

LOCATION: Dhaka, Bangladesh

DATE: 04 January, 2018

CHAIR: Ministry of Disaster Management Relief (MoDMR) and WFP

PARTICIPANTS: MoDMR, Armed Forces Division (AFD), UNRCO, JICA, WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, IFRC, ICRC, MSF, Save the Children CARE Bangladesh, Plan Bangladesh, Handicap International, Oxfam, Solidarites International

ACTION POINTS

- 'Who is doing what' format will be shared with Bangladesh National Logistics Cluster members
- MoDMR will further clarify AFD cargo release with airport customs authority
- MoDMR will advise the Logistics Sector on how to request for land in Teknaf port
- MoDMR to discuss One-Stop-Shop (OSS) with authorities
- Logistics capacity mapping matrix and work plan will be shared with National Logistics Cluster members

AGENDA

1. Follow-up and action points
2. Logistics Sector activity update (Cox's Bazar)
3. Bangladesh National Logistics Cluster activity update
4. L3 emergency operation Cox's Bazar: Monsoon preparedness and logistics challenges
5. Government mass casualty management system
6. AOB

1. Follow-up and action points

- Mr. Malik Kabir mentioned that a Technical Working Group (TWG) for the Bangladesh National Logistics Cluster had been formed by 10 member agencies during the 29 August 2017 meeting. Additional Secretary Md. Mohsin nominated Mr. Ajay Kumar Chakraborty, Deputy Secretary of MoDMR, as Government representative for the TWG.
- During the Bangladesh National Logistics Cluster meeting held on 11 September 2017, participants raised the issue of lack of storage facilities in Cox's Bazar. In response, WFP erected 16 Mobile Storage Units (MSUs).
- Rapid cargo release and customs clearance issues were also raised and a One-Stop-Shop (OSS) arrangement was suggested by humanitarian agencies. Bangladesh National Logistics Cluster members were to provide data regarding the relief cargo they needed to import to support their Rohingya response operations.
- AFD mentioned that the humanitarian agencies are facing difficulties releasing cargo from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka because of a MoDMR letter issued on 14 December 2017 that suggested release of cargo should occur through AFD. The AFD representative mentioned that cargo landed at Chittagong and Cox's Bazar airport will need AFD presence to release goods. As the issue was not clear to the customs authority of Dhaka airport, AFD wrote a letter to MoDMR dated 27 December 2017 with a copy sent to Dhaka Airport Customs Authority clarifying that the cargo can be released from Dhaka Airport in coordination with MoDMR without AFD presence.

2. Logistics Challenges: humanitarian operations for Rohingya Crisis, Cox's Bazar

- Logistics Sector Coordinator described the logistics challenges in Cox's Bazar and the services that the Logistics Sector has been providing. A Logistics Response Team (LRT) was deployed in September 2017 to assess logistics gaps and to facilitate access to common services. The identified logistics constraints were storage facilities, confusion regarding customs clearance procedures, road congestion around the camps and insufficient vehicle access/lack of road infrastructure into the camps. Poor road conditions and minimal logistics facilities during the rainy season will be an issue of concern. MoDMR mentioned that 20 MSUs will be setup within 20 camp blocks to avoid poor road conditions.
- AFD is working to construct roads for the rainy season however, scarcity of funds is an issue. Donors have been encouraged to come forward.
- Additional Secretary Md. Mohsin commented that 160 million taka has been approved recently for road construction. WFP mentioned that the Logistics Sector may discuss the funding with humanitarian agencies and Local Government Engineering Department and AFD could provide technical support.
- The Logistics Sector is planning to set up a logistics hub in Teknaf, to rent for six months. Teknaf Port has been identified as the most suitable location. The Logistics Sector requested MoDMR's support in procuring a lease of the space within the port campus.
- AFD supported the Rohingya community with relief, medical supplies, biometric registration and engineering work. They expect NGOs/humanitarian agencies to attend bi-weekly coordination meetings at Ukhiya Degree College organised by the army. AFD suggested that the Bangladesh National Logistics Cluster might consider publishing a monthly newsletter highlighting its work.
- Head of the Rohingya Cell will be present at the next Bangladesh National Logistics Cluster meeting to address questions.

3. One Stop Shop for rapid cargo release

- Mr. Malik Kabir explained the benefit of a One Stop Shop (OSS) which is likely to reduce customs clearance complexities faced by humanitarian agencies. MoDMR to investigate the possibility of setting up an OSS during the emergency.

4. Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) update

- WFP explained the benefits of a Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) to mitigate congestion, facilitate receipt of airlifted cargo, provide storage, and facilitate cargo handling in the event of big emergencies such as an earthquake. He also mentioned that they are looking for suitable land near Dhaka airport to establish the HSA. WFP mentioned that a committee has been formed, headed by the honourable Secretary of MoDMR, to identify suitable land for a National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) and Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA).

5. Logistics capacity mapping

- Mr. Malik Kabir explained the importance of logistics capacity mapping to know the availability of logistics resources, facilities, equipment and logistics expert manpower.

6. 2018 priorities and work plan for Bangladesh National Logistics Cluster

- Mr. Malik Kabir mentioned that the Bangladesh National Logistics Cluster work plan for 2018 will be shared with members with a few priority actions for consideration. The TWG will finalise the draft priority actions received from members and will submit these in the next regular Bangladesh National Logistics Cluster meeting.

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