Global Teleconference Minutes, 18 August 2020
Lebanon Emergency Response

LOCATION: Teleconference
DATE: 18 August 2020
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster
PARTICIPANTS: Action Against Hunger, ACTED, Airlink, CARE, Concern, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), DHL, Humanity & Inclusion, IFRC, INSEAD Humanitarian Research Group, International Medical Corps, INTERSOS, IOM, Medair, OCHA, Relief International, Save the Children, ShelterBox, Solidarités International, Tearfund, UNRWA, USAID, Welthungerhilfe, WeWorld-GVC, WFP

ACTION POINTS:
- Partners are invited to fill in OCHA’s survey on import challenges.
- Partners are advised to indicate their needs for international transport through the CHOCOLAT platform.

AGENDA:
1. Lebanon Logistics Sector Update
2. Situation Update
3. AOB

1. Lebanon Logistics Sector Update

- The Logistics Sector is working together with OCHA to obtain a full understanding of current customs procedures. OCHA has developed a survey to assess the importation challenges partners are facing. The interim results have been compiled to be submitted to customs. A meeting with customs officials will be held tomorrow. Partners are still invited to submit their challenges via the survey.
- Feedback was shared by organisations querying the process of importing medical goods and the required procedures to undertake before clearance can be provided. Questions on fast tracking and compliance with these procedures will be addressed with customs.
- The Logistics Sector held a meeting with various stakeholders at airport level in order to improve coordination and better understand clearance mechanisms for air cargo.
  - If a shipment is arriving on a commercial flight, the usual clearance process will be followed. Clarification will be sought whether the recent decree applies to cargo on commercial flights.
  - If cargo comes in on a military plane, it will be offloaded and transferred to the Lebanese Armed Forces warehouses. More liaison has been requested to coordinate these cargo movements so that stock can be tracked.
- The Logistics Sector has conducted interviews with humanitarian partners on the ground to inform the common services provided by the Logistics Sector. Key findings from the 10 interviews conducted so far:
  - Most agencies are locally procuring items. Only a few partners have had air shipments come in since the beginning of the response, and none of them are expecting new shipments.

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The need for common storage space is unclear but to be explored further, with more interviews scheduled over the coming week.

- The Concept of Operations has been drafted and is currently being reviewed. It will be shared at the next Logistics Sector meeting for partners’ review and endorsement.
- The Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) will be updated soon with the recently conducted port assessment and information on warehouses, clearing agents and transport companies which has been gathered by the Logistics Sector and commercial partners.
- Four Logistics Sector meetings at Beirut level have been held so far, with the next one scheduled for Thursday 20 August at 11:00 local time.
- Partners who would like to join these meetings are requested to subscribe to the Lebanon mailing list via the button on the bottom of the webpage. Local meeting invitations will not be shared through the global mailing list.

2. Situation Update

- The state of emergency has been extended until 18 September. The Lebanese Armed Forces remain in control of the airport and port in Beirut.
- A lockdown due to the spike in COVID-19 cases will be announced to be in place from Thursday 20 August for a duration of two weeks. Clarification will be sought on what the implications for humanitarian operations are.

3. AOB

- DHL Express has two 10 tonne trucks with driver available for any required transport until at least the end of this week. Interested partners can request contact details from Cyril Martin.
- Airlink is working on options for free of charge cargo services for NGOs responding to the emergency. Organisations are invited to contact ops@airlinkflight.org for any air cargo needs.
- Partners are invited to indicate their needs for international transport through the CHOCOLAT platform.
- As the scope of the coordination is rapidly moving from global to local level, there will be no further global calls scheduled unless the circumstances require otherwise.

Contacts

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