Meeting Minutes, 16 June 2020
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

LOCATION
Addis Ababa, online

DATE
16 June 2020

CHAIR
Ato Tadesse Bekele, Senior DRM Adviser
Adham Effendi, Acting Logistics Cluster Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS
Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Concern Worldwide, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Emergency Coordination Center (ECC), Food Cluster, GOAL, Humanity & Inclusion (HI), International Organization for Migration (IOM), National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), Plan International, Save the Children, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), World Food Programme (WFP)

ACTION POINTS
- The next Cluster Coordination Meeting is set for 23 June at 11:00 EAT.
- Partners are requested to submit Challenges and Needs reports to provide sufficient evidence to advocate for funding.
- Partners are requested to provide further quantity details of cargo in their upstream pipeline planning.
- Partners are requested to report Road Constraints to inform the Road Constraints map.

AGENDA
1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Information Gathering
3. Aviation Updates
4. Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) – Planned Activities and Budgets
5. Logistics Updates and Challenges
6. Partner Forum, FAQs and Knowledge sharing

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Adham Effendi, Acting Cluster Coordinator (ACC), opened the floor to introduce the fifth cluster coordination meeting co-led by NDRMC. He welcomed participants and introduced colleagues from NDRMC, the Logistics Cluster as well the new Cluster Coordinator, Hakim Froissart, who will be replacing Adham Effendi as the Acting Cluster Coordinator.

- The ACC encouraged partners to continue sharing information through the Challenges and Needs Report (https://logcluster.org/document/ethiopia-logistics-challenges-needs-report) to establish a detailed picture of logistics gaps and needs as well as quantities in terms of volume.

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- Numerous requests for support have been received, overwhelming available funding coming through from the Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund (EHF). The Logistics Cluster is expecting to receive more resources to make it fully operational.
- Advocacy for funding by supporting partners to their respective networks on behalf of the Logistics Cluster is of utmost importance to remain able to provide support as required, since operation of the cluster is dependent on the availability of funds.

2. Information Gathering

- The existing communication channels for the dissemination of key information and products were shared, including the mailing list Ethiopia-logs@logcluster.org and Ethiopia operations page (https://logcluster.org/ops/eth20a).
- The Digital Logistics Capacity Assessment (DLCA) (https://dlca.logcluster.org/display/public/DLCA/Ethiopia) for Ethiopia is currently being updated to provide essential information on logistics infrastructure and services in country.
- Partners were encouraged to submit reports on the following:
  - The Logistics Challenges and Needs Report (https://logcluster.org/document/ethiopia-logistics-challenges-needs-report) provides a form for partners to report their ongoing constraints and challenges affecting operational activities, essential for triggering the facilitation of services and advocating the need to obtain further funding.
  - The Road Constraints Report (https://logcluster.org/document/ethiopia-road-constraints-report) allows partners to report on physical road constraints affecting operations, the data of which will be used to create Road Constraints Maps.
- To further involve partners in the information gathering, the Deputy Cluster Coordinator (DCC) confirmed that the Logistics Cluster will reach out bilaterally to partners. In particular, partners were requested to submit details of their upstream pipeline planning.

3. Aviation Updates

- The latest commercial flight departure schedule from Addis Ababa was presented. Partners were reminded that flights offered on the Humanitarian Booking Hub (https://humanitarianbooking.wfp.org) do not serve commercially available routes.
- Partners were asked to continue to submit upstream cargo movement requests via the Emergency Service Market Place.
- The latest schedule for WFP Aviation was presented. Schedules change often depending on demand. The Humanitarian Booking Hub shows the latest available passenger flights.

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Partners were requested to reach out to the Logistics Cluster team if they have any queries or need support.

4. Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) – Planned Activities and Budget

The Logistics Cluster shared the Humanitarian Response Plan Annex in a snapshot, presenting revisions issued in May 2020 due to the recent changes to the humanitarian context. Only the Needs and Risk Analysis and the Cluster Plans of the annual HRP have been updated, so it should be read as part of the 2020 HRP.

The Annex: Update to the 2020 Ethiopia Humanitarian Response Plan (May 2020) showcases updates, most notably on the impact of the desert locust infestation; changes to the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) and returnee landscape; and a risk analysis to project the anticipated needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The funding gap for the Logistics Cluster is reported at USD 59.7 million, not considering the USD 2 million funding in process to be received from EHF.

It was emphasised that the Logistics Cluster does not only support COVID-19 operations, but also non-COVID-19 multi-sectoral response.

5. Logistics Updates and Challenges

Partners who had already submitted Challenges and Needs Reports were thanked.

It was advised that this process is ongoing and greater detail is needed from partners on specific needs, in particular the volume of required storage or transport.

The basic assessment criteria were explained:

- **No Impact** - The situation is manageable and mitigation measures are in place to meet operational requirements.
- **Increasing Impact** - The situation is manageable, however, with a developing situation operation could start being impacted.
- **Critical Impact** - It is having an impact on operations currently.

The Gaps and Needs Analysis (GNA) initial findings were presented, which are based on 25 reports from partners on challenges impacting operations:

- Six reports indicated a need for storage.
- Three reports showed a critical impact on storage.
- One report showed a need for cold chain and storage rehabilitation work, with a critical impact on operations.
- Five reports showed storage having an increasing impact on operations, with four of the five assessing storage availability as poor; the lowest rating.
- Five reports on transport showed an increasing Impact on operations. Two assessed transport availability as poor.
- Eight of the reports requested air transportation at the respective locations of operations.
- One partner reported the need for cold chain at country level.
- The main bulk of requests is for Somali region.
- Partners continue to report storage concerns.
A number of requests have already been facilitated by the Logistics Cluster, including the provision of four MSUs to be installed at the Djibouti border to help establish screening centres and driver waiting areas.

Planned activities include coordination, information management, capacity strengthening and facilitating access to logistics services. The core pillars coordination and information management will be provided by the Logistics Cluster.

6. Partner Forum, FAQs and Knowledge sharing

- Partners took the floor to report and discuss the logistics challenges they are having, such as road constraints faced while transporting aid items and difficulties sourcing transporters.
- NDRMC supported the information gathering exercise of partners’ needs, which is critical for providing evidence for resource mobilisation, and encouraged partners to submit information via the Logistics Challenges and Needs Report.
- A question was raised by partners regarding the possibility of cargo services for items not related to the COVID-19 response. The Logistics Cluster clarified that the global platform being facilitated through the cluster is currently focused on COVID-19 for Ethiopia, but evaluation by the ECC and other stakeholders could make it a possibility, if it is a priority for other emergencies such as flood and desert locust.
- Partners asked about storage capacity in Moyale region for a potential service to take place in two months. Based on the Logistics Cluster’s resources and need on ground, the request for storage to be set up in the region can be facilitated.
- Partner asked about the cluster’s approach to advocating on behalf of partners, specifically concerning issues of cargo tracking from Djibouti. The Logistics Cluster informed partners of NDRMC’s partnership with the cluster in advocating to other stakeholders, as well as the cluster’s efforts for resolution through contacts of other government bodies.
- NDRMC closed the meeting by asking partners, the joint operation of the government and the Logistics Cluster led by WFP, to collaborate to solve operational constraints. It was highlighted that the government is giving special attention to humanitarian efforts by providing an open channel of communication to assist in shared goals to address common issues.

The next Coordination Meeting is scheduled for 23 June at 11:00 EAT.

Contacts

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