
Meeting Minutes, 22 December 2020

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



LOCATION	Addis Ababa, online
DATE	22 December 2020
CHAIR	Ato Tadesse Bekele, Senior DRM Adviser Andrea Rosales, Acting Logistics Cluster Coordinator
PARTICIPANTS	Action Against Hunger (ACF), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Concern Worldwide, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Food Security Cluster, GOAL, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Rescue Committee (IRC), NALA Foundation, National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Save the Children, ShelterBox, United Nations Children's fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA), US Agency for International Development (USAID), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO).
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partners are requested to submit their transportation and storage requests using the Service Request Form (SRF) and send the form to ethiopia.logisticsclustercargo@wfp.org by every Friday COB.• The Logistics Cluster will inform partners on the updated information sharing mechanism.• The Logistics Cluster will update partners on the feedback from the multi-sector assessments for Southern and Western Tigray.• Partners are kindly invited to share their feedback on the Logistics Cluster activities through the annual User Feedback Survey.
AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Physical Road Constraints2. Multi-sector assessment for Western and Southern Tigray3. Operation Update4. Information Sharing Mechanism5. FAQs and Partner Discussion

1. Physical Road Constraints

The recent physical road constraint reports were presented using the [Interactive Physical Road Constraints Map](#):

- The main corridors from Djibouti to Addis Ababa are open.
- The road from Dewele to Dire Dawa is in good condition

- In the Afar region, the main road to Asaita is accessible. The Gewane, Gewaro, and Awash Fentale roads are accessible until the woreda (district) capital, leaving some kebeles (wards) flooded by the Awash river.
- A bridge near Melka Werer is still reported collapsed, an alternate route via Wachile to Hudet and Mubarek is available.
- In Oromia, the Negele bridge towards Hudet and Mobarek remains down; the alternative route is via Wachile.
- The corridor from Berbera to Jijiga/Ethiopia is accessible for all types of traffic movements and there are no issues on the border crossing at Togwajale.
- In Mustahil, the bridge is still down, limiting access to many kebeles (including Mirdis and Cagadurwa). Alternative roads to reach affected kebeles are Kelafo-Gode-Kebri Dehar-Ferfer.
- Reports from Gambella indicate that the road via Nekemte and Jimma is accessible, but challenges in access are reported for the route via Gedi Adis from Dembi Dollo to Gambella. The corridors from Gambella to the border points of Pagak and Raad (South Sudan) are accessible.

2. Multi-sector assessment for Western and Southern Tigray

- There is a multi-sector assessment, headed by OCHA, planned for prioritized locations in Afar, Amhara and Tigray regions where the humanitarian situation is reported to be dire.
- There will be two assessment teams:
 - Team 1 (Western Tigray) will visit Dansheha, Humera and Shire in Western Tigray. This team is awaiting clearance to proceed.
 - Team 2 (Southern Tigray) will visit Woldiya (in Amhara), Alamata and Mehoni in Southern Tigray. This team has started on Monday 21 December.
- The Logistics Cluster is participating in both assessments and will update partners on any progress in the upcoming meeting.

3. Operation Update

- Last week, the Logistics Cluster submitted clearances on behalf of four partners to deliver cargo to Shire and Mekele.
- Logistics Officers have been deployed to Semera, Kombolcha, and Gondar to coordinate convoy movements.
- For the first round of cargo movements for the Tigray response, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the movement of 26 mt of cargo on behalf of six partners in three trucks that are currently stationed in Gondar, awaiting clearance to proceed to Shire.
- Clearance has been authorized for the movement to Shire. The team is awaiting feedback from the multi-sector road assessment to ensure the security and feasibility of movement. Based on the results, the Logistics Cluster will coordinate with OCHA and partners on how to best proceed.

- For the second round of clearance requests, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the movement of 38 mt of cargo on behalf of six partners (Concern, Save the Children, CRS, World Vision, FAO, UNFPA). The cargo is currently in storage in Kombolcha, awaiting clearance to proceed to Mekele.

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

- There is 3900 m² of warehouse space available in Adama as common storage for partners.
- The warehouse in Addis Ababa (1000 m²) currently has 250 m² available.
- The Logistics Cluster is facilitating access to a warehouse with 900 m² storage capacity in Kombolcha and a warehouse with 2400 m² storage capacity in Gondar.
- The warehouses in Gondar and Kombolcha can be used by partners for prepositioning purposes.
- There is a planned ground levelling assessment this week in preparation for setting up two mobile storage units (MSUs) in Semera.
- Partners requesting storage services are invited to fill in the [Service Request Form](#) (SRF) and send it to Ethiopia.logisticsclustercargo@wfp.org.
- Two trucks with the capacity of 10 mt are being positioned in Adama for any zone in Afar, while three trucks with the capacity of 5 mt are being positioned in Semera for any zone in Afar. Partners are requested to submit their needs using the SRF.
- Besides the two fleets in Adama and Semera, the Logistics Cluster facilitates access to an additional fleet to move cargo from Addis Ababa to Gondar. The fleet is currently sufficient for the cargo received, but additional funding is required to have expanded capacity.
- The Logistics Cluster can facilitate convoys for cargo into Tigray at the request of partners through the SRF.

4. Information Sharing Mechanism

- Discussions are ongoing with colleagues from OCHA, NDRMC, and the Ethiopia Ministry of Peace (MOP) on the information sharing mechanism in order to submit requests for access clearance. The request for a new mechanism is being discussed with MoP/NDRMC and should be validated by the end of this week and presented at the next Logistics Cluster coordination meeting.
- Currently, the process is different for UN agencies and INGOs;
 - UN agencies must submit their cargo movement requests in a letter format, signed by the Head of Agency as well as the Humanitarian Coordinator. The letter outlines background context, justification for movement, as well as details on type of cargo, weight, route, destination, and vehicle information. Once the letter is signed by all relevant stakeholders, it can be shared with the Logistics Cluster and OCHA, who will then forward to government counterparts.
 - INGOs must submit their SRFs to the Logistics Cluster by Friday COB. The SRF needs to contain cargo details, weight, volume, and specifications of items. For partners using their own trucks, plate numbers and drivers' phone numbers are required. The Logistics Cluster

then consolidates the requests and submits Cargo Movement Forms to OCHA by Monday the following week. OCHA shares the information with NDRMC and MoP for access clearance.

- Partners were presented with an example of a correctly filled out SRF and reminded of the necessary details, especially weight and volume. Incomplete forms cannot be accepted and will result in delays until all the information is correctly provided.

5. FAQs and Partner Discussion

- The Logistics Cluster can receive cargo from partners at the five locations where common storage facilities are set up (Adama, Addis Ababa, Gondar, Kombolcha, and Semera). From there, transportation will be facilitated to deliver the cargo to the logistics hubs around Tigray until access is cleared. In Mekele, the Logistics Cluster will establish a common storage space once there is more information and access available. In the meantime, there is a dedicated space for Logistics Cluster partners in the WFP warehouse in Mekele.
- The Logistics Cluster is coordinating with UNHCR to set up a MSU, as common storage for partners, in their compound in Shire.
- NDRMC proposed that all humanitarian partners coordinate and agree on one date to move the cargo in one route. The current process is causing delays and will be more efficient if it is synchronized between all partners, including UN agencies, and the government.
- There is a third assessment planned for Mekele, organized by NDRMC, MoP and the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC). The objective is to coordinate with regional authorities and gather insights on needs and movements. NDRMC invited partners to join this assessment.
- The Logistics Cluster reminded partners that it is a "provider of last resort", facilitating access to services where there is a logistics gap, for the humanitarian response to Tigray and COVID-19.
- Partners are requested to complete the User Satisfaction Survey to provide feedback on Logistics Cluster support to their operations by 22 December. The survey has been shared via email and can be found [here](#).
- Andrea Rosales, Acting Logistics Cluster Coordinator, will be out of office next week.

The next Coordination Meeting is scheduled for 29 December at 11:00 EAT.

Contacts

Andrea Rosales	<i>Acting Logistics Cluster Coordinator</i>	andrea.rosales@wfp.org
Anne-Maud Drugeon	<i>Logistics Cluster Deputy Coordinator</i>	annemaud.drugeon@wfp.org
Robin Andrew	<i>Information Management Officer</i>	robin.andrew@wfp.org
Alia Zaki	<i>Information Management Officer</i>	alia.zaki@wfp.org