Health Logistics Inter-Sector Coordination Meeting Minutes, 4 November 2019
Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh

LOCATION
WFP Meeting Room, Cox’s Bazar

DATE
4 November 2019

CHAIR
Health Sector, Logistics Sector

PARTICIPANTS

ACTION POINTS
- IOM and WHO to develop a temperature-controlled warehouse management training
- All partners to share lists of distributors and manufacturers from vendor lists
- All partners to share information on expired drugs for disposal for estimating transport needs
- WHO to share the list of surplus stocks available for donation
- UNHCR, WHO and the Logistics Sector to follow up on the quality assessment exercise with the service provider
- Health Sector to add logistics to the sector Emergency Preparedness working group meeting

AGENDA
1. Previous Action Points
2. Logistics Sector Updates
3. Health Sector Updates
4. Disposal of Expired Drugs
5. Quality Assessment
6. AOB

1. Previous Action Points

- The Health Sector and the Logistics Sector to bilaterally discuss the costs involved, with QUAMED, for the quality assessment and obtain a tentative timeline for the exercise. A two-stage process will be followed in the assessment exercise. [Refer to the quality assessment section for more information and updates]
- Partners to approach WHO on guidelines and information regarding access to emergency preposition of stocks for use in the aftermath of emergencies. [Done]
- Partners have been urged to coordinate their drug disposal with WHO. [Refer to agenda point four on disposal of expired drugs below for more information and updates]

2. Logistics Sector Update

- The 80 temperature data loggers (temperature monitoring devices) are currently being shipped and are expected to arrive in Cox’s Bazar by next week. Some of them will be available for loan and partners are advised to indicate their needs this week.
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- WFP’s procurement of seven solar fridges (approximately 500 L total capacity) on behalf of the Logistics Sector for storing items requiring cold chain storage is ongoing (tendering phase) and they are expected before the end of this year.
- Around 65% of Logistics Sector common temperature-controlled storage is currently utilised and partners are advised to submit Service Request Forms (SRFs) if additional space is required. SRF user instructions are available here.
- Partners raised the issue of high-value stocks/assets being damaged or stolen from the camps. Storing items in containers can significantly reduce the risk. The Logistics Sector has asset protection boxes (polystyrene metal boxes) that could be used to protect high value assets from rain and wind during monsoon and cyclone season. More information on borrowing these containers is available from the Logistics Sector.
- The Logistics Sector suggested to resume discussions regarding health logistics-specific preparedness issues, and it was agreed to bring this discussion to the Health Sector Emergency Preparedness Working Group.
- During the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) meeting last week, it was suggested to close the road leading from Ukhiya through Folipara down to the camps for maintenance. This will directly impact access to the facilities that are on the road. Partners were advised to inform the Logistics Sector about specific facilities that could be affected by limited road access so that this can be relayed to LGED at the next meeting which will take place 13 November.
- The Logistics Sector suggested continuing building training modules on health logistics following the positive impact of the WHO quality assurance workshop. IOM and WHO volunteered to help build a curriculum for an upcoming training on temperature-controlled warehouse management.

3. Health Sector Update

- As a part of an upcoming project, WHO is planning on assessing medical waste management in medical facilities in the camps. A team of expert consultants is set to be deployed to Cox’s Bazar to conduct the assessment.
- WHO portable quality laboratories ("minilabs") have arrived in Cox’s Bazar for testing suspicious pharmaceuticals through the local government and the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA). Currently, DGDA is seeking to establish the necessary workforce and WHO is drafting the Standard Operating Procedures for test requests to be shared with the group for revision.
- The Health Sector informed member that Rose Jeffries, Information Management Officer, has left Cox’s Bazar and shared the details of the new Information Management Officer which can be found in the contacts section below.

4. Disposal of Expired Drugs

- WHO advised meeting attendees that the previous modality of free-to-user waste disposal for incineration will no longer apply and another strategy of risk transfer and costing should be explored. WHO indicated the possibility of facilitating transport dependent upon demand for this activity.
- Partners were requested to estimate the total demand for goods to be disposed of in order to estimate transport and handling costs. A template will be prepared by the Logistics and Health Sectors to collect the data.

https://logcluster.org/sector/bangl17
https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/bangladesh/health
5. Quality Assessment

- The Logistics Sector requested that partners share their list of manufacturers and distributors to be passed on to QUAMED to support the upcoming assessment that is set to be conducted on the quality of the medical items available within the country and increase the accuracy of the findings.
- UNHCR agreed to financially support the assessment and to manage the agreement with QUAMED.
- The Logistics Sector, Health Sector, WHO and UNHCR will review the technical process of the assessment. The assessment is set to run from the second week of November until the first week of December.
- Partners remarked that manufacturing companies and production lines should be separated in the assessment.

6. AOB

- WHO recently shifted their warehouse from a building near Allegro Suit Hotel to Mishuk Hotel. As a result, they wish to donate equipment ranging from drugs to medical equipment. Interested parties are advised to contact WHO directly in order to access the list of available items. The Logistics Sector will also share the list via its operational mailing list.

Contacts

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