LOCATION: Addis Ababa, online

DATE: 9 March 2021

CHAIR: Robert Sepe, Logistics Cluster Coordinator
Ato Tadesse Bekele, Senior DRM Adviser

PARTICIPANTS: Action Against Hunger (ACF), Agency for Refugee & Returnee Affairs (ARRA), CARE, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Concern Worldwide, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), GOAL International, Handicap International (HI), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Rescue Committee (IRC), National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), Emergency Coordination Center (ECC), Save the Children, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO)

ACTION POINTS

● Partners are requested to submit their transportation and storage requests using the Service Request Form (SRF) to ethiopia.logisticsclustercargo@wfp.org.

● The Logistics Cluster will share approved guidelines on the cargo notification process with partners.

● The Logistics Cluster to follow up on reports on delays in transport from Gondar to Shire.

● The Logistics Cluster will conduct an assessment of the Mekele - Adiy Addi - Shire route and the Logistics Hub in Shire.

AGENDA

1. NDRMC Updates
2. Requests for Common Services
3. Road Constraints
4. Operation Updates
5. Service Request Forms (SRF)
6. FAQs and Partner Discussions

1. NDRMC Updates

● NDRMC briefed partners on the new process for cargo movements. As of 9 March, agencies moving humanitarian cargo into Tigray are required to notify NDRMC at least 48 hours before cargo is transported into Tigray, but formal clearance is no longer required. This process is expected to increase efficiency and speed up operations.
The Logistics Cluster, NDRMC and partners will endeavour to keep relevant stakeholders informed on cargo movements to ensure a cohesive response.

The Logistics Cluster will share detailed guidelines approved by NDRMC with partners. Please see below for the main points and refer to the guidelines shared by the Logistics Cluster for further details:

1. There will no longer be a need to submit cargo for clearance by the Ethiopian government as previously done. This should help speed up the provision of humanitarian commodities to those in need.
2. However, all agencies must inform NDRMC 48 hours before any cargo is transported into Tigray. This is only if the cargo is going into Tigray itself and not to one of the Logistics Cluster hubs (Gondar, Kombolcha, Semera).
3. If however, a partner is submitting an SRF for the Logistics Cluster to facilitate the transport of their goods into Tigray, the Logistics Cluster will submit the notification to NDRMC on their behalf.
   a. The details that must be provided to NDRMC are listed in the guidelines shared by the Logistics Cluster.
4. For those transports facilitated by the Logistics Cluster, the cluster will share once per week the cargo movement final delivery details with the relevant stakeholders.
   a. The final delivery as indicated by the Logistics Cluster is the point where the cargo was handed back over to the partner – not the actual distribution location for beneficiaries.

2. Requests for Common Services

- Partners requesting Logistics Cluster facilitated transport, warehousing, or transport and warehousing services may do so by filling out a Service Request Form (SRF) and sending it to Ethiopia.logisticsclustercargo@wfp.org.
- If partners already have their commodities stored in a Logistics Cluster hub, they need to fill out a Release Order Form (ROF), and the Logistics Cluster will arrange to release this cargo from the warehouse where the goods are stored to the partners’ selected representative.
- In order for any request to be considered “actionable”, the forms must be fully filled out and accurate for the cargo. This includes item descriptions, weights & dimensions, and listing any dangerous goods to be transported.
- Once the SRF has been confirmed by the Logistics Cluster, facilitation of services will be actioned within 24 - 48 hours.

3. Road Constraints

The recent physical road constraint reports were presented using the Interactive Physical Road Constraints Map:

- Main corridors from Djibouti, Berbera, and Kenya via Moyale are operating smoothly.
● Routes from Amhara region through Kobo and through Gondar towards Tigray border are physically accessible.
● The route from Gambella to Ninyang via Banyrial is accessible via a new bridge that is located in Banyrial, 4 km before reaching Jekow.

4. Operation Updates

● This week, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the transport of 259 mt of cargo by eight commercial trucks along the Kombolcha – Kombo – Mekele route.
● A delivery of 75 mt of wheat flour to Mekele was facilitated for one partner.
● Two deliveries to Mekele and Alamata of about 2.5 mt each were facilitated by the Logistics Cluster for two partners.
● The transport of 172 mt of humanitarian cargo from Addis Ababa to Mekele was facilitated by the Logistics Cluster for one partner.
● The assessment of the Mekele - Adiy Addi - Shire route and the Logistics Hub in Shire is scheduled to take place early next week. The assessment will be informed by discussions with partners on potential needs, including potential needs for airlifts, and seek to identify possible locations for warehouse and office space.

As a reminder, below are the storage and transportation services that can be facilitated by the Logistics Cluster for the Tigray response:

● There is 3900 m² of total warehouse space in Adama available as common storage for partners.
● The warehouse in Gondar has a total of 2400 m² of common storage space for partners.
● The logistics hub in Kombolcha has a total of 1500 m² of common storage space for partners.
● The warehouse in Mekele has a total of 1600 m² of common storage space for partners.
● The common storage space in Semera has a total of 640 m² for partners.
● The warehouse in Addis Ababa has a total of 1000 m² of common storage space for partners. This warehouse is used for the consolidation of cargo that is to be dispatched to Gondar, Kombolcha, and Semera.

Partners requesting storage services are invited to fill in the Service Request Form (SRF) and send it to Ethiopia.logisticsclustercargo@wfp.org.

5. Service Request Forms

● The Logistics Cluster briefed partners on some of the most frequently encountered issues with SRFs submitted;
  o In the section pertaining to Service(s) requested, GPS coordinates have to be provided for the locations (from/to) and the storage service fields only have to be filled in if this service is being requested (i.e. it needs to be filled out with data pertaining to the request for storage).
Correct category for items needs to be filled out in the relevant section of the form.

- Kits need a description to clarify the details of the item.
- Weights and volume need to be calculated by line item and on the basis of the total number of packing units for a given item multiplied by the weight of a single packing unit. For example, if a kit weighs 1.5kg, and there are 249 kits, then it is 1.5kg \times 249 \text{ kits} = 373.5 \text{ kg} to be transported for this line item.

- In the case of inaccurate SRFs, there are two options offered to partners by the Logistics Cluster. Partners may either correct the information or alternatively, the organisation's focal point responsible for filling out the SRF is offered to visit the Addis Ababa warehouse and fill out the form together with guidance and training from Logistics Cluster colleagues.

- Partners are reminded to ensure heavy items are packaged appropriately and to ensure correct labelling.

6. FAQs and Partner Discussions

- Partners reported delays in transport from Gondar to Shire. The Logistics Cluster will follow up.
- The Logistics Cluster will liaise with partners and relevant stakeholders to explore demand and potential options for airlifts to Shire.

The next Coordination Meeting is scheduled for 16 March at 11:00 EAT.

Contacts

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