MEETING MINUTES

Nairobi, Kenya
28 October 2011

Chair: Logistics Cluster Coordinator

Participants: Logistics Cluster, USAID/OFDA, ILO, World Vision, CRS, MERLIN, OXFAM, UNICEF, SOWEP, CESVI, COOPI, WARDI, HIJRA, DRC, CONCERN

Action Points:
- Participants are requested to send any inputs/updates for the Physical Road Conditions Map to the Logistics Cluster.
- The Logistics Cluster to investigate whether NGOs require special procedures to cross the Mandera Border Crossing with humanitarian cargo.
- The Logistics Cluster will confirm whether any port rehabilitation activities are being conducted by the OIC.
- Participants to send CMRs for the MV Caroline Scan’s second voyage to the Logistics Cluster, by 02 November.
- The Logistics Cluster will update participants on the proposed Mombasa Port visit.

Agenda:
1. SITUATION UPDATE
2. LOGISTICS CLUSTER OPERATIONAL PLANNING

SITUATION UPDATE

Security
- Continued insecurity at the Somali-Kenya border has restricted movement.
- Fewer Somali refugees have been entering Kenya over the last week; however, increased numbers have been reported entering Ethiopian.

General
- Congestion issues in Mombasa Port continue, compounded due to rainfall in the past weeks. Power outages have also occurred, and as a result, at times, cranes have been out of service. Problems related to ongoing disputes between the dock workers union and the port authority continues to affect loading and offloading; vessels have been unable to berth due to consequent loading/discharging delays.
- The Logistics Cluster provided information on the impact of recent rains on road conditions and port operations. The presentation is available at: http://www.logcluster.org/ops/som11a/logistics-cluster-weather-and-road-conditions-presentation/view/view
- The Logistics Cluster distributed hard copies of the Physical Road Conditions Map to interested organisations. This map is also available at: http://www.logcluster.org/ops/som11a/somalia-physical-road-conditions
- The Logistics Cluster is in the process of collecting additional information on road conditions in Kenya and Ethiopia for inclusion in the updated Physical Road Conditions map.
- The Logistics Cluster’s three CAP 2012 Projects have been approved by the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC).
- It was reported that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) may be conducting a port rehabilitation project. The Logistics Cluster will attempt to confirm this in the coming week.

Access Constraints
- The recent rains have led to deteriorating road conditions, with slow movement of trucks through main overland routes from Kenya into Somalia. This has also led to a slow turn-around of trucks to Mombasa Port.
- Regarding a question on the Mandera Border Crossing, the Logistics Cluster informed participants that in some cases organisations (Primarily UN Agencies and INGOs) have been required to submit official letters to the Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, requesting permission to move relief cargo through the border. In other instances organisations have directly approached the Kenyan Ministry of Internal Security. The Logistics Cluster is attempting to obtain clarification concerning these issues,
and additional information will be shared with participants as it becomes available.

- Currently, humanitarian organisations are advised to obtain all customs clearances from Nairobi beforehand and to follow the procedure outlined below (allowing one to two weeks for processing):
  - A letter must be sent to the Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs requesting passage for humanitarian cargo into Somalia through the Mandera Border Crossing.
  - This letter is then forwarded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Ministry of Internal Security for approval/rejection.
  - The final decision is sent by the Ministry of Internal Security back to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- NGOs may be required to follow a different procedure; the Logistics Cluster will investigate and make any additional information available to participants.

**LOGISTICS CLUSTER OPERATIONAL PLANNING**

**Shipping**

- The Logistics Cluster is providing regular shipping service from Mogadishu to Mombasa through the time-chartered vessel with a capacity of 5,500 metric tonnes. This vessel is operating on a regular schedule twice a month. The vessel is expected to arrive in Mogadishu on 28 October with estimated berthing on 29 October, to return to Mombasa by the end of next week. However, the current congestion in Mombasa Port may delay the berthing of the vessel. There will be an estimated gap of two weeks between sailings.

- Organizations are encouraged to send Cargo Movement Requests (CMRs) for the next voyage (tentatively taking place in the second week of November). **The cut-off date for CMRs is 02 November.**

- 769 mt were scheduled to be loaded for the maiden voyage of the time-chartered vessel. However, due to delays from Clearing and Forwarding (C&F) agents, just over 400 mt were accepted. The Logistics Cluster advised participants to keep C&F agents under close supervision for the next sailing to ensure deadlines for presenting cargo are adhered to. Some cargo was presented in different packaging than indicated on CMR, which created additional last minute challenges, and cluster participants were encouraged to be accurate when filling in CMRs. It was emphasised to participants that cargo must be presented ready to load in order to avoid delays.

- There will be a ‘Lessons Learned’ session arranged with the service users prior to the next rotation of the time-chartered vessel.

- A WFP-chartered vessel has transported 1,100 m³ of humanitarian aid from Mombasa to Mogadishu Port, including WASH and shelter relief items for four organizations. Discharge of cargo has been completed.

**Storage**

- The Logistics Cluster is finalizing arrangements for interagency storage space in Mogadishu Port with more than 1,000 m³ storage capacity via two Mobile Storage Units (MSUs). The Logistics Cluster is working on obtaining a contractor for the management of the planned Mobile Storage Units (MSUs), and is also finalizing the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for this service, to be made available once completed.

**Contacts:**

Website: [http://www.logcluster.org/ops/som11a](http://www.logcluster.org/ops/som11a)

Nairobi, Kenya

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