE

SITUATION UPDATE

- Human displacement continues in Mali, with over 445,000 people forced to flee their homes, and half that number seeking refuge in neighboring countries. Official figures count 174,000 internally displaced persons in Mali; 107,929 refugees in Burkina Faso; 106,262 refugees in Mauritania; and 57,618 refugees in Niger.
- Heavy rains have caused flooding in Niger, with increased humanitarian needs as a result. The Government of Niger has declared a national emergency and in some areas along the Niger River up to 70% of the population has lost their homes.
- A cholera epidemic along the Niger River (the Tillaberi region in Niger, and in Gao, Mali) and a surge in malaria cases have been reported.
- In Mauritania, flooding along the route from Nema to Bassikounou has blocked cargo trucks transporting fuel and humanitarian and commercial cargo for several days at the end of August. The Bassikounou airstrip was washed out and flights cancelled for several weeks until it was possible to repair the damages.

Security

- The security situation in Mali remains unchanged, though caution is recommended. Uncertainty prevails over the political developments in the North and possible sanctions/military intervention, and military and police checks remain frequent in Bamako.
- WFP Mauritania is preparing for a sudden and vast influx of refugees by developing a contingency plan, which has been shared with partners though the Logistics Cluster forum.

Border Crossing and Customs

- The Niamey-Gao corridor remains a no-go for UN agencies due to perceived security threats along the border. These include risks of carjacking, banditry and kidnapping. However, NGOs with long-standing experience continue to use this route. In addition, commercial transport of persons and cargo travel this route daily with few incidents reported.
- UN OCHA is supporting the Logistics Cluster in Mali to organize an information session with relevant authorities regarding customs and tax exemption procedures to assist newly-arrived NGOs begin operations in the country.
- In Niger, the Logistics Cluster is working with CAT-logistique, a private transport company, to clarify customs procedures to NGO partners.

Infrastructure

- Flooding rendered the Bassikounou airstrip in Mauritania non-operational for several weeks. 700 metres have been rehabilitated and work is on-going. In addition, the road from Nema to Bassikounou was heavily inundated, causing delays in humanitarian and commercial goods for more than one week. In August, the transit time by road from Nema to Bassikounou was found to be 8 days.
- In Niger, flooding has blocked roads in the Tillabéri region along the Niger River, with WFP and NGOs experiencing delays in Kolo and Saga. UNICEF was able to avoid delays by using smaller vehicles and remaining on main access routes.

LOGISTICS COORDINATION

- In Mali, contingency planning for the country will commenced as of 12 September.
- The Logistics Cluster has organized a series of MSU assembly trainings over the course of two weeks with the assistance of a technician on mission from UN HRD in Accra. On his departure, partners who have been sufficiently trained will continue to provide assistance to others to increase overall capacity in this regard in the country.
- The Logistics Cluster in Mali has finalized a draft contingency plan for fuel, to be based in Mopti. The list of transporters available in the country has been finalized. The Logistics Cluster is working with OCHA to organize an information session for partners on customs procedures. The Logistics Cluster has supported the IRC to extend its
therapeutic feeding centers in Kati (erection of two UNICEF tents).

- In Niger, partners face difficulties with respect to the exoneration of items imported for humanitarian purposes, mainly linked to misunderstanding/miscommunication of official procedures. The Logistics Cluster is working to resolve the issue.

TRANSPORT SECTOR

**Air Transport**

- Between April-August 2012, UNHAS in Mali has transported a total of 1,350 passengers from six UN Agencies and 26 NGOs. UNHAS is looking into the possibility of including Mopti in the Bamako-Niamey rotation, as per user request.
- UNHAS Operations are funded in Mauritania until 15 November. In August, UNHAS transported 302 passengers and 3 mt of cargo.

STORAGE

- Storage capacity in Mopti is increasing: WFP set up three Mobile Storage Units (MSUs), with a capacity of 650 mt each (depending on volume) and ICRC is planning to install 12 additional MSU (capacity unknown).

Contacts:
Website: http://www.logcluster.org/ops/sahel_crisis_2012

**Sahel Region Crisis Response**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jean-Francois Cuche</td>
<td>Logistics Cluster Coordinator; Bamako, Mali</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeanfrancois.cuche@wfp.org">jeanfrancois.cuche@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mamadou Thiam</td>
<td>Logistics Cluster Coordinator; Nouakchott, Mauritania</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mamadou.thiam@wfp.org">mamadou.thiam@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelly Sayagh</td>
<td>Logistics Cluster Regional IM Officer; Dakar, Senegal</td>
<td><a href="mailto:shelly.sayagh@wfp.org">shelly.sayagh@wfp.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>