

## MEETING MINUTES

Nairobi, Kenya

04 November 2011

**Chair:** Logistics Cluster Coordinator

**Participants:** Logistics Cluster, ACF, SDC, UNICEF, USAID/OFDA, WARDI, Save the Children, World Vision, CRS, FAO, Mercy USA, IMC

- Action Points:**
- Participants to send the Logistics Cluster any road conditions updates for incorporation into the Physical Road Conditions Map.
  - The Logistics Cluster will arrange port passes, meeting arrangements etc. for confirmed participants of the visit to Mombasa Port.

### Agenda:

1. Situation Update
2. Logistics Cluster Operational Planning
3. AOB

### Situation Update

#### Security

- Security remains a major concern and continues to affect accessibility. Several organizations are undertaking contingency planning in view of changing realities on the ground.

#### General

- Moderate to heavy rainfall is continuing in Somalia, with reports on flash floods in certain areas. There are conflicting reports on river level heights; however while there appears to be no major risk of general flooding, flash floods remain a risk. There have been internal displacements due to the fighting and flooding, with more refugees going into Ethiopia and fewer into Somalia. The various Clusters are preparing contingency plans for different scenarios in Somalia, and mapping population movements as well.
- The start of the October-December short rainy season has prompted planting activities in southern Somalia. However, the activities are below requirements given the large population migration from the affected areas in recent months.
- Mogadishu Port has begun facing delays due to congestion. 18 vessels were in anchorage at the beginning of the week (most of these were Dhows). The Logistics Cluster's time-chartered vessel took two days to berth and finished discharge this morning (Friday, 4 November).
- In addition, port congestion is generally increasing at Northern Somali ports due to livestock trade in view of Hajj festivals. This situation is expected to continue until the end of Hajj (approximately 06/07 Nov).
- Congestion issues in Mombasa Port subsist, compounded due to rainfall in the past weeks. In the port, some vessels are unable to berth due to consequent loading/discharging delays. Berthing time varies from four to ten days, depending on the time of arrival and vessel type and size. WFP is pressurising port authorities to give priority to humanitarian vessels.

#### Access Constraints

- In response to a question regarding additional procedures for entry into Somalia at the Mandera Border crossing, the Cluster outlined the procedure required for humanitarian organizations and also distributed a sample letter to participants. The procedure is outlined below:
  - A letter must be sent to the 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.
 (Please allow one to two weeks for processing)
- The Cluster distributed an updated Physical Road Conditions Map to participants. As per requests from participants, the map now includes information on border roads from Ethiopia and Kenya into Somalia. Participants were requested to share any updates on road conditions for incorporation into this map. The updated map is available at: <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/som11a/somalia-physical-road-conditions>

- The Mombasa-Garsen-Hola-Garissa-Dadaad-Liboi-Dhobley route is currently muddy in parts, and vehicle movement is temporarily blocked at the moment. The Galkayo-El Berde route was temporarily blocked last week, however vehicles are now moving through, albeit slowly. Rains have led to deteriorating road conditions with continued slow movement of trucks through main overland routes from Kenya into Somalia. Slow turn-around of trucks to Mombasa Port also continues.

### Logistics Cluster Operational Planning

#### Shipping

- Some challenges were faced during the loading of cargo for the Logistics Cluster time-chartered vessel's first voyage. Some Clearing and Forwarding (C&F) agents were unable to bring all inter-agency cargo on time to be loaded on the WFP vessel. There was also pressure to leave as per schedule due to a strict deadline for the naval escort vessel. Some 400 mt of cluster cargo was loaded on this vessel (out of the 769 mt originally booked). The balance of cargo has been lined up for the next voyage, along with new cargo. The 400 mt of cargo has been discharged in Mogadishu (food, medicines, blankets, etc). The Cluster reiterated that costs to and from quay-side will be borne by the user. Cluster participants should be ready on time in Mogadishu Port to receive cargo on the next voyage, as cluster cargo will be offloaded first. Delays in pick-up of cargo leads to delays in the entire discharge of vessel in Mogadishu.
- For the second voyage, the Logistics Cluster's time-chartered vessel will be sailing out today (04 November) from Mogadishu to Mombasa. It is expected to be back in Mombasa by Monday/Tuesday (07/08 November). Berthing time will depend on the level of congestion at the port. This service is initially for three months, with the option for another three months, depending on requirements and funding. There is very little visibility on organisations' pipelines at present.
- Logistics Cluster participants will be conducting a visit to Mombasa Port on 10 November to oversee arrangements for the second voyage of the time-chartered vessel to Mogadishu.

#### Storage

- The Cluster apologised for the delay on the provision of storage in Mogadishu Port. The two Mobile Storage Units (total capacity 1,000 m<sup>3</sup>) are in the port, and the Cluster is finalising management contract and details.

### AOB

- The Nutrition Cluster Coordinator provided a brief presentation on nutrition aspects relevant to the Logistics Cluster.
  - The most important point raised was the statement that no Infant Formula (i.e. breast-milk substitutes) should be accepted by the humanitarian community from donors/organizations. This is partly due to the poor water quality, which when mixed with infant formula powder can lead to diarrhea etc. in children. The Nutrition Cluster is trying to promote breast-feeding for the first six months of life. Infant formula does not contain the right antibodies, and is often used in incorrect quantities (provided in diluted form, spread across too many children). It is only in extremely controlled conditions (with boiled milk, clean water) that it can be considered.
- The Logistics Cluster informed participants that the guidelines forbidding the inclusion of milk/powdered milk/breast-milk substitutes, such as infant formula, were included in the UBD Guidelines available on the Logistics Cluster website at:  
[http://www.logcluster.org/ops/som11a/general\\_guidelines\\_for\\_unsolicited\\_bilateral\\_donations/view/view](http://www.logcluster.org/ops/som11a/general_guidelines_for_unsolicited_bilateral_donations/view/view)
- In response to a question about potential tactical airlift operations, the Cluster stated that this is very much a contingency plan, for locations where organizations are unable to charter their own aircraft and all other means of transport/loan have been exhausted. The Cluster currently has limited funds, and is trying to prioritize shipping and storage. Airlifts are planned as a last-resort.
- The Mombasa Port visit is planned for 10 November. Organizations will be responsible for their flights and accommodation. The Cluster will arrange port passes, a minibus to the port, meeting arrangements etc. There will be meeting with key actors and, a video-clip presentation of the Logistics Cluster's time-chartered vessel's first voyage, and a visit to the vessel.

#### Contacts:

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

#### Nairobi, Kenya

John Myraunet  
Hamza Mohmand

Logistics Cluster Coordinator  
Information Management Officer

[john.myraunet@wfp.org](mailto:john.myraunet@wfp.org)  
[hamza.mohmand@wfp.org](mailto:hamza.mohmand@wfp.org)