LOCATION: Baghdad, Iraq
DATE: 30 April 2018
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator
PARTICIPANTS: Human Relief Foundation (HRF); International Medical Corps (IMC); Medecins Sans Frontieres France (MSF); Mercy Hands; Norwegian Refugee Council; Premiere Urgence Internationale (PUI); Relief International; Save the Children; United Iraqi Medical Society (UIMS); UNHCR; WHO

ACTION POINTS:
• Logistics Cluster to compile and share Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) of importing processes and cold chain facilities at Um Qasa port.
• Logistics Cluster to organise the participation of different custom related persons from the Federal Government to attend the next Coordination Meeting in Baghdad.

AGENDA:
1. Previous Action Points
2. Humanitarian and operational updates
3. Customs and imports
4. Preparedness for election
5. Common logistics services
6. AOB

1. Previous Action Points
• The Logistics Cluster has appointed a focal point for customs/imports issues. The cluster now has the capacity to address import issues for Federal Iraq. A mapping of the customs processes for Federal Iraq and Kurdish Region of Iraq (KRI) is currently ongoing and will be shared once finalised.

2. Humanitarian and operational updates
• All International NGOs operating in Iraq (registered and non-registered) shall submit their visa requests through the Directorate of NGOs effective 4 April 2018. INGOs that have pending visa requests to JCMC should resubmit their applications to the Directorate of NGOs.
• Syrian NGO staff who do not have a Federal Iraqi work permit cannot be included in Lieutenant General (LTG) Bassem’s access letter. Effective immediately (4 April), Syrian NGO staff without a Federal Iraqi work permit must cease to make use of LTG Bassem’s letter in Ninewa, Salah Ad Din (SAD) and Kirkuk even if the letter remains valid.
• JCC has confirmed that the cargo section at EIA is operational. Organisations can now import goods through EIA using the previous JCC procedures for KRI.
• KRI and Federal Government are scheduled to discuss and implement harmonised custom procedures across the country, meaning the processes and procedures for importation of goods through EIA might change in the coming weeks/months.

ACCESS CONSTRAINTS
• The online interactive map continues to be well used by organisations on the ground. Comments and information to updated the it can be sent to: gabriela.espana@wfp.org

http://www.logcluster.org/ops/irq14a
3. Customs and imports

- Federal Iraq has deployed personnel in all entry points from KRI to Federal Iraq to oversee custom procedures. Organisations are therefore advised to have items cleared through JCMC for Federal Iraq when moving cargo out from KRI.

- Federal Government is willing to harmonise custom procedures with KRI. The Logistics Cluster is following up closely.

- The Logistics Cluster custom focal point mapped the procedures for KRI; the results of the exercise will be shared shortly. He is currently mapping Federal Iraq procedures. Outcomes will be shared when finalised.

- Custom focal points from different ministries and entities are willing to join future Logistics Cluster Coordination meetings to answer organisations concerns.

- One participant requested information for importation of communication equipment. These category of cargo need to be approved for importation by Ministry of Interior. The ETC Cluster can provide further information on this.

- Federal Government is requesting a double confirmation for custom clearance that has an important impact on the operation as it delays considerably the import processes.

- Federal Iraq authorities have communicated that entering cargo with certifications from Bureau Veritas or TUV do not require inspection at custom checkpoints. Organisations must note that SGS certification is accepted in KRI but not in Federal Iraq.

- Standard operation procedures (SOP) of importing processes and cold chain facilities at Um Qasa port are being drafted and will be shared once ready.

- Organisations requiring information regarding customs, should contact khalid.arabi@wfp.org

**EXIT STRATEGY FOR “ONE STOP SHOP”**

- The Logistics Cluster will terminate financial assistance to the OSS at the end of June 2018.

- A viable exit strategy needs to be defined, as JCC may not receive the necessary funding to continue.

- The risk remains that the OSS project will close and revert back to the old system of obtaining import clearance through each one of the relevant ministries.

- All participants agreed that if the JCC do not identify funding to continue, the end of the OSS project will have a very negative impact on their activities, by setting back the custom clearance procedure to a slower and less efficient system requiring heavy administrative work. For the time being the best option is to postpone the end of the project until other funding sources are identified.

- Organisations are concerned that ending the project at the same time the Government is trying to harmonise custom procedures will create too many changes and have a very negative impact on the services delivered to the beneficiaries.
4. Preparedness for elections

- The Logistics Cluster will be monitor changes on import and internal access procedures that may arise following the upcoming elections on 12 May 2018.
- Discussions on preparedness for elections took place. Participants shared their preparedness measures.

5. Common logistics services

- Between 17 October 2016 and 9 April 2018, a total of 96,148 m³ of humanitarian cargo, equivalent to 26,787 mt, has been received for storage, and 7,336 m³ (1,692 mt) transported, on behalf of 48 humanitarian organisations across the different Logistics Cluster hubs.

STORAGE

- The Logistics Cluster conducted a warehouse availability assessment in east and west Mosul. Following the assessments, meetings with a number of government officials were organised for further discussion on warehousing availability.
- The assessment report has been shared through our mailing list, a copy can be requested by sending an email to: gabriela.espana@wfp.org
- The Logistics Cluster is working with Mercy Hands on an extension of the provision of common storage in the Hamam al ‘Alil camps, which have received 1,000 new families since mid-January 2018.
- Currently there are six common storage warehouses in the country. Changes in capacity have been updated on the newly published Concept of Operations map, available on the Logistics cluster website, as well on the Iraq webpage.
- From 1 April 2018 – common storage amounts to 14,360 m² across six locations:
  - Baghdad: 1,000 m²
  - Dahuk: 4,140 m²
  - Erbil: 2,700 m²
  - Hamam al ‘Alil (MODM): 1,040 m²
  - Hamam al ‘Alil (UNHCR): 2,080 m²
  - Tikrit: 3,400 m²
- Two Mobile Storage Units (MSU) have been dispatched last month to support the Joint Crisis Coordination Centre (JCC) activities in Dahuk (specifically Domiz), and one MSU to the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) as additional capacity for their operations in Zummar.
- Participants were reminded that MSUs are stock in Erbil, Baghdad and Dahuk for common storage use. These are available for loan, at no-cost-to-user, for any organisation requiring further storage capacity. The cluster will facilitate the transportation, erection and disassembly of the MSU, organisations just needs to prepare the land.

http://www.logcluster.org/ops/irq14a
6. AOB

TRAININGS

- Logistics Cluster had to postpone the trainings planned for May. An Emergency Logistics Induction Training (ELIT) is tentatively planned for the end of June, and the Logistics Response Team (LRT) training will be rescheduled for September/October.
  - ELIT will be held in Baghdad; four days of mostly theory-based sessions that outlines common bottlenecks, best practices, operational planning and warehousing in emergency humanitarian contexts.
- The national LRT training will be held in Erbil. This is an intensive five-day simulation training, where participants are required to set up an inter-agency logistics response.
- Georgia Farley’s mission to Iraq has ended. Her duties have been taken over by Gabriela Espana, her contact details are at the bottom of these minutes.

Contacts:

Cameron Kiss — Logistics Cluster Coordinator cameron.kiss@wfp.org
Gabriela Espana — Information Management Officer gabriela.espana@wfp.org
Farhad Rasul — One-Stop-Shop (OSS) Focal Point farhad.rasul@wfp.org
Khalid Arabi — Customs Focal Point khalid.arabi@wfp.org

http://www.logcluster.org/ops/irq14a