INTER AGENCY LOGISTICS MEETING MINUTES

Location: UNHCR Meeting Room, Vavuniya
Date: 6 January, 2010, 14:00

Action Point LCC: Inventory of vehicles left behind in the Vanni or handed over to government bodies. Raise issue at Colombo level.

Action Point LCC: Compile information on warehouses available across the country for mapping.

Action Point LCC: Add information on commercial transport rates to Transport rates overview.

1. Welcome
   - David Allen chairs the meeting.

2. Minutes 16 December
   - Approved.

3. Action Points
   - Transport rates of the Northern Region Lorry Owners co-op society have been provided by World Vision and shared via e-mail.
   - Additional information on costs of commercial transporters is shared which will be included in the Transport Rates overview.
   - UNHCR still uses sealed trucks to transport goods from Colombo up to Vavuniya to avoid delays at Medawachchiya. ICRC uses its own trucks with an international escort without seals and experiences no issues or need for offloading. Commercial trucks pass Medawachchiya without delay going north. Going south, offloading might be requested.
   - At Omanthai, trucks are checked randomly. Obtaining Ministry of Defence clearance beforehand and ensuring packing lists are sent with the vehicle can avoid delays.
   - WFP has started using commercial trucks to transport goods into the Vanni. No prior CGES/MoD approval is needed.

4. Access Menik Farm
   - Road conditions in Menik Farm have deteriorated during the rainy season resulting in difficulties reaching certain locations and a WFP truck tipping over due to a broken culvert. Currently, conditions have improved as rains are less heavy.
   - In case agencies encounter problems reaching locations in the camps, the zonal commanders have advised that all primary roads in the zones can be opened up for access from the main road which should improve access.
   - CARE occasionally experiences delays in obtaining access to the zones. Such incidents should be reported to OCHA in the ‘Guiding Principles’ reporting format.

5. Access into the Vanni
   - INGOs have not been granted access to operate in the Vanni yet.
   - Access to Jaffna via the A9 is possible, provided MoD clearance is obtained. Participants advise that 10 days prior approval needs to be requested.
Development Logistics Bases

- Currently, two logistics bases are operational: one in Mallawi and one in Kilinochchi. Agencies have been invited to make their storage needs for Kilinochchi known. The extent to which these requests can be accommodated is under consideration. A third logistics base is likely to be set up in Oddusudan.
- 6 small trucks and 8 tractors with trailers have been sourced by the WFP Special Operation. These will be operated by the District Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies (MPCS) to facilitate delivery of small quantities of relief assistance to resettled communities that are difficult to re-supply inside the Vanni with the UN fleet vehicles or more regular transport options. The MPCS in Kilinochchi has indicated to have no need for these vehicles. The GA for Mullaitivu has indicated that there’s a need and therefore all vehicles have been moved to Mallavi. Should the vehicles not be used fully, WFP intend to use them to prepare the access road into the Kilinochchi base or terminate the lease. Concern is voiced on whether distributions are carried out in close enough proximity to the returnees. The MPCS/GA have control over this process.

6. AOB / Next Meeting

- Is it allowed to take a camera in the Vanni? No official communication has been received on this to the meeting participants’ knowledge. Participants are advised not to take a GPS device into the Vanni.
- The question is asked whether the participants need maps other than those available at present. A map of warehouses, including government warehouses, across the country would be useful. The LCC will attempt to gather the information and have a map made. Participants also indicate that circulation of the maps of UNDSS cleared roads would be useful. They are advised to request this from OCHA/UNDSS.
- The Paddy Marketing Board (PMB) storage area will be handed over to its users (IOM, World Vision and ASB/Solidar). The aim is to turn the management of the PMB into a user group to ensure that other agencies needing storage space in the future can make use of this facility.
- Many agencies have had to hand over vehicles to the government before leaving the Vanni during the battle phase. The issue is raised on how to have these vehicles returned or receive confirmation of their being destroyed. The LCC will make an inventory of vehicles handed over or left and will subsequently take the issue to the Colombo level.
- Flights between Jaffna and Colombo are getting erratic as there are fewer passengers and for Deccan a minimum of ten persons is needed to avoid cancellation of a flight. A possibility is to coordinate among humanitarian agencies on which days to fly. The issue will be referred to Jaffna/Colombo.

Next meeting Logistics Cluster Vavuniya: 10 February, 14:00, UNHCR meeting room

Agenda items welcome to be submitted by 8th February COB

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