Meeting Minutes, 21 July 2020
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

LOCATION
Addis Ababa, online

DATE
21 July 2020

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

PARTICIPANTS
Action Against Hunger (ACF), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Concern Worldwide, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Emergency Coordination Center (ECC), Federal Transport Authority (FTA), Food Cluster, International Organization for Migration (IOM), National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organisation (WHO)

ACTION POINTS
• The next Cluster Coordination Meeting is set for 28 July 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. Logistics Updates and Challenges
5. Guest Speaker: Ato Ahmed Abdulber Shemsu from the Federal Transport Authority (FTA)
6. Partner Forum, FAQs and Knowledge sharing

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Adham Effendi, Acting Cluster Coordinator (ACC), opened the floor by introducing the new sitting Logistics Cluster Coordinator, Hakim Froissart, and welcomed him to the country.
- The Logistics Cluster Coordinator introduced himself and began the discussion of the seventh cluster coordination meeting co-led by NDRMC.
- Partners are encouraged 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.
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.
- The dedicated COVID-19 response page (http://logcluster.org/COVID-19) provides essential updates and information to minimise disruptions in the supply chain of current humanitarian operations.
- 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 Logistics Cluster will reach out bilaterally to partners. In particular, partners are 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.
• Partners were requested to reach out to the Logistics Cluster team if they have any queries or need support.

4. Logistics Updates and Challenges

• OCHA worked together with ECC, NDRMC and multiple Clusters to provide an update on the humanitarian impacts on the period of June-July. The Logistics Cluster mandate is in place to support the different humanitarian impacts of COVID-19, desert locusts, floods and other factors, with most focus on COVID-19.
• The support given by the LC to those operational impacts are being prioritised together with the government and the ICCG.
• The National Emergency Coordination Center (NECC) in cooperation with humanitarian partners conducted a multi-cluster assessment in quarantine centers (QCs) and points of entries (POEs) in seven regions and one city council, in which the Logistics Cluster participated. Main gaps are food, shelter/NFI, and WASH.
• The impact of COVID-19 on partners’ operations was assessed, with national clusters having an estimated decrease in activities of 7 percent across 81 woredas. About 60-70% of the partners interviewed by the Logistics Cluster said they had increased their operations and needs for storage and other logistics services.
• Movement restrictions are eased throughout the country and humanitarian partners can operate more easily in the country.
• The desert locust invasion represents a big threat to food security, coinciding with the February – May rains and planting season. The impact of which could have a heightened demand on logistics services utilised to aid partners response to affected areas.
• It was stated that swarms from northwest Kenya are likely to migrate north to Ethiopia where they will disperse in the north and east to mature and breed. This, together with current infestations, are likely to cause a further increase in locust populations in Ethiopia and this coincides with the start of the harvest Belg-grown crops and the Meher season.
• As per the joint assessment on the Impact of desert locust on food security livelihoods in Ethiopia carried out by the Government of Ethiopia, FAO, the Agriculture Taskforce, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Technical Working Group and the Food Security Cluster found that an estimated one million people in Ethiopia are in need of emergency food assistance due to the ongoing desert locust invasion. The locusts have damaged about 200 000 ha of cropland and caused a cereal loss of over 356 000 tonnes.
• According to the last IPC analysis, an estimated 8.5 million people were already in severe acute food insecurity in Ethiopia prior to the invasion, a figure that is expected to rise following the locust crisis and COVID-19, which is hampering deliveries and travel.
• There is an urgent need to scale up control operations to prevent the situation from further deteriorating.

https://logcluster.org/ops/eth20a
• It has been reported that more than 86 woredas are experiencing physical access issues to either the center of woreda or kebeles due to flooding.

5. Guest Speaker: Ato Ahmed Abdulber Shemsu from the Federal Transport Authority (FTA)

COVID-19 Intervention tasks on freight transport
• Ethiopia transports 95% of its import and export cargo through Djibouti ports, specifically via Dewelle and Galafi. Now there is a process ongoing to start using Tajura port via the Beleho route for general cargos.
• The average annual daily traffic is set to be 2500 trucks per day going in and out of Ethiopia.
• The FTA currently has 211 cross border freight transport operators, associations and private limited companies (PLC) registered in their organisation.
• It has 18 very active checkpoints throughout the country to monitor road freight transport logistics, lowering the impact of the pandemic on the sector.
• It was expressed by the FTA that many rules and regulations have been set due to the pandemic, especially, penalties for offenses by drivers and associations.
• To support the interventions of the FTA a taskforce has been formed by the Council of Ministers and they include Ethiopia Public Health Institute (EPHI), Federal Police Commission, Regional Transport Bureau, Regional Peace and Security Bureau, Woreda Administration (for Galafi and Dewelle), Customs Commission and Immigration Office. This taskforce is set up at the two entry points, Galafi and Dewalle.
• The taskforce facilitates the local availability of PPE for drivers and fumigation for trucks that are necessary to pass the checkpoints. The taskforce also provides testing points for the drivers at both entry points.
• Another intervention of the taskforce is to construct terminals in the entry points, for which 25% of the construction in Dewelle and 30% in Galafi has been completed. The terminals will be finalised in about one month to six weeks.
• When the current works are completed, similar measures will be taken for other POEs.
• The taskforce also facilitates an intervention for the availability of food for drivers at different destinations with COVID-19 protocols still in place as set by the Ministry of Health.
• The taskforce is working on engaging stockholders to deliver essentials like PPE, generators, tents, water tanks and so on.
6. Partner Forum, FAQs and Knowledge Sharing

- NDRMC supports 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.

The next Coordination Meeting is scheduled for 28 July at 11:00 EAT.

Contacts

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