IRAQ
Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: Baghdad, Iraq
DATE: 29 May 2018
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator
PARTICIPANTS: Agility, Human Relief Foundation (HRF), International Medical Corps (IMC), Iraqi Customs Directorate, Iraqi Quality Control department, Medecins Sans Frontieres –France (MSF-F), Mercy Hands, Terres des Hommes Swiss (TdH-S), The United Iraqi Medical Society (UIMS), UNHCR, UNICEF.

ACTION POINTS:
- Logistics Cluster to invite relevant government staff, including MoFA, MoP and MoH, to continue discussion on customs and clearance
- Logistics Cluster to share the contact information of the Quality Control personnel
- Cluster to circulate updated Concept of Operation for comments and endorsement

AGENDA:
- Previous Action Points
- Customs/imports
- Humanitarian and operational updates
- Logistics Cluster updates and common services
- AOB

1. Previous Action Points

- The Logistics Cluster shared the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for importation processes via email with all humanitarian organisations.
- The Logistics Cluster facilitated the participation of a representative from the Customs authorities.

2. Customs and Imports

- Present at the meeting were Federal Iraq officials from the Iraqi Customs Directorate and Iraqi Quality Control department to facilitate discussion on customs and importation procedures.
- Humanitarian actors reportedly voiced their concerns over delays that have been experienced over differences in quality control and details in tariffs.
- Discussion between Federal Iraq and the Kurdish Region of Iraq (KRI) regarding changes in import processes are ongoing, and it remains difficult to determine when new harmonised procedures will be in place.
- Another discrepancy regards the quality control appointed entities, as Intertek is the designated company for goods entering KRI, while Bureau Veritas (BV) and Technische Überwachungsverein (TUV) are the companies responsible for items imported into Federal Iraq.
- Issues with inspection of pharmaceuticals and medical items, and agricultural products were not discussed in this meeting, as this falls under direct responsibility of the Ministry of Health.
- It was clarified that inspection of locally procured items is done by the Standardisation Department under the Ministry of Planning – MoP (75,000 IQD per sample).
- The clearance for import of communication equipment into Federal Iraq currently takes up to two months. According to the new procedure, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) uses a courier to transfer the documents submitted by humanitarian organisations to the Customs department, and this procedure delays...
the process. It was recommended to approach the MoFA and discuss about possible solutions to speed up the clearance process for those items. The Logistics Cluster will endeavour to invite relevant government staff, including MoFA, MoP and MoH/KAMADIA.

- Participants discussed about the Saffra Check point which is often reported as a bottleneck for movements of cargo from/to central Iraq to/from KRI, due to the different requirements and certificated provided.

- According to Quality Control representatives, quality control staff in KRI have been recently trained on the applicable requirements and offered direct assistance of the department staff in case of need. The Logistics Cluster will share the contact information of the Quality Control personnel.

- Participants also discussed the difficulty of moving cargo at the level of the various entry and check points; organisations present took the opportunity to clarify with the relevant official specific issues with their current shipments. An open and extensive discussion took place and many aspects were highlighted and clarified.

- Additional questions and follow up on customs and import processes can be addressed to: khalid.arabi@wfp.org

3. Humanitarian and Operational Updates

ACCESS
- All main entry points are reported open and operational. Ibrahim Khali and Fishkabour remain under the KRI control. The Rabia border crossing point (Iraq/Syria) is open to UN agencies only, under GoI control. Trebil border crossing point (Iraq/Jordan) has been used recently to import humanitarian supplies directly into Baghdad without major constraints.

- For access into Ninewa from KRI, Suhaila check point into Zummar remains closed.

- JCMC/NOC’s elections related access restrictions have been lifted and clearance letters should continue to be issued as usual.

- JCC access letters conditions on including names of staff travelling are not resolved yet. OCHA and the HC are in contact with JCC for a solution.

ELECTION PREPAREDNESS
- Logistics Cluster is closely following on the possible issues and changes on import procedure that may arise after the elections. A meeting with Federal Iraq Customs representatives was held on Monday 14 May. No changes on the procedures have been reported so far.

FLOODS
- Recent flooding affected different areas across the country, however no significant reports of major constraints were received.

4. Logistics Cluster updates and common service

- Between October 2016 and 30 April 2018, a total of 96,813 m³ of humanitarian cargo, equivalent to 27,319 mt, have been received for storage, on behalf of 44 humanitarian organisations across the different Logistics Cluster hubs.
Currently six common storage warehouses are made available to humanitarian organisations, for a total of 14,360 m² of storage space. Changes in capacity have been updated on the newly published Concept of Operations map, available on the Logistics Cluster website.

- 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

The Logistics Cluster Concept of Operation document has been revised based on current situation and needs. The draft will be circulated to the mailing list for comments and endorsement.

Participants were reminded that the Logistics Cluster has Mobile Storage Units (MUSs) in stock in Erbil, Baghdad and Dahuk, available for loan, at no cost to the user, for any organisation requiring further storage capacity. The cluster will facilitate transportation, erection and disassembly of the MSU, the organisation just needs to prepare the land.

Following feedback from humanitarian organisations, the One Stop Shop project agreement will be extended until end September 2018.

The Logistics Cluster conducted individual warehouse and bridge assessments in West Mosul last week; reports have been circulated to the mailing list.

The ELIT - Emergency Logistics Induction Training will be held in Baghdad from 24 – 28 June; the training will include mostly theory-based sessions that outline common bottlenecks, best practices, operational planning and warehousing in emergency humanitarian contexts. Participants list has been finalised.

Any requests for information can be sent to gabriela.espana@wfp.org

5. AOB

Action Against Hunger is conducting a Market Survey in Mosul in June 2018 and the results will be shared to facilitate humanitarian actors’ activities. Other organisations are encouraged to participate and share their suppliers list. Inputs and questions can be addressed to: hodlog@iq-actionagainsthunger.org

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